

Indian Government sends 24 Myanmarese back home.

IT News

Moreh, Aug 18:

After a talk between Ministry of External Affairs GOI and Government of Myanmar, 24 Myanmar National who have been stationed at different states of Northeast were sent back to their home after Completing Quarantine at the Quarantine Centres of Moreh. The 24 Myanmar National who have been at Quarantine Centres of Moreh was brought at Integrated Check Post (ICP) Moreh in an Ambulance for Documentation. During their visit at ICP, Team of Medical Staff of Moreh Hospital conducted Thermal Screening and Sanitization. After finishing the Documentation the 24 Myanmar National who have been sent back home under the order of Deputy Commissioner M. Rajkumar IAS, were sent back home through Indo-Myanmar Friendship Bridge. A team of Myanmar led by its District Medical Officer Received them at the Bridge and took them to Myanmar.

AMSU submits memorandum to Governor, expresses suspicion of undue pressure to ADGP Arvind Kumar who shot himself

IT News
Imphal, Aug 18:

The All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) has expressed suspicion of unbearable pressure to Additional Director General (Law and Order) of Police, Arvind Kumar for the reason to shoot himself on July 17, who survived fortunately. "The unfortunate incident of 17 July 2020, in which Additional Director General (Law and Order) of Police Arvind Kumar shot himself in his office chamber was immediately after chairing the committee constituted to determine and

recommend officers of the police department to be awarded in recognition of their good work", a memorandum submitted to the Governor of Manipur Dr. N. J. Haptall stated. The memorandum was submitted urging the governor to initiate a fair investigation to the conferring of gallantry award to police personnel involved in drug haul case. In the memorandum submitted today, the AMSU appreciated the Government of Manipur for taking up prompt action of withdrawing the Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry on the basis of our

exposure from Mr. Bhichamayum Debson Singh. SI. CDO, Imphal East, who was earlier arrested for trafficking drugs. It stated that the AMSU also note that a Committee consisting of K. RadhaShyam Singh, IGP, (Intelligence), S. Gautam Singh SP-CID (SB) and Joyce Lairemmawli SP-CID (CB) has been constituted to inquire into the lapses in connection with the proposal for award of Chief Minister's Medal submitted by SP Imphal East, however would like to state that the inquiry should not be just an eye wash to

sanctify the key decision makers by scapegoating a few lower ranked police personnel. "AMSU see more to this episode than just a clerical mistake of Inspector E. Roshan Singh, Reader to Imphal East SP and would like to point out the following few issues. AMSU has reliable reports of other police personnel listed in the Chief Minister Trophy for Anti-Drug Campaign and Chief Minister's Trophy for Community Service Award were also involved in drug haul cases and shielding off drug kingpins. They were

even suspended from service and subsequently reinstated. The present inquiry should examine this aspect of the how the terminated / suspended police personnel were reinstated into service and rise up to get gallantry award. This is not the first time that such a goof-up is taking place in the gallantry award issue. In the recent past many police personnel involved in fake encounters were conferred gallantry awards on the occasion of Republic Day and Independence Day. But subsequently many of them were charge-sheeted under the

behest of the Supreme Court of India in EEVFAM v/s UoI. Therefore, there is a need of transparency in the process of recommendation and selection of all the gallantry awardees and to place their dossier/citations in the public domain", the memorandum stated. The AMSU urged the governor to intervene by ensuring that the mandate of the inquiry is wide enough to encompass the three critical issues/questions and it should be headed by a person no less than a retired Judge of the High Court.

COVID -19 Manipur: One more died ; number of casualty reached 18; 69 persons with no travel history tested positive

IT News
Imphal, Aug 18:

The number of COVID-19 fatal case has reached 18 today with one more died at JNIMS. The victim is a 75 years old female and a report from the health department said that she succumbed due to COVID-19 and other co-morbid health condition. Meanwhile, 69 persons from

general population who have no record of travel history has been reported COVID-19 positive today. 4 more returnees were also tested positive adding the figure to 73 today. Above this 5 personnel of the Aentral Armed Police Force (CAPF) have also been tested positive today. A statement from the Health department said that of the 73 plus 5 positive cases 15 are

tested positive at VRDL JNIMS, 1 at RAT JNIMS, 9 through tTrueNat at RIMS, 1 by RAT at Noney, 36 by Rat at Imphal West, 9 at Dh Bishnupur, 4 by RAT at Imphal East, 1 at Public Hospital and Research institute. 44 of those tested positive in the last 24 hours are from Imphal West, 16 from Imphal East, 9 from Bishnupur, 2 from Noney, 2 from Thoubal. (..Contd. on page 4)

Implementation of RD&PR Schemes reviewed

IT News
Imphal, Aug 18:

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh today chaired a review meeting for implementation of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj schemes. The meeting was held at the conference hall of his New Secretariat office. During the meeting, it was decided that the concerned Deputy Commissioners of the

newly created districts will act as the District Programme Coordinators regarding MGNREGS implementation. Furthermore, the Minister also said that the district administrations of the newly created district should submit their requirements for the implementation of the scheme at the earliest and to utilise minimal staff required for implementation of the scheme in the seven new districts. Biswajit also instructed the concerned officials to ensure

meeting of man-days target for this year by mid-October. Deputy Commissioners were also instructed to take the initiative and complete opening of bank accounts for job card holders by September. During the meeting, implementation of various other schemes under the RD&PR department was also discussed. Addl. Chief Secretary RD&PR Dr. Suhel Akhtar, DCs, DPCs and other officials of the department.



