

## Community transmission has started, we should all take responsible in fighting COVID-19: Khemchand

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Yumnam Khemchand today said that community transmission of COVID-19 pandemic has started at community level even as government and the concerned department has not announced it. Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the Community Quarantine Center open at Manipur College, Songmaiei, Speaker Y. Khemchand said that as the virus has started transmitting at Community level government alone will not be able to fight the spread of the virus but it is the participation of the people that virus will be defeated.



"We all should take equal responsibility in fighting the pandemic", Khemchand said adding that today there are cases of fatalities due to the pandemic and there may be number of people infected by the virus who are not yet tested.

Khemchand also reminded the people on how the people of Wuhan in China were able

to control the spread of the virus. He said that we should now learn to live with the virus. "We should learn the virus and live with it", Khemchand said. He also said that we should live our lives without letting the virus affected us and that can be done only after knowing it. "We should live a life with the perception that we may get infected by the virus anytime",

the speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly said. The quarantine center at Manipur College has been open for around three months and people across the state had appreciated the management of the center. Khemchand appreciated the volunteers of the center who had committed to protect the people from the virus.

## Modi Cabinet expansion: Names of Himanta, Leishemba, Agatha from Northeast doing round

Courtesy NE Now  
New Delhi: Aug 2:

With speculations are rife that Narendra Modi Cabinet will be expanded in the first half of August, three names from the Northeast are doing round for the ministerial berths. According to a media report, Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, former Union minister Agatha Sangma and Manipur's titular king Leishemba Sanajaoba are strong contenders for ministerial berths in the Modi Cabinet.

The report quoted party sources as saying that the

expansion is most likely to take place soon after the 'bhoomi puja' for the construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

The 'bhoomi puja' will be held on August 5.

The Modi government currently has 57 ministers. Several of the ministers have a number of portfolios.

The report quoted sources in BJP state units in the northeastern states as claiming that two ministerial berths "in the likely expansion are to be from the region."

For one of the ministerial berths, Manipur's titular king Leishemba Sanajaoba, who won the lone seat of Rajya Sabha in Manipur on June 22,

is a strong contender, a BJP leader said.

Sanajaoba recently had a meeting with BJP top leader Amit Shah in the national capital.

Sanajaoba is a Meitei, which is the largest community in Manipur.

Assam finance and health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is another name doing the round to represent the Northeast in the Modi ministry.

The report quoted a senior Assam BJP leader as saying: "Sarma has been trying to go to Delhi for some time. There is nothing new in it."

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## NEP 2020 to adversely affect the future of North-East – NEFIS

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) has condemned the decision of the Union government to approve the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 which has been vehemently criticized by students, teachers, academics, activists, among others, since the last many years.

A statement said that the fact that NEP was approved without any discussion in the parliament exposes the plan of the BJP government to

worsen the already pathetic situation of education in the country. The policy has incorporated the interests of the industry and corporate sector, and has subordinated the interests of the people to the whims of a small exploitative clique. Instead of tackling the real issues which are faced by the majority of students and non-students such as the number of government schools, the quality of teaching in such schools and the need to bring more children into formal mode education by earmarking more funds for public-funded education, the new NEP among other retrograde measures openly advocates

formalization of education both at secondary and higher levels. However, the policy institutes measures which in effect would victimize the students of the North-east. The NEP, 2020 evades the problems faced by the students of different school boards for admissions in premier institutions after 12<sup>th</sup> by the simple expedient of instituting entrance exams in place of merit based admission. It should be noted that majority of the school students study in schools which are affiliated to the state boards. In the admissions to the few premier institutions these students are penalized in so far as their marks tend to be far less than that of those in central boards to which generally the elite government and private schools are affiliated. The solution to this problem by building more infrastructures in all the regions and providing generous funding to the regional educational institutions stands evaded, as the central government only makes cosmetic changes to the hierarchical and discriminatory educational edifice of the country. Moreover, the measure to

institute entrance examinations conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) instead of marks attained by students would further imperil the chances of the students of the state boards as due recognition to the diversity of content of state board syllabi will not be adhered to.

The NEP, 2020, moreover unduly emphasizes the study of Sanskrit at the cost of other Schedule 8 and other languages of India. It can be seen as an attempt by the RSS-BJP government to impose a single identity on the various peoples of India. Furthermore, the reason for the study of Sanskrit mentioned in the document, especially highlight the utter insensitivity towards the other languages. It has been stated that there is a unity in most of the languages of India as they have been derived from Sanskrit or the other classical languages. The reasoning of the policy makers is incorrect at least and outrageous at best since the languages in the country are a result of various influences, not just that of standardized classical languages. In fact, most of the standardized forms of modern languages are unfamiliar to the general speaking population of these languages. While the other classical languages are mentioned in the policy to forestall any attack on the intentions of the central government to impose a unitary identity on all, Sanskrit is to be hitherto given a greater prominence than other languages.

Thus, it can be safely concluded that NEP 2020 is going to further penalize the North-East people whose already dire condition would be worsened. NEFIS condemns the policy and would be launching struggle against its retrograde measures in the coming days, the NEFIS said.

## Assembly staffs to be tested for COVID-19

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

Staffs of the Manipur Legislative Assembly who have been assigned for duty for the 11<sup>th</sup> session on August 10 have been ordered to test COVID-19 tomorrow. A statement from the Manipur Legislative Assembly also appealed media houses to sent not more than one representative for coverage of the session. Visitors who were earlier allowed will not be allowed in the session the statement added. No person will be allowed to enter the visitors' gallery during the session, the statement said and added that there will be no live coverage at DDK Imphal. Even as staffs of the state assembly has been ordered for COVID-19 test, it is not certain whether those representatives of the people attending the session will be allowed without testing for COVID-19 or not. No notification in the regard have been made so far.

It may be mentioned that there has been several question from various quarters over the following of the SOPs by Ministers and MLAs who had gone visited Delhi and returned but who had not followed the SOPs. It can also be recalled that politicians are the most vulnerable people as they meet people most.

