

Students' bodies urges government to ensure health care facilities to non-covid patients

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

The inability to provide proper medical facilities to non-covid patients at hospital across the state has caused serious concern to students' bodies of the state.

A joint press statement of the AMSU, ATSUM, ANSAMKSO-GHQ, MSF, DESA KSA, SUK, and AIMS said that Covid-19 pandemic is at the verge of spreading at Community level. At least 7 have died of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this juncture as both the government and private hospitals have not allowed to admit non-covid patients, there are possibilities of unwanted incident at different sections.

Non acceptance of non-covid patients but emergency one like injury by accident, delivery case, cardiac arrest etc and those from containment area without testing the COVID-19 is very unfortunate, the students' bodies said.

The statement said that serious patients from interior parts of the state are facing extreme difficulties in reaching to the hospitals for treatment. There were incident that a woman died while delivery as she could not taken to the hospital. This types of incident should not be repeated in future, the statement said.

The student bodies demanded a proper and effective policy to ensure that other patients (non-Covid) too are treated fairly in hospital. On the other hand, the government should take extra care for those frontliners working to prevent the spread of the virus, the statement added.

Panic at JNIMS after COVID-19 positive patient protest; matter settled

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

Panic strikes to employees as well as visitors and non-covid patient undergoing treatment at JNIMS after a group of asymptomatic COVID-19 positive people undergoing treatment at Covid Care Center today came out of their room and staged protest in front of the Director's office.

According to report, at around 11 am today a group of COVID-19 positive asymptomatic patient number around 20 gathered in front of the JNIMS Director office and stage protest as they were not satisfied with the kind of facilities provided to them. They protest about untimely and irregular service of mess and other care facilities.

When Imphal Times contacted with the officials of JNIMS, the



authority said that the matter has been settled. When asked about the demand of the patients, it has been told that the patients (asymptomatic) at the Covid Care Center, JNIMS have been provided the same catering service that has been served to other non-covid patients undergoing treatment at different wards of the hospital.

"This catering service was not

satisfied by the patients at CCC wards", the authority said and added that they have demanded a better quality food for them. The authority said that they cannot provide special treatment like providing special food for them as it the hospital does not have separate provision to provide separate food for COVID-19 positive people.

The matter was however

settled after the COVID-19 positive patient had a talk with the Additional Director of JNIMS. But details of the agreement reached between them could not be known. Meanwhile, visitors and non-covid patients as well as those working in the hospital were not panicked as those people tested with COVID-19 came out as there are possibility of spreading the virus to others.

Online registration fee at DMU unreasonable – Students' Unions

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

Students' Union of the constituent colleges of Dhanamanjuri University (DMU) has strongly reacted to the notification for submission of registration fee of Rs. 100 while applying admission online for various undergraduate courses for the academic session 2020-21 at the constituent colleges of Dhanamanjuri University.

A statement issued by representatives of the students' union of DM College of Arts, DM College of Commerce, DM College of Science and GP Women College said that even the Manipur University does not require registration fee for application of admission to various colleges. The statement said that due to

the ongoing lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic across the country, students have been seriously affected threatening to their career. In the meantime, as those students who were studying outside the state have to admit in the state because of the pandemic the students' bodies has been urging to increase the intact capacity at maximum level.

The students' body said that the motive of the DMU for Registration fee is against the interest of the student community and is purely with business motive. The students' Union appealed the DMU and the Education (U) authority to cancel the requirement for submission of registration fee while applying online application for admission.

All weather roads for border areas is a must as it will boost the economic activity of the areas- - Dr. R K Ranjan, MP

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency MP Dr. RK Ranjan had stated that **All weather roads for border areas is a must as it will boost the economic activity of the area.** He was speaking at the one-day awareness programme on cane and bamboo and its application at Nongkam Satang Village in Tengnoupal district yesterday, jointly organized by Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, Manipur; Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS), Manipur and Nongkam Satang, Choktong and Machi Village Authorities, Tengnoupal District.

The awareness programme is supported by Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati, Assam under North Eastern Council,

Ministry of DoNER, Government of India. The Dr. Ranjan said that a proposal will be sent to the ministry of road transport and highways through the state government to construct an all-weather road.

"Without better road, health infrastructure border areas cannot be developed", he said and added that the Maring community are master craftsmen in cane and bamboo products. They have a special talent in this and more awareness is needed to promote this.

The MP said, the agro climate of the area is suited for multiple cropping. As the team from CAU have tested the soil, it's suited for planting litchi and agar trees besides bamboo which are abundantly grown in the area. By planting this, it will help in boosting the economy of the villagers. He



said, people living in the border areas are the guardian of the border and they have been guarding the areas. The MP said, he will try to help in all possible ways to boost the economy of the people.

President of the programme, Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze, MP said that the connectivity in the region is very terrible and need to construct a better road between Lamlong Khunou to Nongkam Satang. It is urgent

to need to make an international market place at Nongkam Satang to develop a formal trade between India and Myanmar. For this, it is necessary to talk with Burmese and Indian governments.

Prof. M. Premjit, Vice-Chancellor, Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal expressed that Nongkam Satang village is a suitable place for Lychee,

Coconut, Cane and Bamboo. That is why he is willing to set up a centre for scientific plantation and skill development of these plants at Nongkam Satang in consultation with the Members of Parliament (MPs) present today. It also needs for establishment of Tissue culture for mass production of nursery plants.

Mr. Rajkumar Mayanglambam, DC, Tengnoupal District also attended as one of the guests of honour in the programme. He also stated that there is a plan to construct a road between Lamlong Khunou to Nongkam Satang under a programme of Assam Rifles and also issued no-objection certificate on it. He will urge it for a speedy process. The issues of no telephone network, lack of health facilities and primary school in

the region and he will take it up to solve these problems through a new scheme of Prime Minister.