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR STATE HEALTH AGENCY

state
health
agency

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**PATIENTS HAVING HOSPITALISATION
PROBLEM MAY IMMEDIATELY
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★ Editorial

Clean up the system, don't offer scapegoats

The unusual urgency with which the state government reacted in the recent Gallantry scandal involving a tainted Police officer who is under investigation for involvement in a drug smuggling case worth crores of rupees in April of 2013 has once again proved beyond any shred of doubt that it has the wherewithal to act with blinding speed and amazing decisiveness if the state government perceives a threat to its reputation or stability, more so when there still are existing political pressures. Now we have uncovered a can of worms in which there has not only been shameful abuse of power, but a failure of moral authority of the worst kind.

This is not a one-off incident. The particular list of Gallantry awardees have also raised eyebrows and there is a strong suspicion of rampant irregularities in the whole process as other awardees have been found to be either involved in other criminal cases or are not really deserving as at least one in the list has been transferred from another department just recently after the Covid-19 lockdown started in the state. Yet another without any previous significant activity but related to the high and mighty of the present government featured in the list. Constituting an enquiring committee to investigate into the case of the particular Sub Inspector further highlights the desperate attempt of the state government to save face but has once more failed to see the larger picture. It also indicates that proper review and enquiry of the proposed candidates for the awards were either not carried out or were done under undue influence and pressure- none of which puts the government or the system it operates in good light.

Imphal Times have been highlighting such irregularities in the administrations and governance without exceptions even to the point of attracting threats and legal notices but the fight for justice for the common people and the rights everyone deserves to enjoy will always be the guiding force of our endeavours. A good government and a decisive leader ought to act on such reports and news with the same promptness and eagerness irrespective of the perpetrators or personal relations because when it comes to such important considerations such as representing the aspirations of the public, a leader and elected representative should be able to rise beyond personal confinements or selfish gains, and should be brave enough to initiate action on the erring individuals or parties. Despite the chest-thumping declarations and expressions of intent, much remains to be done, and even more introspection by those in the public domain is evidently needed. The flawed system needs to be cleansed if the state government has to recover some credibility and regain the trust which is increasingly getting depleted among the public, given the apparent shift in focus from issues concerning public welfare to dirty politicking and horse-trading, especially during these times of uncertainty and spreading contagion. Instead of considering pressure groups, media houses, social organisations and even individuals who points out irregularities and abnormalities in public administrations as against the government, such reports and disclosures should be appreciated and encouraged. Veiled threats and intimidations towards criticisms especially in public issues does not portray a progressive attitude. The role of these social organisations has once again been underlined when All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) blew the whistle on the blunder of the state government. Suspension of a few middle ranked officers will cut no ice with the public anymore. Such feeble attempts at eye-washing rather than displaying sincere intent to get to the root of the matter will only erode the faith and trust the public has placed on the government and the leaders. Clean up or get cleaned out is the unequivocal message of the people to the government and the leaders of the state.

Infrastructure development vital for progress of North East Region

By- Pramod Ningombam

For the last few years, Indian Government has given a big push to a diverse range of infrastructure projects in the North Eastern Region. The emphasis has been on improving rail, road, air and inland waterways connectivity in the region. The Indian government's 'Act East' policy, focuses on strengthening relations with neighbouring countries and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is spearheading initiatives to enhance connectivity through various projects pertaining to road, rail, air, telecom, power and waterways.

North East Region: an overview
Northeast India, also known as North Eastern Region (NER) comprises of eight states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. It is geographically connected to the rest of the country by a narrow corridor of land, flanked by Nepal and Bangladesh. The region also shares

borders with Bhutan and China on its north and Myanmar on its east which overall constitutes approximately 60% of India's land borders. It is the only region in south Asia to be surrounded by five countries. For decades, poor infrastructure and limited connectivity have acted as roadblocks hindering the socio-economic development of these states.

These Northeastern states have several features in common, and yet, each of them has a distinct identity and peculiar character. Although the region is richly blessed with many natural resources in terms of forests, minerals, biodiversity and hydroelectric potential, the region is far behind in development. Inadequate infrastructure and poor connectivity are the major constraints to development in the region. Not only is the region poorly connected to the rest of India, it is also poorly connected to neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia.

However, considering the fact that this region is one of the most difficult terrains in terms of accessibility and developmental works, the Central Government has been trying to provide necessary help and assistance to fast track its growth and expansion. Studies have even suggested that the completion of current and proposed infrastructure projects in the north-east could herald greater economic growth for the region and increase its geopolitical importance.

With less development in all fields whether be it in roads, railways, power, education and human resources, the north eastern states in general and Manipur in particular has been literally living in a dark era for quite long. Backwardness in all necessary fields has led people to leave their respective states and look for careers outside thereby leading to brain drain and the vicious cycle continues.

Act East policy

From Look East Policy to Act East Policy, the Indian government now seems to be fully committed on developing this region. And for that infrastructure development

National Education Policy (NEP)-2020: A Critical Review (Part 3)

By Surjit S. Thokchom*

In the NEP 2020, the broad framework outlined in the Document gives us the impression that the three stages viz. preparatory, middle, secondary stages will have similar feature in structure and evaluation. There will be provision for open exit and entry along with transfer of credit from one stream to another stream. Sounds attractive! Of course, it is attractive provided it provides equitable education for all. Before we go further, I would like to invoke Gandhi's talisman as a framework of our analysis which reads as follows: "I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man / woman whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him / her. Will he / she gain anything by it? Will it restore him / her to a control over his / her own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj / freedom for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."