## Elangbam leikai declared as containment zone, locals spray disinfectants

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

After the District Administration of Imphal West has declared Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai area as containment zone after a lady health worker has been tested positive with COVID-19, club members of the YPAC had sanitized the surrounding by spraying disinfectants early today morning. The members of the club also close the entry

during night time to ensure that no visitor out of ignorance entered the area as there are possibilities of spreading the virus. Locals said that members of the family had been advised for COVID-19 test. Except some few who are on emergency service no almost all people stayed indoor today. Vegetable vendors which used to open at community hall of the locality has been disallowed and even small shops remain shut the

whole day.

On the other hand Oriental Club, Khongman Manging had also sprayed disinfectant sodium Hypochlorite solution in the streets within the jurisdiction of the club. The police petrol vehicles were also sanitised by the club volunteers.

Zilla Parishad Member Seram Neken, Lion Dr. Ch. Manglem, Lion Chanam Dinesh and Lion Okram Premnanda donated the required materials to the club.

## ATSUM warns government of facing the wrath of tribal people if fails to take action against MPS officer Brinda

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

The All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM) has warned MPS officer Th. Brinda not to invite the wrath of the tribal people over her conduct and public utterances.

Reacting to a face-book comment at which Th. Brinda called tribal officer 'Quota oriented people', the ATSUM said that such comment had evoked a lot of anger among the tribal people. "The purport and intent of her remarks was Communal and derogatory thus depicting the tribal people in the poor light", the ATSUM statement said. The ATSUM said that the government, the judiciary and the entire police department seems to be afraid of her in taking up appropriate action under the 'The SC and ST (protection against discrimination) Act. The statement further said that instead of disparaging the

tribal people she should have done some soul-searching herself why reservation and quotas were allotted to the weaker section of India. From historical, sociological and didactic perspectives tribals were 'historically and officially disadvantage groups having abode in forest and hilly regions.' Since they were treated with utter disdain and contempt by the upper class people. They were backward and economically impecunious and denied amenities of life including education and social comforts. They were treated as slaves and forced to do those works which others loathed to do. As such they chose to live in civilization and segregated from the rest of the world socially and culturally.

As such the framers of the constitution thought it wise that if these socially, economically and academically backward communities of India

were to live and grow at par with the rest of the country a constitutional protection was necessary to uplift and protect them via government intervention. This is the reason why they were included in one of the schedule of the constitution and came to be known as schedule tribes. Thus in the context of India, schedule were those tribes identified and selected for protection against discrimination. For thousands of years the tribals were made to bear the brunt to fall the hell of civilizations. They were branded as 'unholy, unclean, contaminated and haomacha' and not allowed to mingle with the rest of the world.

This is why reservations of seats or quotas for the weaker sections of the society in government jobs, educational institutions, legislature was provided. This is also concomitant with relaxation of age, additional attempts in examinations, lower cut-off marks are also provided.

Such derogatory remark with racial overtone is monstrous and condemnable and that too from a uniform service person where ethics, decorum and discipline is demanded. And why is the government silent on the matter? Like an unfettered dog she is barking at everyone and everything in her sight and throwing tantrums after tantrum and sending the government machinery, the police department and the judiciary into tizzy. Now the question is if the government fails to act against an individual who has gone overboard in both national and regional media of naming and shaming them with her make-believe affidavits then how will people have faith on the government?

If the government fails act as per the constitutional provisions and punish her accordingly, ATSUM and its federating units will be forced to take its own course of action.

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# "New Education Policy-2020: Prospects and Way Forward"

By: Dr. Ch. Ibohale Meitei

## Introduction:

India's New Education Policy-2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet 29 July last as a new vista for India to become a global knowledge superpower in the years to come. This is a bold and indomitable policy initiative taken up by the present Government for overall national development, economic growth, equitable society and quality education. This policy national education policy in coming out after 34 years i.e. after NEP-1986. Today, the world is emerging as a borderless society as the globalization process continues and employability and skill development in the education system have become important focal point for socio-economic transformation in many countries. In fact, the economic growth and development of a country is very much dependent on the quality and variety of education its people have. In every sphere of life today, change becomes indispensable and the whole world is changing very fast specially in the domain of knowledge generation and skill development. India, to strengthen its position as a knowledge superpower and a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 is striving to have a vibrant and globally acclaimed education system in the knowledge based economy and society. Moreover, to generate better employment avenues for the educated youths of the country efforts should have been made for skill development and vocational studies incorporating in the general education system itself so that it can help our country globally competitive and relevant. It becomes an inevitable task for India to rethink the education system giving importance to industry oriented, creativity, problem solving and skill based education for better productivity and application oriented learning of the students so that the system is at par with the global excellence.

The NEP-2020 document comprises of four parts - School education, Higher education, Other key areas of focus and Making it happen, laying emphasis on various policy initiatives for massive

transformation in education system in line with the changes and demand in the industry and society the world over. In fact, India is a young nation and of the total population of the country, 15-26 years age group is more than 54 %; meaning thereby, a larger portion of the population is in the young age group. The average age of an India is 29 years by 2022 and 65% of India's human resource pull is under the age of 35 years and about 12 million individuals are expected to join the work force every year. As per the skill gap study conducted by NSDC in 2014, there is a net requirement of 11.92 crore skilled manpower by 2022 in twenty four key sectors. It seems that there is a huge gap between the requirement and availability of skilled human resources. Further, many of the developed countries like USA, Canada, Germany, Japan etc. are now aging very fast and they shall require new workforces for the replacement and India can be an important source for the supply of skill manpower to meet the global requirement. It's really high time for India to have such an audacious education policy to take care the required talent landscape of the country in particular and the world in general in the light of technological advancements for industrial revolution 4.0 like artificial intelligence, big data analytics, robotics and block-chain etc. Some of the major recommendations and policy changes in the NEP-2020 can be viewed as below.