Th. Krishnatombi Singh, the Additional Superintendent of Police of Tengnoupal district also expressed that after crossing the border, all the road in the Myanmar are motorable road, but in the case of Manipur, there is no road from pillar nos. 71 to 87. Such situation is threatening to our national security.

During the programme, hand sanitizer, masks, hydroxide and hand gloves were distributed to the villagers which were provided by the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Manipur and Manipur university. Mr. Morung Makunga, Former Minister, Government of Manipur was also presented as one of the guests of honour of the programme.

Korean language study center King Sejong Institute opened at DMU, Imphal

By Maibam Verona
Imphal, Aug 5:

King Sejong Institute (KSI), a center for learning Korean language and culture which is directly managed by the Korean Cultural Centre India has been inaugurated through video conferencing at Dhanamanjuri University, Imphal on Tuesday.

The inaugural function was attended by Choi Jongho, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of India, M. Harekrishna, IAS, Vice Chancellor of Dhanamanjuri University (DMU) and Kim Kumpyoung, Director of Korean Cultural Centre India (KCCI).

Speaking on the occasion Kim Kumpyoung, Director, KCCI, encouraged students to study earnestly to be able to catch the study and job opportunities KSI provides. "Only students who are willing to bend down, get through thousands of negative reasons will jump up," Director Kim said.

Teacher Park Minjae, the Operating Personnel of King Sejong Institute, Imphal addressed the audience on the establishment of King Sejong Institute in Imphal. He said, "Northeast India has seven states, with a population of about 39 million. In these regions, Arirang TV and KBS World channels are aired. Regardless of their age

everyone likes K-pop and Korean dramas. As a result, their interest in Korea is high and like Korea very much. In spite of their interest and demands of learning Korean Language, there was only one course for Korean Language at Manipur University since 2012. Then, in 2018, a Korean visiting professor was sent from the Korea Foundation; Korean language education in Manipur began to develop little by little. So the Post Graduate Course which is a full time Korean Language course started from January, 2019. In November 2019, the Korean Culture and Arts Centre, Manipur started providing the Korean Language Course for Beginner and Intermediate

levels. And, in January 2020, a 10 week Korean Language course started at DM University. And this time, King Sejong Institute opened in Imphal through the collaboration between Dhanamanjuri University and Korean Cultural Centre India. It is located in Dhanamanjuri University, is run directly by the Korean Cultural Centre India."

He further stated that the institute will provide high quality Korean language education by Korean native speakers and introduce various cultural programs for the lovers of K-culture. "This starting semester, we have 43 students, 23 in Beginner level, 14 in Intermediate-1, 6 in

Intermediate-2. We will continue to provide Korean language education, and various cultural programs. And through Korean language education, we are trying to help as many students get a chance to work in a Korean company and for their further studies in Korea. We will be the link to connect Korea and Manipur in various ways," Mr. Park said.

Choi Jongho, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea congratulated the institute and expressed his hope that Korean language and culture education would become more widespread through the institute. M. Harekrishna, Vice Chancellor of Dhanamanjuri

University mentioned that DMU is really proud to join hands with KCCI and KSI, Republic of Korea to have a branch of KSI at DMU. "We look forward to both the parties fully and faithfully cooperating with each other in matters relating to the bright future of the students. We also look forward to the Korean government that they provide avenues for cultural exchange programs which the students would love; scholarships and jobs for the students who are studying Korean language and culture," VC Harekrishna said. On behalf of the DMU team, he thanked the Minister of the Korean Embassy, Director of KCCI and everyone involved

for the successful launching of the Korean language program in DMU during this difficult and uncertain time. Prof. Lee Hyunkyoung, Visiting Professor, Department of Foreign Language, Manipur University also congratulated the opening of KSI, Imphal. "When I came to Manipur University in 2018, I was surprised that north east Indians are more interested in Korea and Korean language than I thought," Prof. Lee said. She further added that Korean language is taught Manipur only among the seven states in India and believes that KSI Imphal will become the outpost of Korean language in north east India.

★ Editorial

Think of a better solution than Lockdown or curfew

For a state like Manipur which is not so sound economically, to test all people of the state is impossible even though that is the best solution. Fear, anxiety, apprehension is a human phenomenon. Every people in the state too are no different as they are a human being.

At this time of the COVID crisis, everyone is showing its serious concern. Those in the health care sectors, law enforcers, district administrators, and particularly club members are playing their role to contain the virus with every means they could. But the invisible enemy keeps invading us. We the people should not have a preconception mind of speculating the spread of the virus at the community level, as the negligence of those front line warriors who are responsible for protecting the people. This is stated because all people are hero from their own perspective, everything they have been trying is to save the people. But what went wrong? Why is it that despite the many efforts the virus now has spread at the community level? How come people tested with the dreaded virus were stigmatized when the virus was contracted with them for no immoral behaviors or activities?

Whether the state health department accepted or not, we are in the fourth stage of the pandemic. From a clique of persons who return from outside the state, the virus now had reached out to health workers and to common people who had no travel history or to those who do not have the idea of how the virus has infected them and from where. The fact is that there is community transmission and that the matter should be dealt by finding a perfect policy that will be adapted with the society of Manipur without delaying by accepting the fact that "Community transmission" has begun. Before things get worst, it is time that the government act but not to the will and desires of those in the top post. Forget about the Chief Minister and his cabinet Ministers, those bureaucrats whose responsibility and duty is to advise the ministry are not competent enough to take decisions of their own in respect of this pandemic. The only solution for this crisis period is proper planning which should be framed in consultation with various experts in the field. Bureaucrats, who come from a medical background or sociological background should not underestimate those experts in the profession who are presently engaging in their respective field as the wisdom of those dedicating their whole energy obviously have more innovative ideas which is practical and applicable to the society.