Let us refer to section 3 of the NEP 2020. The subsection 3.1 highlights the pathetic situation of school education today with 3.22 crore children in the age group of 6-17 years outside the school system. It further commits to bring them back into the "educational fold". Please mark this term, "educational fold". This may not mean to bring them back to school but something else. In section 3.2-3.4, there are lines that give us some hope. It advocates re-establishing of credibility of Government School, Alternative and Innovative Education centres for drop out, suitable facilitating systems (managed by NGOs?) and adequate infra structure. But much against the hope enkindled by section 3.1 to 3.4, section 3.5-3.7 immediately dismantles the hope shown in earlier sections. And section 3.5 recommends the innovative education designed for SEDG (Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Group). What does we mean by innovation that does not have merit for mainstream education? Since children of ST, SC, OBC, Minorities and children of marginalized section of society may

not necessarily be a SEDG child, what will be the fate of their children with no provision of reservation and scholarship except outcome-based merit scholarship? Will ST, SC children be pushed down to the other streams outside the Mainstream? There can be devil in details later. As we keep reading in between the lines, the NEP 2020 comes out to be a highly coded document, something like a classified document and to unmask it needs a lot of effort. A superficial one-time reading may not reveal a lot. Contradiction in the Document keeps coming in almost all parts of the document. Let me summarize content and intent of the NEP 2020 pertaining to school education as follows:

The future drop out children will remain enlisted in 100% GER (Gross Enrolment Rate) without really joining a formal school provided that they are enrolled in a Non-Mainstream course. The NEP 2020 divides school education into two sets of streams: Mainstream/General and Non-mainstreams or Multiple pathways or Wider choice or Multiple streams. This pattern will continue through 12 class upto higher education. There will be five types of children: (i) Children in private and public regular formal schools, (ii) Children under online education, (iii) Children under open schooling (iv) Homeschooled severely disabled children, (v) Children with vocational education. While the no. (i) is the Mainstream/General student, the rest of the streams (ii to v) are Non-mainstreams. The Non-mainstreams education is also called Alternative Innovative Education but surprisingly this so-called alternative innovation is not applicable to the mainstream schools. Why? The position taken by NEP-2020 still is the same as that of the position taken by government earlier that formal schools are not amenable. For whose interest the General/mainstream education children are deprived of so-called alternative innovation if we believe that it will do miracle for the marginalized children. Will the multiple pathways proposed for SEDG (Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups) children viz. open, online, vocational, home schooling (for severely disabled child) be of equitable quality? Can a

policy with implicit intent of discrimination be implemented in an equitable manner? Shall we push out further an already pushed-out child? Shall we alienate a walk-out in protest child? Shall we encourage a parent who pulls out his or her child from school? We need our proper attention on this issue!!! The NEP 2020 refers to NPE 1968 for school complex. The spirit of the school complex as it was envisaged in NPE 1968 and the proposed school complex in NEP 2020 are not compatible. The school complex proposed in NEP 2020 is based on the following premises: (i) Small schools with small numbers of children cannot provide quality education. It does not utilize the resources in optimum level, (ii) Standalone schools with proper infrastructure, adequate number of staff and the adequate educational facilities underutilize their resources, (iii) Utilizing a teacher only for a single school is underutilization, (iv) Quality education is possible only in multi-streams structure, (v) Sharing of teachers, sharing of infrastructure and bringing all the ECCE, lower primary schools, upper primary schools, vocational centers, non-formal centers under the umbrella of a school Principle in a school complex will provide maximum outcome and optimum utilization, (vi) Bypassing state department in the matter of curriculum, governance and accreditation is necessary step for both access and quality, (vii) The reason for nonperformance by government school is conflict of interest in state education department.