1. More focus on vocational studies and skill education even in school level.

As skilled workforce is considered the most important human capital required for the development of a country, both vocational education and skill development are known as drivers for increasing productivity of individuals, profitability of employers and finally national growth. According to Indian Labour Report, in India only 4 % of the young labour force receives formal vocational education and 6 % in the informal sector. Whereas South Korea has provided as high as 96 %, Canada & Japan 80% each, Germany 75%, UK 68% and Mexico 24 % vocational and skill education to the

young people before joining to any gainful employment. By 2025, India envisions that at least 50% of the learners, through the school and university system, should have exposure to vocational education. Skill capabilities of the people will help the country to keep more competitive and developed. Propagating vocational education with special recognition will make our youths more employable and create them opportunities for self-employment too. Now, this NEP-2020 has provided an opportunity to the learners for skill development in a vocational subject as multidisciplinary study along with the general education from Std.8 onwards.

2. Allocation of 6% of the GDP in Education sector:

The challenge the Indian higher education is facing has many folds. The number of universities in India has grown considerably over the last 70 years and it has 945 universities and about 40000 colleges in 2020. As per UGC report, out of 86% of students completing graduation only 12 % go for post graduate education and barely 1% take up research. In spite of the fact that India is having one of the largest higher education system in the world with English medium universities, it cannot earn global distinction may be due to faulty education system, shortage of good faculty and lack of other infrastructural facilities. The universities in India are generally public funded except a few private universities as such funding is still a major constraint and because of which universities cannot have ultra-modern infrastructural facilities for teaching and research and it cannot attract talented global faculty. No Indian university/Institution is figured in the top 200 world university ranking released in 2020. Indian higher education is far behind the global standard. At this crucial juncture, the NEP-2020 suggests to have expenditure on education sector at the tune of 6% of the GDP as against 3% earlier is truly a bold initiative and a welcome move and it is to be highly appreciated.

3. Restructuring of School education.

In the present school education, Anganwadi/pre-school, the Early Childhood Care and Education) is not included within the ambit of formal schooling. Hence, the present 10+2 system (6-18 years of age) has been restructured into 5+3+3+4 system (3-18 years) encompassing 3 years of pre-school stage and Std.1-2 as part of Foundation level, Std.3-5 is for Preparatory, Std.6-8 as Middle and Std.9-12 as Secondary level. Mid-day meals and the breakfast facilities shall be extended to ECCE segment too. Curriculum shall be giving importance on experiential learning and application of knowledge. A multi-disciplinary streams of study including vocational courses is to be introduced in the secondary level and it will definitely give ample scope for choices of subjects to the students for nurturing their creative talents. Internships and experiential learning opportunity provided in the curriculum will give a flip in harnessing the critical thinking, creativity and innovativeness of the learners. Examination reforms shall be brought in laying weightages not much on the rote learning but on application of knowledge as a part of holistic development of the learners.

4. Introduction of 4 years integrated B.Ed degree:

The learning outcome of the study is also very closely linked with the quality of teachers. As such, B.Ed degree has been made compulsory for opting teaching as a profession in the school level in any of the stages. Further, B.Ed degree course

should be introduced in a multi-disciplinary institution giving emphasis to different pedagogic exposure like experiential learning, problem solving and applications of knowledge in the teaching learning system in various streams of study. The Policy extensively covers the various provisions for the B.Ed. course and teacher education facilities for producing better quality teachers.

5. Multiple Entry and Exit at undergraduate level:

The undergraduate degree course shall be of 3 or 4 years multi-disciplinary study and there shall be no water tight compartment in the choice of the streams of study, further, the students can have major and minor electives under the choice based credit system from across a wide range of subjects. Introduction of 4 years degree course, research based is a welcoming step as the course will be at par with the first degree level course in various foreign universities like that of the USA. Researches in applied and pure both are needed for the benefits of the society and new knowledge creation. However, the gross enrolment ratio in higher education, the number of students joining the first degree course after 12 Std. (i.e. 18-23 years) is considered to be one of the important indicators for becoming a developed nation. India with 26.3% higher education GER today, is now targeting to achieve 50% GER by 2035. Some countries have already higher GER such as USA-88%; Germany 70%, Canada-69%, South Korea -94%; China-51%, Iran-70% and Malaysia-45% etc. In this new policy, there shall be options for multiple entry and exit while undergoing the undergraduate course. That means, certificate, diploma and Degree shall be awarded after completion of first, second and third year of the course respectively. This flexibility has made good motivation to the students to pursue the course and complete it conveniently without the issues of dropouts and at the same time the GER in tertiary education shall also be improved. Such multiple entry and exit options are quite suitable for vocational studies too as they have various job roles at different levels of the course enhancing the avenues for employability at multiple levels.

6. National Testing Agency for entrance examinations:

There shall be national level entrance test for admission into the undergraduate courses in the Indian Universities to be held twice in a year. Now, the candidates can have the opportunities for seeking admission to various universities/colleges without incurring much cost. Such initiative definitely shall enhance the diversity of the students admitted in a university and shall provide a sense of national integration among the young minds of the country.

7. Campuses of Indian Universities in Foreign Countries:

The high performing Indian universities will be encouraged to setup campuses in foreign countries. Further, selected foreign universities from among the top 100 World ranking shall also be facilitated to operate in India. That way, it encourages healthy competition among the universities in India and it paves the way to become globally comparable institutions. Collaborations among the institutions shall bring quality and excellence in higher learning and hence, Indian universities are to be encouraged for collaborative venture among the universities within India and abroad. Ultimately, Indians now shall be getting global level quality education at affordable cost. For that matter, India Government needs to formulate stringent rules and regulation for better quality and price

and overall check and balances on the operation of foreign universities in Indian soil. Necessary regulations shall be formulated within the framework of NEP-2020.

8. Promotion of India as Global Educational Destination:

Internationalization of Indian education is an important agenda in NEP-2020. It aims at promoting India as global study destination for premium education at affordable cost. Every university/Institution hosting foreign students shall set up an International Students Office to facilitate the foreign students. Such initiatives shall widen the horizon of visions in the educational administration for global benchmarking. Every institution should try to develop certain areas of competence for study to attract the foreign students and in turn the university shall have more diversity of the student enrolment creating a good ambience for higher learning.

9. Transformation of regulatory system of the higher education in India.

Establishment of a single regulatory body called Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) overhauling of UGC, AICTE, NCTE etc barring the medical and law is a great transformation in regulatory system of the higher education. There shall be four independent verticals to be functioning under this umbrella. Special focus is also given to curb the commercialization of education by formulating multiple mechanism with checks and balances. There shall no longer be multiple regulatory body for running courses in higher educational institutions.