Same old policy like the imposition of lockdown, curfew etc. cannot be utilized as usual as the nature of spread is different today. When it comes to the local level, and started transmission at the community level, definitely there is an urgent need for formulation of a program as done earlier during HIV and AIDS pandemic. By setting up the Manipur State AIDS Control Society and implementation of certain work programme under the strict policy have reduced and put under control the spread of HIV and AIDS. Now, the state needs to think of a plan which may be not similar to the way that was taken up for controlling the spread of HIV and AIDS. Because SARS-CoV-2 is different, its character is still studying and so far no medicine to cure the COVID-19 has been so far invented even though the world is trying. But saying so, we have to live and not as prisoners. In the name of containing the virus, people can't be put as prisoners at home all the time. And nobody knows how long the virus will be with us. A separate cell like that of MACS perhaps may bring some solution. And the guidelines need to be properly framed by collecting all suggestions and recommendations from experts of all stakeholders.

On the other hand, the idea of mass testing is not possible we know that, but the government should not make any mistake to utilize all it has to make sure that people are tested at the maximum level. The Chief Minister, Health Minister, and other authorities of the department have been saying that Manipur at present had the capacity of testing over 2000 samples per day. Had these Ministers and authority ever inspected that even though the state had now machines to test the virus to over 2000 sample, does all the required kits and reagents for testing of the virus have been made available to them? Sample collection these days have been reportedly reduced but complaints about not being tested by collecting sample are heard every single day. There is a loophole, even as all those working in the sector spend all their energy to make sure that people are safe.

The best machinegun without bullets during war times seems to have no values and a similar thing is sense in the VRDLs of both RIMS and JNIMS. These should be checked. And why these VRDLs are getting only 600/700 samples per day when they have the capacity to test over 2000 samples. Why could not the health authority collect more samples so that more people get tested?

This COVID-19 pandemic is no joke. It has a tendency to uproot the whole society. And without proper policy, it is affecting all. This lockdown which is on should not be wasted. The need of the hour is to frame policy with ideas from all experts.

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Rural Unemployment & Agriculture

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

India, essentially is a rural nation where agriculture, horticulture, handicraft, fisheries, poultry and dairy are the major contribution to the rural economy. Yet the contributions of agriculture has been dwindling, creating a space for inequities. Here, unemployment is mainly due to the shortage of capital, the poor exploitation of natural resources and inadequate employment opportunities. The main issue lies in the character of the job as agriculture is dependent upon the benevolence of nature. It is the rain that makes the sector thrive and unfortunately India has rains last for only 3-4 months. In addition, it is a labour - intensive job, whereas in the present era, no one prefers to toil throughout the year. Naturally, there has been a major shift in dependency on agriculture as their main source of income. From 60%, it is constantly reducing owing to problems like price fluctuations, draught, flood, pest and diseases outbreak etc, which brings uncertainty income. Agriculture in Indian context is a seasonal occupation and there is always a heavy demand for labour at the time of sowing, wedding and harvesting whereas in slack season demand for labour falls considerably. In rural areas, farmers remain unemployed for four to six months in a year. Because of illiteracy, poverty and poor health, they are unable to avail some alternative employment opportunity during this period. India should urgently look at comprehensive reforms to make agriculture a sustainable and scalable industry. Where does India's agriculture stand now? The country has made big stride in agriculture post liberalization, the

yield has increased and is the third largest producer by value. However the sector realize only 50 to 60% of its potential. Price realization is affected by the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) Act and middlemen. In rural India, sowing season is nearing end. The rural unemployment rate climbed to 7.1% in the week ended 19 July 2020 to 6.34% recorded in the previous week, according to fresh data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). This is still below the figure for the week before India went to lockdown on 25th March but economists feel it will see a gradual climb in the coming weeks and July may not see job creation picking up much. Overall national unemployment also inched up to 7.94% in the week ended 19 July from 7.44%, the previous week.

However urban employment remains the bigger concern, as it continues to stay high and its decline has been slower. The urban joblessness rate came down marginally to 9.78% from 9.92% during the same period, according to CMIE, reflecting the stubborn formal sector jobs space that is directly influenced by the existing business environment, which is improving very slowly. Economists and experts said, labour market will see tougher challenge over the next couple of months both in the rural areas and urban pockets. Monsoon is expected to pick up in parts of India bringing along with it natural calamities such as floods, which will restrict activities in the agriculture sector and partially limit low-end self-employment activities. India's rural unemployment rate has started moving upward with the summer crop sowing season drawing to an end. Except for few crops (rice, wheat) and a few states (Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh) the

selling price for the farmers is 15-50% below Minimum Support Price (MSP). The sowing season is nearing completion and strain in the rural labor market will be visible in the coming weeks. How can farming be made a sustainable occupation? The agriculture sector employs over 52% of the workforce contributing to only 14% of the GDP. Incomes have been stagnant over the last decades with the average worker earning less than 60-70% of the income of their counterparts in the city. As in urban areas witnessing sporadic lockdown to contain the spread of novel coronavirus, the slow reopening of business will limit the faster recovery that the country saw in June. With labor moving to rural India and depressed consumer demand income could drop about 10-20%. Agriculture and food processing GDP contribution has to rise to close to 20% while surplus labor needs to be deployed in manufacturing and food processing. However the country's food processing value addition at the moment is less than 10% of the produce while for most developed economies there is 100 to 300%. The sector needs to grow at 5% per annum which is double the historical growth.