The above premises are debatable though the space for debate under the present dispensation is ever narrowing down. It is on the basis of the above premises that NEP 2020 proposed to relocate all the institutions within the radius of 5-10 kms into a single campus and named it school complex. It is said that, the single school complex will have all the necessary facilities such as library, recreational centers, classrooms. In the process of converting into a school complex, several small schools will be relocated and some of the schools will be abolished. But all the schools will lose their existing credential and identity. And closure of school within the school complex may not have any significant meaning as merger to the school complex is as good as a pre-school exercise. This relocation of schools may be done without terminating the permanent staffs. But almost all the teaching staffs under SSA and RMSA are on contract and their job can be summarily terminated any time without giving any reason. Let's come to newly recommended Governance System of school education: (i) Department of School Education will be responsible for monitoring and policy making. Directorate of Education including DEO and BEO etc. will handle operation and service provision. And it will work independently. Independent from whom is not well defined. But this much is clear that the Directorate of school Education will not be under Department of Education. Then under whose jurisdiction will directorate fall? (ii) SSSA (State School Standards Authority) will be formed. SSSA will: (a) Set standard based on a framework created by SCERT in collaboration with NCERT. (b) Upload all the disclosures in SSSA's website. (c) Grievances or complaints will be adjudicated by SSSA. (d) Feedback will be solicited online. It is said that SCERT in consultation and collaboration with NCERT, will develop a framework of assessment called SQAAP (School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework). SCERT will lead in change management process in CRC, BRC and DIET. Here the State Department of Education has been side-lined. The BOA (Board of Assessment), SSSA and SCERT will be directly connected with central agencies. Where is the role of State Education? State Education Department will now become a paper tiger!!! Under the new Structure of Governance, the state-run-school will not be under the State Education Department and it will be treated at par with the private schools. Under NEP 2020, there are only two sets of schools: (i) State-government-run-schools and Private schools in one category with symmetric treatment in every manner, (ii) School run or supported by Central Government. Further, as per NEP 2020, in the name of twinning, Government school resources and infrastructures are to be shared with Private school. The anticipated situation is very pathetic. A Government school has to face SSSA to answer their questions. But SSSA does not have a mandate to provide the necessary funds for improving the input to the school. The State Education Department does not have the mandate to intervene for school development. Whom a school Principal will approach for the provision of the school development? The policy forces the State to abdicate her own responsibility to provide the necessary fund. Is it not as good as asking the school authorities to privatize themselves? So, the new structure of the governance narrowed down the role of the Central Government to Accreditation, Regulation, Certification with no clear direction of whom to approach to improve the quality of Government schools? Why are we so happy with this arrangement of orphaning the Government school? Repeatedly, NEP 2020 openly states that the private/ philanthropic school sector must be encouraged. It is okay to encourage but why at the cost of Government School?

What is going to happen in reality are: (i) Large scale dropouts with official data showing none; (ii) Large scale closures of the schools; (iii) Less number of Teachers; (iv) Less number of students pursuing higher education; (v) Social divides and large-scale unemployment; (vi) Large scale growth of Private Coaching centers; (vii) Tremendous growth of Corporate School; (viii) Merger of smaller private schools and closers of low fee paying private schools; (ix) No democratic privilege of protest in the affairs of school as all the authorities now will be connected through virtual platform. All the spicy and romantic noise of NEP 2020 are noises without looking to the core agenda? Is State Government ready to denounce the Federal Right over the Education of our children?

(to be continued)

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SC refuses to direct transfer of contributions made to “PM CARES to disaster fund”

By Raju Vernekar
New Delhi/ Mumbai, Aug 18:

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected a petition by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), seeking transfer of contributions in PM CARES Fund to National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), saying there is no need for fresh national disaster relief plan. A three-judge bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan held that individual and organisations are free to contribute to NDRF and there is no prohibition on the same. However, PM CARES is a separate fund established as a public charitable trust and no direction can be issued to transfer funds from that to NDRF. The central government had rebutted this argument stating in its affidavit before the top court on 8 July, that the PM CARES is a fund established to carry out relief work and there are several such funds established on similar lines in the past. Whereas the NDRF is a statutory fund created under Section 46 of the

Disaster Management Act, 2005. During the hearing before the apex court, the central government through solicitor general Tushar Mehta, had defended the PM CARES Fund saying that it was not intended to circumvent the NDRF as alleged by the petitioners. The PM CARES Fund was set up by the central government on 28 March as a public charitable trust, with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation such as that posed by Covid-19 pandemic. CPIL, had claimed that PM CARES Fund was set up in violation of the legal mandate under the Disaster Management Act, as per which any grant made by any person or institution for the purpose of disaster management should be compulsorily credited to NDRF. It had also pointed out that the accounts of NDRF, were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) whereas the PM CARES to disaster fund, was not

accountable to CAG. Earlier the Appellate Authority of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), had turned down the demand for a copy of the PM CARES Fund trust, by a Mumbai-based RTI activist Saket Gokhale, on the grounds that the Fund was not a 'public authority', under the Right to Information Act, 2005. In his application dated 29 March, 2020 Gokhale had sought copy of the trust deed and trustees of the Fund, and also the exemption certificates granted to it under Section 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act. However on 05 June, the Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) of PMO disposed off the application stating that the Fund was not a 'public authority' under the Act and that the relevant information about the same was available in the official website. Challenging this, Gokhale had filed statutory appeal under the RTI Act, pointing out that the Prime Minister was the ex-officio chairman of the Funds and that as per the website, the Under Secretary (Funds) in the PMO is the honorary custodian of the matters

related to the FUND. He further stated that the several public sector utilities like Indian Railways have contributed to the PM CARES Fund. Therefore, it became a public authority under Section 2(h) of the IT Act, as per which an entity substantially financed directly or indirectly by the government is a public authority. Gokhale had also highlighted that Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 was amended on 29 May 2020, to allow donations to PM CARES eligible to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions. Without specifically addressing the arguments raised by Gokhale, the Appellate Authority of PM's office, in its order on 29 June, 2020, stated that "Since PM CARES Fund is not a public authority under the ambit of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, 2005, no further information could be shared with you". The authority also reiterated that the relevant information was available in PMO website.

“Duped for a coffee”



By - Rabin Prasad Kalita

Mr. Sajal, a loquacious, and was one of the playful staff in a railway office. A fun loving guy loved creating jokes and willfully applied mostly in his office workforce. Always he strived to open up a window, for a hospitable environment to work with the sagacity of fun and frolic. Without him, the office seemed deserted. He often said “humor makes one hale and hearty,” and helps to sail a happy life. Other than a shared laugh, nothing works faster to bring one's mental and physical stability back into balance. It keeps one focused, lightens one's burden, and releases anger. Else, it's not that easy to keep one contented in this messy race of life.