10. The three language formula for school education:

Mother tongue or local language shall be the medium of instruction up to 5<sup>th</sup> Std. That way, the learning of the students will become faster and it will provide avenues to familiarize the various cultural diversities of the country and at the same time these Indian languages shall remain relevant and vibrant. In fact, all the languages are closely linked with the arts and culture of the speaking community and as such, NEP-2020 spells various activities for preserving the local arts and culture associated with the languages. It is an opportunity for the proper preservation of the endangered languages too.

Other Areas of Focus:

Further, there are other recommendations such as establishment of National Research Foundation and National Committee for Integration of Vocational Education for the vocational and traditional knowledge developed in India. The Policy speaks about the other areas of focus such as adult education and lifelong learning, use of ICTs and promotion of Indian languages, arts and culture. By 2040, all higher educational institutions in India shall be transformed into a multi-disciplinary institutions with large number of student enrolment including the professional and other technical universities. It also opines the requirement of collaboration between industry and higher academic institutions to steer innovation and research in the respective fields and also to enhance the employability of the learners.

According to McKinsey Global Institute survey results, "India produces about 360,000 engineering graduates and 600,000 graduates in arts/science/commerce in a year." And only 25 percent of engineering graduates and 10 percent of other graduates are readily employable. In our country, among the fresh graduates only a few are readily employable even among the engineering graduates and many of them are not employable due to lack of certain skill set. NEP-2020 has

given importance of vocational education, skill and capacity development to be integrated in the curriculum besides the separate stream of study to boost the employability of the learners at all level.

It is quite pertinent in the state of Manipur too, to have a serious thought for Manipur to have a robust education system within the framework of NEP-2020 and the state to become the true Academic-gateway of India to South East Asian countries in the years to come in the light of India's Act East Policy. For that matter, the universities in the state are to reorient the mindset for global benchmark by strengthening the existing courses and also offering more innovative and emerging disciplines and also revamping the infrastructural facilities, curriculum and pedagogy in line with the new policy so that the universities may be able to attract the students from domestic and foreign both.

The success of any policy framework is very much dependent on the effective implementation of the guidelines. It is not denying the fact that quality of teaching is one of the most important factors for producing good quality students. Besides good infrastructure and curriculum, good academicians are utmost important for imparting quality education with the use of modern pedagogy. Another aspect, the availability of competent and trained faculty members for the various courses is still a great challenge in many institutions of higher learning in India. We have so many inherent challenges in every activity, however, we have to strive for achieving the goal, a strong and vibrant India.

## Concluding remarks:

Education and learning is a continuous process, thus, continuous improvement and training is very much needed. Educational innovation with more variety in knowledge and skills should be harnessed and at the same time, attitude and behavior of the students should be taken into account while imparting education for holistic development of the learners. Today, facing competition is becoming an inevitable task as such Indian universities need to focus on quality in their management of affairs and also benchmark with the high ranking institutions of the world only then we may be able to come up to the global standards. At the same time more autonomy should be provided for fairer competition and flexibility in their working.

India is poised to have a vibrant economy driven by knowledge and the challenges in education are no longer confined to the country only but to be comparable with best in the global arena too. Academic reforms in terms of curriculum, pedagogy, evaluation, teaching-learning process, governance and management with innovative mindset is very much need of the hour. If we are to transform our country into a true knowledge power, and realize a future of prosperity and growth, a radical change of the education system with quality the central is very much essential in the light of global trends happening. It is believed that this NEP-2020, shall pave a new vista for transforming India into a true global knowledge superpower in the next few years to come provided a concerted effort is made by all the stakeholders with sincere commitment and conviction.

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## Poetry

### I Am In You To Feel Myself

By: Parthajit Borah.

Measuring the heart confirms my age  
The weaving dreams of emotion  
awake me in silence,  
the sobbing of tears surrendered  
before the kingdom of crying.  
The memories of feelings grow  
too older to feel someone at heart.  
Writing of words fail to form  
a poem in the pages of heart.  
Night is haunting me  
sucking the final breath of my heart.  
Tired dreams of pale heart flow  
a red sea in my heart.  
Fallen tears of eyes seek to rest  
on the womb for a while.  
Touching of breeze confirms  
me to feel at someone's heart.  
Melting emotions receive your  
warmth to pour dreams.  
Let me feel myself in you.

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# CPI (M) protests against Centralisation, Communalisation and Commercialisation of Indian Education

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

The Manipur State Secretariat of the CPI(M) has strongly denounced the New Education policy by the government of India. A statement by Kshetrimayum Santa, Secretary, CPI (M) Manipur State Committee said that Education is in the Concurrent List in our Constitution. It is a gross violation by the Central government to impose a New Education Policy unilaterally

bypassing all the objections and opposition recorded by various state governments. It added that a new policy of such a nature needs to be discussed in the Parliament. This was assured by the government earlier. The draft is, as per norm, placed on the table of the Houses with a statutory time limit within which Members of Parliament can move amendments/give opinions. The Parliament has been completely bypassed. "The draft of New Education

Policy was put out in the public domain seeking suggestions and opinions from all stakeholders, mainly the academia, the teaching community and the students. In addition, many intellectuals had also sent in their observations. None of these have been considered by the central government. "This unilateral drive is to destroy the Indian education system with a policy that seeks greater centralization, communalization and commercialization of Indian

education to please the saffron brigade", the CPI (M) Manipur said. The statement said that the Manipur State Secretariat of the CPI(M) strongly protests against the move by the BJP led NDA Central government and demanded that a thorough discussion in Parliament be held and state level discussion be organised by the state government before implementation begins in the interest of the people and the nation in general and new generations in particular.

# New social media rules for CISF personnel

By Raju Vernekar  
New Delhi/Mumbai, Aug 2:

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has issued a set of new social media usage guidelines for its over 1.60 lakh personnel directing them not to criticise Government policies and "disclose" their user IDs on all platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram to the organisation.

The CISF is the national civil aviation security force guarding 63 airports of the country, along with some of the most critical assets in the aerospace and nuclear domain apart from various government ministries and buildings. Besides it also guards metro rail services in the country.