How do we ensure adequate remuneration for farmers? Increasing remuneration via MSP has drawbacks. It couldn't be enforced beyond three states and it triggered food inflation and macroeconomic instability. The center and states must devise a strategy for the growth of non-farm sector in rural India which can help absorb people in decent jobs. The slow recovery of business and urge to meet cost by employers for survival has a direct impact on rural employment. Farmers with a good land holding are doing fine but

people who don't have enough land or workplace as daily wages are in real trouble. The lack of cash in hand is a problem and this will prompt people to go back to urban areas again despite the bad living condition there. This is where non-farm activities and white collar jobs in regional level will be of help. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is helpful but may not be able to take pressure off and absorb all the people during the rainy season, who were earlier largely deployed in agricultural activities. CMIE data shows that rural employment scenario is much better in recent weeks but "we must take note that a higher labor force participation "rate in agriculture means, only a marginal growth in productivity of labour. Immediate income growth is not there. There are other ways: increased price realization for the farmers so that they get most of the consumer surplus and use of technology and supply aggregation platforms for storage, logistics and better price discovery. There is potential to create a segment of processed and branded food to increase farmers' income. The country should follow a five point agenda reforms: focus on sustainable yield improvements through scientific farming practices; improve agricultural marketing to increase farmer's price realization through policy changes; set up an Integrated Agriculture Export Mission to scale up food processing and exports to increase value addition from 10% to 50%; promote direct marketing through farmer producer Organization; and seriously work on reforms in the agriculture sector.

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Manipur Home returnees, unemployment and ILPS

By Lunsieh Kipgen, IPS

At least fifty thousand natives of Manipur state have returned from various parts of the country to their home state in the wake of covid-19 pandemic. A large chunk of these home returnees are said to have been working in unorganised and semi-organised sectors in different parts of the country. They are not migrant labourers working in factories/ industries or in the agriculture sector. They earn wages relatively better than the migrant workers whose exodus from cities to their native states too has been witnessed in the wake of the country wide lockdown. Once thrown out of job the working force have no option but to return to their home. Unemployment rate in India and elsewhere is already a big problem. Manipur is no exception. Insurgency in the state is already linked to unemployment problem. Manipur has got a name as home to a large number of armed militant groups. The irony with Manipur is that despite covid scare and implementation of the Inner Line Permit System (ILPS) in the state the influx of non locals from mainland India continue to be unabated thereby indirectly depriving the natives (locals) of employment opportunities in the process and draining the state's money unnoted.

The bulk of Manipur home returnees are from the age group between 20 and 40. Those in government service or working in organised sectors could work from home and so they never formed a part of the train loads home returnee group. Most of these returnees are in their prime youth and would fit in most of the physical strength demanding

employment and earning sectors such as construction works requiring skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. In cities these home returnees are said to be employed in less physical strength requirement jobs like private security guards, staff jobs in hotel, restaurant, shopping malls and tourism sectors. Some more educated groups with knowledge of English language and computer reportedly worked in call centres of the corporate world, etc. These youths earn wages/salaries enough at least for their own sustenance and maintenance. Even some of them save part of their income to support their relatives back home or a sibling studying and staying with them in the cities. The problem with them now is that most of them may not like to be engaged in agriculture or construction sectors after returning to their home state. The sudden change of life style from city to village/small town would certainly create imbalance. The sense of frustration with job lost must have contributed to the recent unrest witnessed in several Institutional and Community Quarantine centres where home returnees are lodged for a required period.

Around forty thousand and even more non locals from mainland India are engaged in different employment avenues in Manipur at a time. They are engaged in different trades ranging from barber, cobbler and cart puller to construction workers and small time businesses. They are seen engaged in different construction activities and petty businesses even in the rural villages of the state. The non locals here stay in rented houses, work and earn. They never come here to buy land

and settle permanently. They remit the money they earned from here to their families in their home states. They go home once a while to visit their families carrying with them cash they have saved over a period of time.

Since the locals are not willing to work in many types of menial jobs the non locals cannot be blamed for coming into the state and earning in areas of work where locals are not engaged. In fact the locals should be thankful to the non locals for coming and doing things they (locals) don't have the skill or the will to do. But it is simply inexcusable for the local youths to leave a vacuum in the blue collared jobs and crib about absence of working and earning avenues. The local unemployed youths are big potential income earners in the more "dignified" jobs like construction sector requiring unskilled, semi skilled and skilled labour. Masonry, carpentry, tiles work, plumbing work, electrical fitting, painting works, petty shop keeping, etc. are huge employment avenues and reasonably high income earning avenues in the state. The local unemployed youths including home returnees can certainly be absorbed in these areas of employment. When these employment opportunities are captured mostly by the non locals we are shouting our voice hoarse for ILPS. Skills and semi skills can be acquired over a short period of time. It is just our wrong mentality and absence sense of dignity of labour that prevents us from taking up trades which can provide a decent living.

The introduction of ILPS in the state from first January 2020 was a long cherished dream fulfilled for Manipur. Its main objective is to deny unhindered

and unregulated entry of non locals from mainland India into the state so that they don't deprive the natives of their land, employment opportunities and income. The state government had collected a sum of Rs. 100,00,000 (one crore) revenue from seven ILPS check gates in a span of one and a half months starting from the first date of ILPS implementation on January 1, 2020. This is reasonably a big revenue amount. Around 33,500 ILPS passes were issued during this period. The ILPS revenue collection rate would of course fluctuate as fresh pass costs more and renewal rate less. The fresh passes were issued not only from border gates but also in various valley district concerned offices to those who were already here.