In this busy chaotic planet, humor erases all sorts of stresses, and makes one free to think serenely. It generally increases ability to retain things in mind for a longer period and proved to be an effective tool to improve one's mental health. It enhances moral of the workers which augment interpersonal attractions. A person with a sense of humor has less stress and anxiety than the one with no such quality. It is the healthiest adaptation for a happy life. Eventually, a healthy body usually adds some more autumns to one's actual span of life.

Basu, a chubby structured, blonde-haired, and innocent by look, was always an easy prey for Sajal. He used to get caught in mischievous traps laid by Sajal, whether it was consciously or naively.

A gutless person Basu, usually feared taking decisions, at his own. Also, it is a distant thing to do something alone for him. Someone said; a perplexed man mostly depends on others. He was easily

convincible with a guy who could act with a little drama. Would follow him like a lackey unless some other person motivates him with another play. If so happened, then he chose the second alternative bypassing the first one, without getting assessed both. Sometimes he was fortunate enough to pick the result but generally repented for being failed. Therefore, Basuji was an easy catch for Sajal to try out his naughty tricks on him.

It was a sunny summer morning, probably during March; met Basu on the way to the cafeteria who was loitering to grip someone for a coffee. Intrigued to have a little fun, Sajal requested him to stop for a while. Basu loved to enjoy freebies and would gobble for anything found free. He was like a magpie that knew only to earn but didn't dare to spend even a coin for a coffee. Even he didn't require an invitation to visit a function and to eat up to the neck. Shame was a mere word for him and carried no meaning. Therefore, Sajal could read his vain well. Hence, he thought why not to impish him once before throwing the treat.

Sajal tried to convince him to play an interesting game and also promised him to pay his espresso café bill if he wins. Initially, Basu refused to play but agreed later on whilst he heard about the lucrative deal.

Sajal took out an old aluminum 10 paisa coin (in those days) and told Basu to crouch a little to lower his head. Sajal then pressed the coin to stick it in the middle of his forehead. Simultaneously, he spoke out the comical conditions of the game to follow while executing.

As per the set out rule, the coin had to be unfastened from the forehead without touching or shaking his head, and the duration of the task was to complete in three minutes. The task seemed simple that was vivid from the facial expression of Basu. He was overjoyed being vanity that he could detach the coin in a blink, and could earn the espresso coffee for sure.

Looking at skyward, though the coin could not be seen, Basuji tried his best by

squeezing and releasing every part of his face as well as forehead, to get the coin somehow unleashed. He tried this concerted painstaking effort till the end of the given time. While doing this; his facial activity was appeared to be utterly funny.

Meanwhile, some of the office colleagues and onlookers were gathered out there without his knowledge. Nobody knew about, actually what was going on. But, they got amused and kept on giggling throughout. It was like an atypical behavior of a familiar person in the middle of the road. Seeing his eccentric activities, they got dazed, though they didn't know about the actual idea behind the scene. Basuji might have gone mad was the remark conceded by all of them. He was busy noticing constantly on his forehead to unlock the coin. Hence, he could not see anyone nearby but kept on hearing some faintly audible upsetting comments.

Suddenly Basuji found something fishy around him. Left his task unfinished in-between. Felt embarrassed by noticing them laughing around him. He then rubbed out his forehead abruptly for the coin but could not locate the same. Gradually he could observe something by sensing the milieu around. It didn't take long to understand that he might have been deceived. So, he stared at Sajal for kidding him in front of the crowd.

Disclosing the trick, Sajal opened his clenched fist and shown the coin to all. Finally, he too joined with other guys with his unstoppable loud laugh. He skillfully took out the coin and kept in his fist in a wink. This he hoodwinked Basuji as if the coin got stuck on his forehead. This was the catch of the trick which was tactfully done by a master. Knowing the fact of the game, there was a roar with laughter all over and that went on even on the coffee table.

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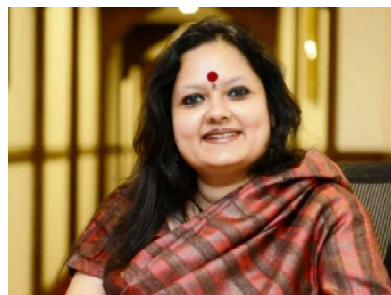
Facebook India policy head files complaint with Police after receiving threats

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, Mumbai, Aug 18:

Facebook India's public policy director Ankhi Das has filed a complaint with the Delhi Police Cyber Crime Department with regards to hateful threats she has been receiving over the past few days.

In her complaint, filed on Sunday, Das has submitted screenshots and names of those who have threatened her saying her life is at risk as she has received many hateful threats online. She has mentioned about some Twitter and Facebook handles, who have threatened the immediate registration of FIR. DCP of South Delhi said that a complaint has been received and investigation is in on. However, the FIR is yet to be registered.

Das's complaint has come at a time when both Congress and BJP have locked horns over the Facebook row. Many politicians and lawmakers from opposition parties have raised questions after a report published in the US newspaper Wall Street Journal (WSJ) on 14 August, indicated



Ankhi Das, Facebook India's public policy director

that Facebook's Hate-Speech Rules collided with the ruling BJP.