The guidelines issued on 31 July stated that CISF should refrain from criticising the government's policies on above platforms, failing which strict legal and disciplinary action will be taken against the defaulters. Social media usage policy in the force was first brought in 2016 and revised in 2019.

Asserting that social media platforms pose a threat to the national security and the general discipline of the force, CISF has asked its men to "disclose their user ID of all social media platforms, to the department, through their respective units/formations. In case of any change in user ID or creation of a new one, they must inform it to the department," the guidelines said.

The guidelines issued by the CISF headquarters, said: "In spite of clear guidelines, there have been instances where social media platforms were used by the force personnel



to share sensitive information about the nation/organization and to criticize the policies of government". As per the guidelines, the social media platforms should not be used as a tool to bypass the chain of command and the proper channel to air their grievances. The personnel should not use "anonymous or pseudonymous" user IDs, to "criticise the policies of the government on any matter. An officer who is in favour of the policy said: "It doesn't stop anyone from using Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Only the users IDs of personnel are being asked

for because often it happens that security personnel are trapped by enemy countries on social media and then forced to divulge sensitive information". However another officer in the CISF said that the policy appeared "arbitrary". "The CISF personnel are away from their families for months together and social media is the only source which enables them to get entertained, get latest information and gives an opportunity to express themselves of any topic of social importance discussed by the citizens. As such this facility should not be withdrawn.

# ATRPFM demands compensations for landslide affected householders

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 2:

The All Tribal Rights' Protection Forum Manipur (ATRPFM) has appealed the State Government, the concerned authorities, and the NHIDCL to translate the assurance given to the landslide affected householders into action without any further delay. As reported by the ATRPFM through the Deputy Commissioner, Noney District on 22nd July, 2020, A statement by Joseph Romgmei, President, ATRPFM said that a committee was constituted on July 22 this year to analyze the cause of landslide of Longmai Noney areas along NH-37 by way of technical examination, analysis and other measures and also to suggest/recommend future course of action and remedial measures where Chief Engineer, PWD, Manipur is the Chairman, and General Manager, NHIDCL, Imphal; Director, GSI State Unit

Nagaland and Manipur, Imphal; Director, MARSAC, Sc. & Tech. Govt. of Manipur; Prof. Arun Kumar, Earth Science Department, MU, Imphal and Ak. Ranjit Kumar Singh, DRO, R&DM, Manipur were the members of the said committee. An order dated 24.07.2020 was issued by the Addl. Chief Secretary, R&DM to that effect. The statement further said that a team of officials from various departments led by AK Ranjitkumar Singh, DRO, R&DM inspected the said areas which was taken up in response to the press statement issued by the ATRPFM and CSOs of Longmai Noney areas. The President of ATRPFM also took part in the inspection drive and the matter was published in the local dailies on 27th July 2020. As such, the concerned authorities have full knowledge the peculiarly dangerous nature of the landslide for the residents of

the affected areas, specifically, for Longmai-3 village where about 30 houses including a Church are about to be washed away along with their standing crops, paddy fields etc by the landslide. However, no positive steps have been taken by the concerned authorities till date which is a gross negligence of the part of State Government and the NHIDCL. Now, landslides are becoming more acute and the buildings are getting cracks bigger and bigger every passing day. The Geological Survey of India has directed the affected residents to vacate the houses but the State Government has not arranged any alternative rehabilitation facilities and there are no intimations/decisions pertaining to payment of compensations for the affected householders. Their pucca buildings have already been damaged at the costs of lakhs of rupees. The root caused of the landslide is due to construction of road, i.e. NH-37

by the NHIDCL and non-maintenance of the said road with proper care and precaution. The residents of Longmai-3 and adjoining areas are poor people and it takes years to construct a house and also to form their livelihood. Now, all efforts to construct a pucca building or a shelter houses and to build up their livelihood have been shattered without any fault of them and the State Government and the authorities concerned are still neglecting the affected residents of the areas. The statement said that the ATRPFM strongly demand and urge the State Government, NHIDCL and other concerned authorities to immediately take steps without any further delay and pay compensations for the damages and arrange alternative livelihood and rehabilitation, failing which the residents and the ATRPFM would be compelled to explore legal means against the State Government, NHIDCL and other concerned authorities.

# ED raids against major bank defaulters continue

IT Correspondent  
New Delhi, Aug 2:

As part of a series of raids planned against corporate houses defaulting banks to the tune of crores of rupees, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches of two corporate houses in Noida in Uttar Pradesh this week.

On Friday ED officials raided the firm Brys International Private Limited, on charges of cheating the Bank of Baroda and the Syndicate Bank to the tune of Rs 80 crore in the name of a high-end residential complex planned by their firm. Rahul Gaur, the son of real estate group "Gaursons" chairman B.L. Gaur and his wife Navneet, have already been booked by the CBI in this connection, an ED official said. The company had taken a credit of Rs 250 crore (Rs 150 crore from the Bank of Baroda, Rs 100 crore from the Syndicate Bank) for developing a high-end residential complex comprising 291 luxury apartments at Sector 150, Noida. The Bank of Baroda (BoB) has alleged in a complaint that Rs 80 crore were disbursed by the banks, but the project was stalled. The initial deposits by the buyers should have been credited to the escrow account but it was not done.

A forensic audit of the company's account showed round-tripping and diversion of funds, opaque functioning and misrepresentation of facts, the officials said. The company's account turned a non-performing asset in 2015 and Rs 80 crore remain outstanding, even today, the BoB alleged.

In another raid, the ED carried out searches at seven locations in Delhi, including the residential premises of Raj Singh Gehlot, official premises of "Aman Hospitality" and

other companies of the "Ambience Group", in connection with a Rs 800 crore bank fraud on Thursday. Raj Singh Gehlot, who is one of the directors in the Ambience Group, appeared before the financial probe agency at its headquarters for questioning in connection with the case. The ED official said that the agency conducted searches under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and search operations were carried out at the residential premises of Gehlot, Dayanand Singh, Mohan Singh Gehlot and their associates and the official premises of Aman Hospitality Pvt. Ltd (AHPL) and other companies of the Ambience Group.