But then revenue consideration is never the reason for ILPS demand for years. Its primary objective as stated earlier is to prevent smarming of non locals in the state which could eventually create socio-economic-cultural and demographic imbalance. If over thirty thousand ILPS passes could be issued in less than two months then the number of non locals present in the state could well just be imagined. Non locals continue to pour in even during this covid lockdown has irked valley based pressure groups including the JCILPS. The continued incoming of non locals is possible as construction related works are exempted from the lockdown.

Manipur is considered a good earning destination by non locals from mainland India. The presence of a large number of non local work force never make labour cheap either.

(Contd. on Page 3)

Mizoram bans entry of paramilitary personnel till Aug 15 as COVID-19 cases spike

Agency
Aizawl, August 4:

The Mizoram government has decided not to allow paramilitary personnel enter the state till August 15 in the wake of the surge in COVID-19 cases among the forces, an official said on Tuesday. The decision was taken at a meeting between officials of the state government and the paramilitary forces on Monday, he said. It was agreed at the meeting, which was chaired by Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo, that a decision on allowing the security personnel to enter the state would be taken after August 15 based on the prevailing coronavirus situation, the official said. Chief Minister Zoramthanga also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to temporarily withhold inter-state movement of all paramilitary personnel during this month to contain further spread of COVID-19 in the state. In a letter addressed to Modi on Monday, Zoramthanga said that the state government

has been making massive efforts to contain the spread of the deadly virus in the state since February in spite of its enormous economic and financial challenges. However, the main hurdle the state is facing in its efforts is the unrestricted movement of paramilitary forces, the chief minister said. He said that daily statistics of new COVID-19 cases reported in the state indicates that the majority of new cases are detected among the paramilitary. Zoramthanga also mentioned in his letter that the state government has written several times to the heads of the paramilitary forces in the state to curtail avoidable movement of their personnel and to restrict inter-state travel. However, from my reading of the records maintained by the state government, it appears to me that the paramilitary forces are going about their deployments and leave sanctions as if it is business as usual, he said. Zoramthanga said he had been informed that incoming

personnel were freely roaming in public places and were using public amenities such as banks, ATMs and visiting marketplaces, which caused panic and unrest in the state. Considering the COVID-19 tally of the paramilitary forces, I am extremely perturbed about the propensity of the paramilitary forces turning out to be super-spreaders of COVID-19 in the state and therefore, I seek your kind intervention in issuing suitable orders, Zoramthanga said in his letter. Mizoram reported 22 more cases of COVID-19, taking the state's tally to 504. Among the new cases are seven security personnel, according to the state health department. So far, 249 security personnel and NDRF staffers have tested positive for COVID-19 in the state, as per the department. There are 222 active cases in the state while 282 people have already recovered. Mizoram shares international borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

ATRFM demands disbursement of fund to tribal beneficiaries

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5

The All Tribal Rights' Protection Forum Manipur (ATRFPM) has expressed disapproval to the inaction of the State Government for non-disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries of Family Oriented Schemes under Tribal Affairs and Hills, Government of Manipur for the financial year of 2018-19 and 2019-20 till date. The union government has already released the sanctioned amount to the State Government, however, the State Government has

withheld the disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries who are ignorant of the schemes and also poor section of the society. It has become a routine for the State Government to divert the funds meant for Scheduled tribes under TA&Hills including scholarships of the students which is highly condemnable. No fund meant for ST communities has been disbursed on time by the present State Government which negate the whole objects of this Department and defeat the actual spirit of the Constitution. The fund for scholarship has been diverted, the funds for

family oriented schemes have been diverted and all other funds meant for ST communities of the State under TA&Hills have been diverted consistently which is a clear indication of suppressing the rights of the poor tribal people and play with their livelihood. TA&Hills is the only Department which provide some kind of economic reliefs and also allow to carry out some important family oriented activities for implementation of various programmes like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Flower Fisheries, Piggeries, Industries,

Women's & Children Programmes, Medical and Health, Education etc. However, the State government has not disbursed the fund to the beneficiaries till date even after a lapsed of more than a year and 5 (five) months from the end of last financial year. The ATRPFM demands the State Government and the authorities/department concerned to disburse and credit the approved amount to the bank account of the beneficiaries, failing which we shall be seek remedies before the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and also file PIL before the High court of Manipur.

Tetso College conducted a webinar on "Participatory Democracy – Activism as Tool for Critical Engagement".

IT News
Dimapur, Aug 5:

The challenging local, regional, national, and global context within which the Nagas are struggling to find its feet and to walk tall and dignified, is complex and seems insurmountable. These are but "external challenges" which every nation and peoples have their own fair share of. The Nagas, despite surviving a thousand years as a civilization in its own right, from colonial and post-colonial onslaught of militarisation, Christianisation and globalisation, have no control whatsoever over what essentially stems from outside of their location and immediate context – the global economy,

complex political paradigm and economic imperatives. These are but weaknesses and challenges that need to be minimised over the long term. What is most disturbing and urgent, though, is about the "internal challenges" that the Nagas have control over, and yet, would do nothing about it. For this, the Tetso College invited James Pochury, a program officer from an International NGO in New Delhi to speak on **Participatory Democracy – Activism as Tool for Critical Engagement** in a Webinar on 4th August, 2020. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Aniruddha Babar, a Political Scientist, Lawyer and an expert in International Law and

attended by students from different parts of Nagaland, faculty members and respected members of the society. James Pochury spoke about necessity of political activism and how it is relevant to a present day situation where Naga society has been trapped in a complex socio-political conundrum. He emphasize on a need of peaceful political activism within the legal framework to claim and reclaim the legal and constitutional rights. He also spoke on social transformation and social development in the present day Naga context. He critically examined as to why it is necessary to positively transform the unjust and unequal power structures and

systems that perpetuate the status quo - where the powerful (elected) become even more powerful and the powerless Naga masses (the electors) become perennially powerless. "To actively promote social and economic justice, where a win-win equation is a non-negotiable principle - asserted, demanded and enjoyed by an alert and conscious Naga citizenry. Fulfilled by a transparent and accountable governance system that is embedded in Naga ethos, expressed in Naga Democratic Socialism. We cannot take on the powerful status-quoists with the same mindset that created the problem in the first place. We must become powerful to take on the powerful. Through counter-hegemony". He concluded.