The WSJ report stated that Das opposed applying hate speech rules to the BJP's T. Raja Singh, out of fear of ruining the company's relationship with the ruling party. Singh is BJP's lone MLA in the Telangana assembly and is known for making communally provocative statements.

According to the WSJ report, Das's team also took “no action” after BJP politicians posted content accusing Muslims of intentionally

spreading the coronavirus, plotting against the nation and making a noise about “love jihad” (the term the Sangh parivar uses to describe a mythical conspiracy by Muslims men seeking to seduce and marry Hindu women in order to convert them to Islam).

“In April of last year, days before voting began in India's general election, Facebook announced it had taken down inauthentic pages tied to Pakistan's military and the Congress party, the BJP's main rival party. But it didn't disclose it also removed pages

with false news tied to the BJP, due to Das's intervention,” the report said.

“Das, whose job also includes lobbying India's government on Facebook's behalf, had told staff members that punishing violations by politicians from BJP would damage the company's business prospects in the country,” the report said. However the Facebook denied the allegations.

A spokesperson for the company said: “We prohibit hate speech and content that incites violence and we enforce these policies globally regardless of anyone's political position or party affiliation. While we know there is more to do, we're making progress on enforcement and conduct regular audits of our process to ensure fairness and accuracy”.

NSCN-IM hits back at Centre's interlocutor

Courtesy NE Today
Kohima, Aug 18:

NSCN-IM once again lambasted at Governor RN Ravi, alleging that Ravi is trying to divide the Naga people.

The NSCN-IM on August 11 maintained that Ravi is playing “mischief” and has become a “liability.” As per the NSCN-IMs statement, Governor

Ravi's circulated framework is a distorted version that is in favor of his associated Naga Civil society to form a different narrative.

“As a follow-up for public scrutiny on how Ravi misinformed and misled the Government of India, we furnish here the original copy and Ravi's manipulated copy of the framework agreement,” the

group said, in two versions of the framework. The NSCN-IM clarified that the framework contains the political issues for all the Nagas and covering all the Naga areas.

However, the framework of Ravi seems to contain only the interest of the state of Nagaland terming it as “mockery” and “insult” of the framework.

A total of 37 projects were approved. A total of Rs 124.92 crores was sanctioned for the state of Manipur under SIDF for taking up various projects which include Infrastructure Development Project in Autonomous District Council of Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi; Senapati and Ukhrul; Infrastructure Development Project in Autonomous District Council of Chandel, Churachandpur and Tamenglong; Improvement Chura- Sugu Road; Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme at Kangsang land and its surrounding areas; Augmentation of water supply scheme at Kasom Khullen Sub-Divisional Head and Construction of Bridge across Tuilak River in between Tuilakganj Village and G. Bualjanj.

Under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), a total of Rs 1765.12 crore has been approved by the union government, the sanctioning of which began in F.Y. 2018-19. Manipur got a share of Rs 191.74 crores under this scheme. **Latest push** This week, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for 13 highway projects and inaugurate a Road safety project in Manipur. The projects include a Road length of 316 kilometers, involving construction value of about Rs 3000 crore. Paving the way for development of Manipur, these roads will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in the State. With all these projects initiated and completed, the otherwise strife-torn region

would develop drastically in all counts along with making goods possible. The economic condition of the people of the north east including the people of Manipur will be lifted and developed with the improvement of rail, road, air and inland waterways connectivity. It will have direct economic consequences due to reduction in travel time, better connectivity between markets and production centers, greater tourist flows and so on. Along with this, the sense of alienation which the people of the region has been feeling for a long time will be drastically reduced and oneness shall prevail.

India's Northeast, which lies deep in the lap of the easternmost Himalayan Hills, assumes a greater significance for the nation. This region,

unlike the rest of the regions, forms a distinct part with varied origins of people belonging to diverse cultures and languages. Though the glaring difference marks one of the underlining factors that contribute to view the region as special, a section of people feels that it has not been given the attention it supposed to have received. Its prospects for development and expansion remain curtailed with meagre opportunities for conveyance and communication. The measures taken by the Government at the Centre to enhance the economic development of the region are now expected to give desired fruits after the latest concerted push in the right direction. It is hoped that soon this region will see progress happening at a pace that is on par with the rest of the country.

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Infrastructure development vital

KYKL observes 27th (Athoubasinggi Ningsing Numit) Martyrs Memorial Day



IT News
Imphal, Aug 18:

Armed rebel group Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) today observed Athoubasinggi Ningsing Numit (Martyrs memorial day) by paying tribute to the revolutionary cadres who had given up their lives for the cause of the freedom of WESEA region by bringing change to the political, economic and society. The observance was held at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Army battalion, units, transit camp and other area of WESEA region, a statement of the outfit said.

The statement said that the observance was held to strengthen the stand of the year long oppressed people in the building of a common Wesab political and economic life. The main observance was held at the 1st battalion complex with Commanding officer (CO) Captain Dhana of the Meeyam-gi Yawol Lanmee (MYL) and Chief of the Army Staff of MFL/KCPH, Ibombich as president and Chief Guest respectively. Captain Robin of the MFL/KCP also attended the observance function as guest of honour. At the observance held at the

Central Committee office of the KYKL floral tribute were paid to the departed cadres and observed 2 minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed cadres. On the occasion, the central leaders paid respect to the frontline health workers of the COVID-19 CSOs and other who are taking part in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders of the KYKL called upon the need for political and economic freedom. The leaders also emphasized on the need to revive the aged old tradition 'communitarian' values.