During the searches, cash to the tune of Rs 16 lakh and foreign currency equivalent to around Rs 24 lakh (16,120 euro; 5,115 pound and \$ 6,302) were seized from the residence of Raj Singh Gehlot. The ED team also seized several incriminating documents and digital evidences during the search. The ED has initiated a money laundering probe on the basis of an FIR registered by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), Jammu, against AHPL and its directors for money laundering in the construction and development of the five-star Leela Ambience Convention Hotel situated in east Delhi's Yamuna Sports Complex.

During investigation, it was revealed that a huge part of loan amount of more than Rs 800 crore, which was sanctioned by a consortium of banks for the hotel project, was siphoned off by AHPL and Raj Singh Gehlot and his associates through a web of companies owned or controlled by them. Money was siphoned off through multiple layers by a complex web of group entities.

# A tale of Friendships Unlocked!

By: TS Haokip

We all have friends from school, college, locality, and workplace. Now, many even make friends through social media. It is difficult to label someone with a Best-Friend tag, considering the various kinds of friendship we all have. For believers, no friend comes even near in comparison to God; He is the friend for eternity. That apart, how do we cherish our friendship with people in our lives?

I had a very friendly relationship with my parents and my siblings. In fact, there is nothing I could hide from them, especially my mother and my younger sister. As for my father, separation due to academic requirements robbed us of ample opportune moments, but we had a very cordial relationship and on every vacation, my favourite past time would be to sit with my Mom, Dad, and siblings and talk about anything and everything. My relationship with my younger sister was the talk of the town; so much so, that a few of her friends thought I was her boyfriend. She fits in the dream of having a friend 24x7. We'd talk about songs, people, places and girls. As time passed, life

eventually changes but they remained very close to my heart.

Growing up in a tiny town, I was close to most people of my ages from the locality but one person stood out from others. I call him "Pasheko" then "Shree" and now "Bhaishab". In fact, he calls me by the same name. As 10-year kids, we would secretly go for river baths almost every Sunday, much to the dismay of our concerned parents, and played football made from rags. As we grew up, we'd stroll the nights with Guitar in our hands and it is from him I first learned how to strum the 6 strings and the song "summer of 69" reminds me of him even today. We'd have four meals a day (A square at each place). The sleepovers were too frequent and could be mistaken as lived-in. A walk to "Theipi phung" (a fig tree) a few hundred metres to the outskirts of the village on a cold December night would be the usual past time during winter vacations.

One day, as I accompanied my mother to the corn field, my friend's father had a heart attack and was supposed to be taken to a hospital; my friend came looking for me but had to leave without me. I felt

so bad about not being able to be by his side when he needed me, so much so that I stayed at my friend's with a few other friends till they returned. Two days later, we met but not with his Dad alive. We hugged and cried for long, each not knowing what to say. No words would have been enough anyway. Several years later, we both part ways to pursue our education and met just once in 5 years interval. We'd however exchange letters occasionally before the mobile phone era. A total of 15 years had passed since then and we could hardly have time reminiscent of those good old days. In between, my father too left for his heavenly abode to be with bygone loved ones including my best friend's father. We both got married and are blessed with beautiful children. With the "Theiphiphung" gone and with our busy lives revolving around the fixed routine of office works and family responsibilities, we are content with occasional "How do you do" over the phone, but the beautiful friendship continues.

If being married spares a negligible time for your other friends, it bestows a wonderful opportunity to spend your

time with your family. Your kid(s) become your companion, sometimes even when going to the washroom. It is a different level of friendship, where you always give your time, patience, eatables and they do the taking part mostly. However, beyond the spectrum of physically visible association, one cannot deny the priceless feeling of inexpressible joy, just at the mere sight of them. That way, I felt the luckier one in my friendship with my kids.

Then comes undoubtedly the most important person in my life i.e. my wife. She is the combination of one's parents, siblings, friends, and children. If she advises me like my parents, she listens to my silly pieces of stuff like my best friend. If she banters like my kid(s), she also stands by me in all my ups and downs as my parents did. If there are times when misunderstandings happen as, in every friendship, just the sight of someone who has loved you enough to leave her home to stay with you is more than enough to ease any tense situation. It is the one friendship, I earnestly pray and hope that it last real long as it is in this friendship, I could feel the goodness of all

different friendships, all very valuable to me.

Today, as we celebrate Friendship Day amidst the pandemic that just balks at abandoning us, where social distancing, lockdowns, and isolation have developed into a routine affair, it is worth rekindling the value of friendship in our lives. As individuals, we can remember and appreciate those close to us; as a community, we can learn the art of peaceful coexistence through mutual respect and love for each other; as nations, we can prioritise peace process to undue competition and display of muscle power and as mankind, we can play our part efficiently by protecting, conserving and developing the flora and fauna around us even as we endeavour towards keeping mother earth a safe place not just for us but the children of our children too. Friendship is one factor if adhered to in its true spirit as an individual, community, nation, and mankind that will create fewer foes, clashes, wars, and natural calamities, if not prevent a pandemic. Happy Friendship Day to all!

(The writer is author of the book HILLY DREAMS)



# Misinterpretation of the Naga Political Settlement

By- Pakinrichapbo Advocate

In order to understand why we should build a safe atmosphere to facilitate meaningful debate in any controversial topics, what they meant to us, and why younger generation should inculcate the habit of examining political history with honesty, it is prudent to commence by examining two turning points in the history of the Naga political movement and their implications even to this day.