Contd. from page 2

Manipur Home returnees....

In fact these migrant workers are exploiting the locals for their (locals) laziness and unwillingness to do certain type of works. Through an interview conducted, it is gathered that a non local 'head mistry' in masonry and plumbing works here earns handsome income as a local government contractor. The 'head mistry' identifies a contract work in construction field and through a phone call brings in the number of required skilled and unskilled workers from outside the state. He arranges rental rooms for his employees, procures provisions for them and guides them in their work sites without himself doing any physical work. The profit he earns in private construction contracts is to the tune of several lakhs of rupees per month. In plumbing works, a head mistry contractor on an average earns a profit margin of Rs. 4000/- to 5000/- in a three to four hours work where he would take two to three labourers for a small repairing work after paying them (labourers) around Rs. 600/- to 700/- wage each for the less than half a day's repair work. An electrician charges Rs. 2000/- to 3000/- for a day's work. Are these people having enough work/contract all the time? Yes. They are never free even for a single day and always have plenty of works in line. A non local running a small Pan shop or a grocery shop in a locality here too earns profits enough to run his family by remitting cash to his relatives at home. These are just a few examples cited to enlighten/remind the drainage of the state's money to other states. ILPS

regulations and entry fees do not make any difference to these non locals. Whatever expenditures they incurred on ILPS is recovered through increased wages and profit margin anyway. Insurgency or armed militancy in the state is linked with unemployment problem. This can be true if white collar jobs or government service alone is considered as an employment. Interestingly the number of unemployed people registered with the employment exchange at a given time always stands around forty thousand to fifty thousand. The total number of underground cadres in the entire state would be less than ten thousand anyway. Even if 50 percent of the state's blue collar job sector is occupied by the local potential work force then the number of underground cadres and militancy would dwindle to a great extent. The state government at any point of time would never be able to provide government jobs to all those qualified individuals or seeking government jobs. The state government have started to encourage entrepreneurship through start-ups, vocational training, skill development and other self employment schemes to absorb unemployed youths into income generating fields. Liberal soft loans and one time financial assistance largesse schemes are advanced to the genuine needy individuals. These are of course meant for the educated unemployed. But then for the uneducated too loans and grants for

purchase of passenger vehicles, etc are provided to the needy and deserving. Poultry, piggery, fishery, horticulture, farming, etc are several other employment and income earning areas for both the educated and uneducated alike. The lure and craze for easy and fast money has spoiled the present generation. The youth must focus on changing their mindset with regard to work. Ironically those youths who have returned home this time are the ones who have actually gone to different parts of the country in search of work only. Now that they cannot work and earn outside the state they must think in terms of finding and engaging themselves in suitable jobs most of which have been grabbed by the non locals leading to exploitation of the state natives and drainage of the state's money. There is nothing which cannot be learnt and done. It is heartening that quite a number of locals have taken to tiles work which hitherto was considered non locals' exclusive expertise area. Plumbing is an area which the locals have not tried to pick up so far. This is equally a lucrative work area exclusively dominated by the non locals. Once the non locals are replaced or deprived of their working and earning opportunities they would slowly and steadily leave the land and their continued influx would cease. Then only the fruit of ILPS would be seen and enjoyed.

*** The writer is the Inspector General of Police, Manipur

Centre agrees to transfer actor Sushant's death case to CBI

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Aug 5:

Amid a political turf war between Maharashtra and Bihar over jurisdiction, the Central Government on Wednesday told Supreme Court that they have accepted the recommendation to hand over the Sushant Singh Rajput death case investigation to the CBI. The petition will now be heard in the next week. The Enforcement Directorate is already inquiring into the alleged misappropriation of money from Sushant's bank account by his former live-in partner and actor Rhea Chakrabarty. On Tuesday, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar had made the recommendation to hand over the case of abetment of Sushant's suicide, registered against Rhea to the CBI following a request from Sushant's father K.K. Rajput. The case has seen many ups and downs ever since Sushant's father KK Singh filed a complaint against Rhea in Patna. While Mumbai Police had filed an ADR (Accidental Death Report) at the time of the actor's death, the FIR was lodged by the Bihar Police after KK Singh's 25 July complaint.

This also resulted in much tension between the police of the Maharashtra and Bihar. Bihar IPS Vinay Tiwari (SP, Patna - Central), who landed in Mumbai to investigate the case, was 'quarantined' for 14 days. Sushant's family, along with the Bihar government, had been seeking a CBI probe in the matter and today the Centre said that it has accepted the recommendation to hand over the case to CBI. **Supreme Court:** As of now, perhaps Mumbai Police have registered a case of unnatural death. FIR filed in Patna has raised certain other issues also. This case has hogged too much of media time and attention. For police personnel (Patna IPS officer Vinay Tiwari) to be quarantined does not send a good message. Are you sending the right message? The Maharashtra Police, Bihar Police, Centre and Sushant Singh Rajput's families should file replies within three days. Maharashtra Police also have to file a report on the state of investigation. **Senior Advocate R Basant for Maharashtra government:** Somebody who has not even filed a complaint before the Mumbai Police is claiming Mumbai Police is not doing proper investigation. Mumbai Police has been thoroughly