MHRC summons Dr. K. Rachandra Singh, Assistant Professor, RIMS for disallowing a person to donate blood

IT News
Imphal, Aug 18:

There was an incident at blood bank of RIMS, Imphal, that which was on 28th June 2020, 10.15 am. When Meitram Sanatomba @ Sana Meitram went for donating blood as voluntarily, one of your Doctor namely Dr. K. Rachandra Singh, Assistant Professor, working at The Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion, RIMS & his junior doctor were not allowed to donate blood on that particular day. Also, there were some exchanges of words between doctors on duty with Meitram Sanatomba. After that incident, the mental

status of Meitram Sanatomba are in a state of depression, sleepless, fearfulness etc. Due to this, his whole families including small kids are in a very tense situation. The disallowance of donation of blood has made his status very weak. So He has consulted Psychiatrist at OPD of Department of Psychiatry, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Lamphel on 6th July 2020, Monday and today 15th July 2020 (as per his report submitted to the MHRC). After that incident, Dr. K. Rachandra Singh, sent his wife to his house on 5th July 2020 to settle down the issues between Sanatomba and Dr. K. Rachandra Singh (At that

time, Sanatomba was not at home but She talked to his wife very rudely, timing was 6.45 pm, dated 5th July 2020). On her request, Sanatomba met his wife on next day, dated 6th July 2020, 11.30 am at SSA, Office, Babupara, Imphal West and settled the issues by saying sorry to each other. However, on next day dated 7th July 2020, Dr. K. Rachandra Singh has started again threatening him from various sources. Due to all this, Sanatomba, his wife and small kids are in traumatized situation. So, he submitted a report to the Manipur Human Right Commission to kindly intervene and do the judgment of that particular

incident at Blood bank on 28th June 2020, Sunday, 10.15 am. His complaint case no MHRC Complaint Case No- 110 of 2020 before the Manipur Human Right Commission, Courts Complex, Lamphel, Imphal -795004. Complainants is Meitram Sanatomba aged about 42 years S/O Late Meitram Ibopishak Singh of Sega Road Takhelambam Leikai, near City School, PO & PS Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur 795001 and Respondents are 1. Director RIMS and Dr. K. Rachandra Singh, Assistant Professor, working at The Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion, RIMS.

Digital divide, minority rights worrisome in New Education Policy

IT News
Mumbai, Aug 18:

Catholic Bishops Conference of India secretary general Archbishop Felix Machado has called upon the community to strengthen its solidarity with the poor. We must rid ourselves of the understanding, even in the Church, that "The poor is 'insignificant', a non-person, without any rights, an obstacle to society", the

Bishop said inaugurating the first ever on line annual General-body Meeting of the century old All India Catholic Union. It is a concern the way 'globalization' is progressing; that lakhs of people are considered 'useless objects' because they are used and thrown away by the economic system. Pope St John Paul II and Pope Francis had stressed that foreign debt,

with manipulated taxes and interests of the creditors, should be cancelled, he said. Archbishop Machado, who heads the church in Vasai diocese, dismissed the targeting by vested interests. "We are Indians and at the same time Christians. The two can neither be separated nor can they be identified. We owe allegiance to both because our identity is to be 'Indian Catholic'. As Indian citizens all Indians are equal to us in dignity before God; and as Catholics, all people in the world are equal to us in dignity"

were the continuing attacks and targeted hate against the Christian community, the issues raised by the new National Education Policy and the erosion of civil rights in the cover of the Covid lockdown. The New Education Policy has been critiqued by the CBCI and the AICU when it was published online. AICU was part of the delegation that met the Union Minister for Human Resource development last year. While the NEP extends education to three-year olds, and assures primary teaching in the mother tongue, it has still not addressed the concerns of the people of Tamil Nadu, for instance, on the issue of main languages. Among other major problematic issues in the NEP are increasing the distance which village children, especially in tribal areas, may now have to travel to school. The AICU has demanded continuing consultations on the NEP and assurances that it will not violate the rights of states, religious minorities, apart from ensuring adequate budgetary provisions for universal education. The All India Catholic Union supports the Catholic Bishops Conference of India resolve on Zero Tolerance for sexual crimes, moral turpitude and caste discrimination. All these are also punishable under national laws. The AICU has stood for expeditious trials in courts of law for those facing such charges. There should be no kangaroo courts, media trials, or social media insinuations that bring the entire Church and community in disrepute.

Rongmei Youth Body urges Chief Minister to set up Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Longmai (Noney)

IT News
Imphal, Aug 18:

Interim body of the Rongmei Naga Youth Organisation Manipur has urged the Chief Minister of Manipur to set up the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Longmai (Noney) as the location is appropriate for setting up of such museum and the Rongmei Naga Youth Organisation has already accepted to donate requisite land (10 Acre) for the purpose. In a representation submitted to the Chief Minister the Rongmei Naga Youth body stated that Longmai (Noney) District Headquarters is strategically located on NH-37 and is only 60 kms away from Imphal. The donated Museum site is located along the National Highway. With the commissioning of Imphal - Tupul-Jiribam Railway line within few years from now, general public, visitors and tourists from Imphal and other places will be able to reach the Museum within 40 minutes. Besides, the museum will become hot tourists destination in the state due to its pristine location with lush green hills, scenic landscapes and clear water rivers nearby for water sports and adventure tourism. The donated site has very good water source and power supply. The nearby Assam Rifle Camp located just 2 kms away provides a very safe and secure environment in the area. Longmai (Noney) District Headquarters already has