The first major turning point is best explained with an extract from the essay 'Exploring Democracy in Nagaland' by an anthropologist, Jelle JP Wouters. He states: "In December 1963, Dr. Radhakrishnan, India's then President, flew to Kohima to inaugurate Nagaland state. 'Friends,' he began his speech: 'I have great pleasure in inaugurating the new state of Nagaland. It takes an honoured place today as the Sixteenth State of the Indian Union... (our) attempts to secure you the fullest freedom to manage your own affairs have culminated in the creation of Nagaland State... May I also express the hope that, now that the wishes of the Nagas have been fully met, normal conditions will rapidly return to the State, and those who are still unreconciled will come forward to participate in the development of Nagaland.'" Members of the NPC agreed with this statement made by then president of India. S.C. Jamir (2016: 96) remarks: "It is still a baffling proposition as to how a tiny district, the district of the Naga Hills of Assam province at first became Naga Hills-Tuensang Area and then a full-fledged state." The NNC, and its loyalists, however mourned the new state as a divisive 'sell-out' and instantly rejected the new state's legitimacy to govern. Phizo himself was unequivocal in his judgment of NPC members: "They are traitors. Every one of them. They have betrayed us and dishonoured the martyrs who died for our cause (cited in Steyn 2002: 118)." In modern Naga political history, few events remain as controversial and contested as the creation of Nagaland state. It divided Nagas politically into two different camps—the people of the new state and, the other, those supporting Naga independence—although the distinctions between them (and have) overlap on various dimensions and they seem to share more common characteristics than differences. Most Naga 'overground' politicians tend to nourish sentiments of sympathy towards the larger Naga political cause, while Naga undergrounds, or 'national workers' as they became known, routinely seek access to the treasures and benefits the new state puts on display.

Divergent political positions on the new state were also articulated in the post-statehood democratic domain. The Nagaland Nationalists Organization (NNO), the political party that swept the first post-statehood elections in 1964, emphasized in its manifesto that the

"achievement of Statehood was a triumph of the people's will (cited in Jimomi 2009: 49)." Its later political adversary, the United Democratic Front (UDF) disagreed: "People of no other state in India have made sacrifices like the Naga, so much so that the State of Nagaland is not considered as a gift, but as a State created for a price dearly paid: a sacrifice of over ten thousands lives (cited in Nibedan 1978:282)." The second major turning point is the Shillong Accord, as Abraham Lothian 'The Hornbill Spirit: Nagas living their Nationalism' states that the Shillong Accord, instead of resolving the Naga issue, created a divided house, splitting the nationalists into NNC and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN). What we can conclude or gather from these two turning points is that it is not only the central government, but even the Nagas themselves were rendering their own interpretation and version of the terms of the final settlements vis-à-vis statehood and the Shillong accord according to their self-interests, thereby fueling political instability. While, on the other hand, the GoI considered the creation of Nagaland state to be the final settlement to Naga issue, which some Nagas, through the NNO and few succeeding political parties and state politicians, considered or interpreted the same.

Another note worthy remark of the speech during the inauguration of the Nagaland statehood was that he addressed the audience as the Nagas, not Nagas of Nagaland. It is fair to assume that the President thought all the unreconciled Nagas, irrespective of state boundaries, would soon reconcile, but fourteen years later, the rising tide of Naga nationalism forced GoI to impose another accord, the Shillong Accord of 1975, hoping that would be the final settlement. However, the GoI was proven wrong again, leading to the present tense situations, even after the signing of the Framework Agreement (in August 2015) and 17th November 2017 Agreed Position.

Fast forward from the catastrophic days of post-creation of Nagaland statehood and the Shillong Accord, we now face similar situation where misinterpretation of the impending final settlement, to be made between central Govt and NNPGs, is likely to occur again. Not long after the signing of the framework agreement, each of the parties involved has created its own version or interpretations of what the framework is, which are often contradictory even though the three groups are referring to the same accord. Not surprisingly, Nagaland's leading intellectuals and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have only questioned the framework agreement signed between GoI and NSCN IM by asking its contents to be made public. While the agreed position signed between GoI and NNPGs did not receive the same treatment of attention the framework agreement

received for the reasons best known to those (CSOs) demanding the details of framework agreement. Seeing such unhealthy political environment where even CSOs are involved in taking sides only shows the days ahead won't be so pleasant. Taking sides, because of group's hidden interests will not only create political turbulence but also create chaotic atmosphere just as it happened in the past. CSOs, therefore, need to seriously study if taking/choosing sides would help bring permanent peace and reduce collateral damage once the ongoing peace talks breaks down (which by the way appears inevitable). It is essential for us to realize that the GoI have a long term plan to gradually bring an end to Naga national movement, since ending a nearly hundred year old issue won't be possible with a single accord (as demonstrated by the two past agreements/accords, i.e. sixteen point agreement and the Shillong accord, that greatly reduced the spirit of Naga Nationalism). Remarkably lots have happened since the incidents of political drama of statehood and Shillong accord. Back in those days, we saw the aftermath of these two watershed events, thousand of frustrated Nagas joined the Naga militants groups to fulfill its political goals of establishing Naga Nation. However, going by the present scenario in Nagaland context, it is highly unlikely to see the repeat of the past events, where youths joined the movement with the object to achieve the aims of Naga Nationalism. The sentiments of nationalism, especially among the Nagas of Nagaland, have reached a point of exhaustion due to the repeated failures to achieve any substantial breakthrough. This is made worse when we include the problems and growing issues of multiple parallel governments, tribal rivalries, and regionalism. In case similar arrangement (similar to the creation of statehood and the Shillong Accord) is made between Central Govt and NNPGs, disagreement among Nagas is bound to emerge given some sections of Nagas within Nagaland and Nagas outside Nagaland will continue with the struggle even if the framework is signed, which will be viewed as a "sell-out." And in such scenario, as the saying goes that a man is at his worst when betrayed by his own kind, it will be difficult to find a middle ground and start anew.

The pressing question now is how to bring different armed factions to a comprehensive agreement for the sake of creating a safe future for all the Nagas. To restart the work of bringing different armed factions to an agreement, CSOs and the mass public have to be honest in their approach. In conclusion, the Naga Nationalism runs the risk of becoming one of the greatest farces of the 21<sup>st</sup> century if it continues to be on the same path following the existing degenerating method.

# COVID-19 detection in 30 seconds?

By Raju Vernekar Mumbai, Aug 2:

The tests were conducted for COVID-19 detection using four Israeli technologies with an aim of COVID-19 detection in 30 seconds, at Indian Council of Medical Research, Delhi on Saturday. Professor K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to PM Narendra Modi, explained that the first technology uses the terahertz spectroscopy. In this, a sample is taken, deposited on a chip, and then examined in a manner that specifically detects SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.