investigating [the case]. Bihar Police have no right to sit in judgment of our investigation. Under principle of federalism, Mumbai Police is investigating. All allegations thrown on Mumbai Police investigation are politically motivated. **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the Union of India:** Now that the CBI is taking over, whether Bihar Police are doing a good job or Maharashtra Police are doing a good job is not important. Let evidence not be destroyed. **Senior advocate Shyam Divan for Rhea Chakrabarty:** In light of the statement made by the Solicitor General, the

court should hear me. Our request is to transfer the investigation of FIR registered at Rajiv Nagar Police Station in Patna from the state of Bihar. This was what we were seeking transfer of. The reason why we asked for an interim prayer for stay over all proceedings and coercive action against Rhea Chakrabarty was because there was very serious apprehension, because there were press reports that a four-member team from Bihar had landed in Mumbai. There should not be any coercive steps taken by Bihar Police against Rhea. We require a no coercive steps order.

PM Modi performs Bhoomi Pujan and lays foundation stone of Ram Temple in Ayodhya

Agency
Ayodhya, Aug 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today performed Bhoomi Poojan and laid the foundation stone of Grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya. With this ceremony, the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya starts today.

The Bhoomi Poojan ceremony started at sharp 12.30 afternoon and culminated at 12.45 p.m. With this, many saints, spiritual leaders and other leaders associated with Ram Temple movement were present at the ceremony.

Mahesh Bhagchandka and Pawan Singhal from the family of late Ashok Singhal, Former President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad were Mukhya Yajman in Bhumi Pujan function. Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to have Darshan at Ram jannbhum and Hanumangarh temple of Ayodhya and after planting a sapling of Parijat Tree he took part in the Bhumi Poojan ceremony.

Mr Modi released postage stamps on the model of Ram Temple on this occasion. A wooden Kodan Ram Statue was presented as a souvenir to Prime Minister from CM Yogi Adityanath.

On the occasion, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath said that it was a

dream which is being turned into reality after a long gap of almost five centuries.

Reports said that, 'Ram Kaj Keenhe Bina Mohu Kahan Vishram...means how can I be relaxed without completing the work of Lord Rama...the lines of Ramcharitmanas reflected the emotions of the Prime Minister on the occasion.

It was sharp 12.45 afternoon when the long-awaited dream of crores of Rambhaktas across the world turned into reality and a chapter in the history was added in Ayodhya. Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the Bumipoojan for the temple of Ramlala amidst chanting of Shlokas, Blowing of conch shells and renditions of jai Shri Ram.

Clad in traditional Indian attire, Dhori Kurta, Prime Minister bowed down in front of Ramlala, performed pooja, accepted the Mukut or the crown and turban given by priests of hanumanGarhi and did Parikrama also. He became the first Prime Minister to do so. The city of Lord Ram was reverberating with the sound of Ramdhun on this occasion. Although lanes of Ayodhya took a deserted look because of the security reasons but in the houses and temples of the city people were doing Ramketratan and recitation of Ramcharitmanas.

Ram Temple is a Symbol of Unity, says Prime Minister Modi



Addressing the gathering after Bhoomi Poojan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, Ram Temple is a symbol of national unity.

Mr Modi said, a golden chapter is being written in the history of India and Lord Ram remains in our minds and hearts.

The Prime Minister said that Lord Rama belongs to everyone and his ideals continue to inspire millions across the globe. Mr. Modi said the construction of Ram temple has been a fulfillment of the desire of the people of

the country. He added that it will also give a fillip to the local economy.

Mr Modi said that Lord Ram has been a source of inspiration for people and it has been reflected in the teachings of Guru Nanak and Sant Kabir. He said, these values stand for no discrimination and as a symbol of unity in diversity. The Prime Minister said that Lord Ram represents 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. These values are relevant for humanity in every walk of life.

Manipur NCC cadets participate in online disaster management course

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Nagpur is conducting a tailor made Disaster Management Course extending over four days in which five ANOs and 30 cadets of NCC Group Imphal are participating with effect from Aug 4.

NIDM provides capacity building support to various

National and State level agencies in the field of Disaster Management & Disaster Risk Reduction. The institute's vision is to create a Disaster Resilient India by building the capacity at all levels for disaster prevention and preparedness.

This programme will focus on basic concepts of Disaster Management, EOC, Crowd Management, Search and Rescue, Patient

Assessment and Fire Safety.

Brig RS Sethi Gp Cdr, NCC Gp Imphal informed that this is a first of its kind initiative, which has been put together by NCC Dte, NER based at Shillong. The aim is to equip youth with knowledge and skills to successfully tackle any adverse situation in terms of calamity/ accidents and save human lives.

Assam Rifles Organises Mega Tree Plantation Drive

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

Units of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised Mega Tree Plantation Drive at various Company Operating Bases (COB) over period of three days and planted a total of 3246

saplings.

As part of the Mega Tree Plantation Drive, Mantripukhuri Battalion organised tree plantation at Chingmeirong and Yaingangkopi COBs. A total of 1026 saplings which included fruit bearing trees and other saplings were planted during the event. Over 75 troops participated in the

drive. Keithelmanbi Battalion also organised tree plantation at Keithelmanbi Garrison, Lilong, Andro and Hanuman Top COBs. A total of 2220 saplings which included fruit bearing trees and other saplings were planted during the event. Over 235 troops participated in the plantation drive.