World's Tallest Girder Railway Bridge in Northeast India and has been attracting number of local tourists. Besides, Longmai District Headquarters has potentials to be developed as major water sports and adventure tourist hub because of fresh water rivers (Aga, Ijei running through District Headquarters and in vicinity of the donated land for Museum. Moreover, other places of tourists' interest in Longmai (Noney) and Tamenglong Districts such as Barak Waterfalls, Tharon Cave, Buning Meadow, Zeilad Lake, Khoupum (Natural Mountain Bridge), Kasuakub Peak etc can further be developed and make as popular tourists' destination in the state. Before the before the Museum site was properly assessed and finalized by the State Government under your guidance, the Minister of Tribal Affairs and Hills had reportedly laid the foundation stone, secretly, for building the Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in the forest area of Makhel Village in September 2019 without even informing the government of India. The Rongmei Naga Youth Organisation objected to the site at Makhel on distance issue. As per copies of documents/ letters/meeting minutes readily available on the website of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the National Level Committee agreed to the proposal of the state Government to set up "Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom

Fighters Museum". Such deliberate act of commission and omission by the Tribal Welfare Department of Manipur is against the spirit of communal harmony and national integration and an open insult to Rani Gaidinliu, prominent Freedom Fighter of India and her people. The Rongmei Civil Societies, thus, have previously raise objection to the concerned Department for omitting Rani Gaidinliu while Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum foundation stone was laid as stated above. "This Museum, originally, was proposed to be set up at the birth place of Jadonang at Puiluanh (Kambiron) about 130 Kms away from Imphal, Longmai Noney District, which is near to the birth place of Rani Gaidinliu. However, the Ministry raised objection on the proposed site due to long distance from the state capital. As such the Rongmei people, in honour of Rani Gaidinliu and other freedom fighters in the state, offered land at free of cost in Rongmei villages near Imphal (Not more than 60 Kms away) connecting Longmai (Noney) district Head Quarter. The Tribal Welfare Department turn a blind eye to the genuine offers made by the Rongmei people leading to ultimate stalemate and disagreement on the Museum location between the Rongmei people and state Tribal Welfare Department on one side and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and Tribal Welfare Department on the other side,

which is very unfortunate. "The disagreement on Museum site at Makhel has led to the undue delay of setting up of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Manipur. It is now completing two years since the project was sanctioned in February 2019 and no tangible work has been done by the concerned Department despite clear instruction by the Government of India. This has caused much embarrassment to the state Government due to the inept handling of the project by the concerned Department", the representation submitted to the CM said and added that to resolved the long drawn issue on Museum site and to set up the best Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum as per the guidelines of the Government of India; and as envisioned by the Prime Minister of India to honor the sacrifice and contribution of all Tribal Freedom Fighters in the state and to make the museum easy accessible to the visitors from outside the state and general public of Manipur, the undersigned donate requisite land (10 Acres) at Longmai (Noney) District Headquarters (etc., etc., or Rongmei Village along Tiddim road eg. Siangai of Kangpokpi District, Thingpui in Cepur. District this villages located along with the District Highway and are on the way to Moirang/Keibul Lamjao/ Moirang INA Museum/ Sendra, Loktak lake, Keibul Lamjao National Park,

INA Memorial Museum at Moirang, Sadu Chiru Waterfalls, Phubala resort, Loukoipat Ecological Park at Bishnupur, Japanese Peace Museum at Maibam Lokpa Ching or Red Hills/ Lamdan Mountaineering) for setting up of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum in the large interest of our state and nation. Land for future development and expansion is available too. As the offered/ donated land at Longmai is considered best suited place in every aspect for setting up State Museum, the undersigned pray that the Hon'ble Chief Minister Manipur will accept the offered/donated land at Longmai solely in the interest of the general public and larger interest of the nation and to fulfill the dream envisioned by Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the Prime Minister of India. The Rongmei Naga Youth Organisation, Manipur-Interim Body (RNYOM-RYIB) in its meeting resolved to apprise the Chief Minister of Manipur to reconsider the present site at Makhel and to accept the most appropriate site offered at Longmai (Noney) District. Failing to comply and do necessary action as requested within 20 days of this publication, the undersigned Organization will impose indefinite bandh along the NH 37, All National Projects including the Railway Project Works, Road Connectivity etc and non Cooperation to the Government of Manipur in Longmai (Noney) and Tamenglong Districts.

The Ecclesiastical Advisor of AICU, Archbishop Peter Machado of Bengaluru participated in the AGM. Among the major issues taken up in the general discussion

case in the state has reached 4765. Among these 1221 are from the Central Security Force. So far a total of 2789 has been recovered and thus, the number of COVID-19 active case in the state stands at 1958. Out of these 946 are from among the Central Security Forces.

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...69 persons with no travel history tested positive

The four returnee from outside the state who were tested positive today are from Imphal West district, the Health Department Statement said. The good news is that the total recovery case in the last 24 hour from COVID-19 is 55. The recovery rate is 58.53%. The total COVID-19 positive

case in the state has reached 4765. Among these 1221 are from the Central Security Force. So far a total of 2789 has been recovered and thus, the number of COVID-19 active case in the state stands at 1958. Out of these 946 are from among the Central Security Forces.