Terahertz spectroscopy detects and controls properties of matter with electromagnetic field that are in the frequency range between a few hundred gigahertz and several terahertz (THz). In many body systems, several of the relevant states have an energy difference that matches with the energy of a THz photon. Therefore, THz



spectroscopy provides a particularly powerful method in resolving and controlling individual transitions between different many-body states. By doing this, one gains new insights about many-body quantum kinetics and how that can be utilized in developing new technologies that are optimized up to the elementary quantum level. Different electronic excitations within semiconductors are already widely used in lasers, electronic components and computers. At the same time, they constitute an interesting many-body system whose quantum properties can be modified, e.g., via a nanostructure design.

Consequently, THz spectroscopy on semiconductors is relevant in revealing both new technological potentials of nanostructures as well as in exploring the fundamental properties of many-body systems in a controlled fashion.

The second approach is named "isothermal test" and the third one detects "coronavirus-specific poly amino acids". The fourth approach is to study speech samples from asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic patients, compare them with others and see if the tools of artificial intelligence can be used to identify those who are COVID-19 positive.

India has got support from Israel and is testing four technologies that can detect a coronavirus infection in 30 seconds. The Israeli Defence R&D, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have come together for this project.

Israeli Ambassador to India Ron Malka said that even if one of the four technologies succeeds in noticing the infection in less than a minute, then it will be the biggest breakthrough the world has been waiting for.

As per the plan, nearly 10,000 people will be tested twice, once using the RT-PCR process, the traditional and most effective way to judge if someone has been infected, and then using the four technologies to judge their efficiency. If the technologies yield favourable results, they would help kick start the economy faster and allow co-existence with the deadly virus, feel experts.

# Over 11,45,000 people recover from Covid-19 so far; Case fatality rate further declines to 2.13 pc

Agency New Delhi, Aug 2:

A record 51 thousand 255 recoveries from Covid-19 have been registered today in the country. This is the highest number of recoveries in a single day since the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. With this, the recovery rate has improved to

65.43 per cent. The case fatality rate of coronavirus has further declined to 2.13 per cent.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry today said, a total of 11 lakh 45 thousand 629 people have recovered in the country so far. In the last 24 hours, 54 thousand 735 new cases of Covid-19 have been reported, taking the total

number of cases to 17 lakh 50 thousand 723. Presently, the total number of active corona cases in the country is five lakh 67 thousand 730. In a single day, 853 deaths have also been reported taking the nationwide toll to 37 thousand 364.

Meanwhile, the Indian Council of Medical Research said that a total of four lakh

63 thousand 172 tests were conducted by various laboratories within 24 hours. So far, one crore 98 lakh 21 thousand 831 tests have been conducted in the country. At present, one thousand 344 laboratories across India are conducting Covid-19 tests that includes 913 government laboratories and 431 private laboratory chains.

## Contd. from Page 1

# Modi Cabinet expansion.....

But the point is, the state is going to polls in early 2021 and it is not likely to be smooth sailing for the party because of the massive protest against the CAA. So we need him here too."

Sarma, who is the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convenor, played an

important role in the formation of the BJP-ruled governments in the Northeast.

Sarma expressed his willingness to contest the last parliamentary polls, however, his wish was turned down by the central party leadership. Former Union minister and

National People's Party leader Agatha Sangma, who is also the sister of Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma, is another contender for a berth in Modi Cabinet.

Sangma is the Lok Sabha MP from Tura constituency. Meanwhile, Ram Madhav, the BJP general secretary in

charge of Northeast, may be removed from his organisational responsibilities in the region, said sources.

"It is almost certain that Ram Madhav will be removed from the responsibilities of the Northeast," the report quoted a source close to the RSS as saying.

# ATSUM warns government of facing the wrath of tribal people .....

Such outlandish act and contemptuous utterances with the intent to demean and demonized the tribals will not be condoned now, nor in the future.

Of late, this person on grata has gone berserk and lashing out at every one that comes her way. The state's legislature, the executive, the judiciary came under fire from her invectives. Everybody respects and revered the judiciary in spite of its many short comings and lapses respect but she did not. Brinda must be the only person in the entire world who has openly challenges the judiciary in the conduct of its business and calling it as entirely corrupt. Even the executives, desperados, civil societies and students' organizations refused to comment on any matter after it reached the court but she did not. We also had approached the hon'ble court many times on relevant

issues but we have never commented on the court proceedings or verdict except keep our fingers crossed. This is not out of fear but reverence to that halo character item its as it is the last resort an individual citizen can approach when they are under the impression that their rights had been sabotaged and all other options for justice had fail. So, Brinda is above the Judiciary. She even started poking her nose where she should have really kept off.

She was acting as if she is the leader of the opposition in one of her face-book post just before the Rajya Sabha election of Manipur lashing out at the King. If she's interested in politics and doing what the elected representatives should have done why not resigned from her service and join politics. Her actions and public utterances are untenable and

therefore she should start learning to shut her mouth and behave like a police officer.

Her conducts are so egregious and absurd that if the government does not put a plug on her it will send wrong message to the people and the government employees. What if every government servant started coming out and publicly chasten the government and judiciary! Won't this lead to ferment and chaos? And, no wonder the governments currying is for cover instead of chastising her.

Without providing an iota of evidence she dragged two tribal officers in the famous drug-haul case of June, 2018 in the affidavit that was submitted to the hon'ble court which was crafted leaked to both national and state medias which she later ludicrously claimed that it was given for 'reading purpose'. Is she under the impression that she

is the lone sagacious person in Manipur and the rest of us are fools to swallow such lie! If she's true to her accusations why not bring out evidences, phone call records, witnesses, written documents to support her claims instead of trying to churn public emotions.

Now that the skeletons in the cupboard have tumble out, of her complicity in demanding hush-money from the accused family the government should take prompt action and punish her as per the laws of the land. Lastly, there's something called "Rule of Law" which binds all citizens to act and perform their respective duties with in its ambit. Brinda should not be under the fallacy that she's above all these democratic institutions after all she's just as peck in this momentous circle of democracy's big wheel. And, she should start by learning to keep her mouth shut.