Sports News

Manipur's Ronel Khundrakpam listed among the top mountain bikers in India

IT News
Imphal, Aug 5:

Manipur's MTB and XC cyclist Ronel Khundrakpam has listed among the top mountain bikers of India such as Kirankumar Raju and Adonis Tangu of Karnataka and Shiven and Devender Thakur of Himachal Pradesh. All the bikers are sponsored by Steadfast Nutrition, a



premium sports and wellness nutrition company that has been providing product and counseling of the Mountain Biking and Cycling. Manipur Adventure and Mountain Biking Association congratulated deserving competitive rider Ronel who had also won a Silver and a Bronze medal in the MTB Nationals held in February 2020 in Uttarakhand.

Union Agriculture Minister launches SAHAKAR COOPTUBE NCDC CHANNEL

IT News
Guwahati, Aug 5:

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the SAHAKAR COOPTUBE NCDC CHANNEL - a new initiative by NCDC on Tuesday. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is in the forefront of operationalizing different aspects of ATMA NIBBHAR BHARAT call given by our Prime Minister. Cooperatives have a major role in the country in realizing or Prime Minister's dreams. NCDC is in the forefront of activities in translating the dreams into action by cooperatives.

A key strategy in the ecosystem is to facilitate involvement of youth in cooperatives. Formation of new cooperatives is a prerequisite for bringing new life and dedication in the realm of cooperative movement. Towards this end, NCDC Design Studio has produced guidance videos on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' for EIGHTEEN different states in Hindi and regional languages.

Cooperation being a state subject, each state has its own legal framework on formation and registration of cooperatives. Young people find it daunting to approach the authorities for registration of a new cooperative because of lack of information from a common source. Moreover, the related information is rarely available in simple and easily understandable manner for rural people who could form, register and



manage cooperatives for their own socio-economic prosperity. It is a welcome step by NCDC to produce in-house short films or guidance videos on 'Formation and Registration of A Cooperative' in Hindi and other regional languages.

Cooperatives in India, have come a long way and have proven their success in improving the conditions of farmers and economic development. Largely as association of small and marginal farmers and rural poor, the cooperatives have acquired a huge network of over 8.50 lakh organizations and 290 million members. They have substantially contributed in raising income of their members and achieving rural prosperity. Cooperatives lend strength to farmers to minimize risks in agriculture and allied

sector and act as shield against exploitation by unscrupulous trade.

The Union Government under Atma Nirbhar Bharat has recently announced a series of transformative reforms and measures and sector specific financial packages to help agriculture.

The initiatives are steps towards One Nation One Market with the objective for India to become food factory of the world. The gamut of exhaustive reforms and measures are intended to strengthen all activities and services in agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors through creation and development of agriculture infrastructure, micro food enterprises, value chains and logistics for fishery and animal husbandry, medicinal and herbal plants, bee keeping and Operation Green. Significant legislative amendments have been made to create conducive environment for agriculture.

NCDC as an apex level statutory institution under my Ministry has achieved tremendous success with cumulative financial assistance to cooperatives to the tune of Rs1,54,000 crore. Beginning with meager disbursement of Rs.2.36 crores in 1963, NCDC disbursed around Rs.28,000 crore during 2019-20. NCDC has made an unprecedented progress in the last six years. It has achieved 83% of the cumulative financial assistance calculated since 1963, during these last six years alone.

NCDC with its pan India presence, has been in the forefront of creation of market linked business plan based ecosystem in agriculture and allied activities. It has launched various initiatives and programmes like SAHAKAR-22 to develop cooperatives in Focus 222 districts including aspirational districts, Nurturing Primary Level Cooperatives, SAHAKAR MITRA - Scheme on Internship Programme, and YUVA SAHAKAR- Start Up Scheme in Cooperatives and SAHAKAR PRAGYA for capacity development through its premier national academy named after the great cooperator, Shri Laxmanrao Inamdar Ji.

The guidance videos in different languages covering 18 States would strengthen and deepen the major initiatives of our Government to promote and form 10000 FPOs. NCDC has a major role in formation of FPOs in cooperative mode. More states would be added to the collection of guidance videos on NCDC SAHAKAR COOPTUBE CHANNEL in due course of time.

Chinese sponsor to withdraw from India's IPL after protests: reports

Agency
New Delhi:

The Chinese headline sponsor of the Indian Premier League, the world's richest cricket tournament, is set to withdraw amid mounting hostility after a border clash between the Indian and Chinese armies, reports said. Phone maker Vivo was to pull out from backing at least this year's tournament, which has been switched to the United Arab Emirates because of the coronavirus pandemic, the reports said.

There have been widespread calls for a boycott of Chinese goods in India since the June 15 clash in the Himalayas in which 20 Indian troops were killed.

Vivo paid \$330 million for a five-year deal up to 2022 but has faced opposition since the deadly clash which also left an unknown number of Chinese casualties.

The Indian government has already banned dozens of Chinese smartphone apps, including the video sharing platform TikTok, and taken other measures that will restrict trade with China. There was no immediate comment from Vivo or the



Board of Control for Cricket in India but the reports said they were negotiating a way for the Chinese firm to exit the deal. Press Trust of India news agency quoted a BCCI official as saying that both sides wanted "an amicable escape route". The BCCI had said after the clash that it would "review" its IPL sponsor deals. A backlash erupted on Sunday when it announced that Vivo would remain the main sponsor for the much-delayed tournament which will now start on September 19.

The Confederation of All India Traders, which claims 70 million small business members, said the Indian government should block the IPL tournament for showing "utter disregard" to public anger over the border deaths. Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), the cultural arm of the influential Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS), which is close to the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, threatened a boycott of the IPL unless the Chinese sponsor was dropped.

"We want to urge the IPL organisers to reconsider their stand on sponsorship by Chinese companies," said an SJM statement. "Please remember the nation's pride and security above all," it added. There was also widespread social media outrage. Chinese officials have expressed concern and warned of reprisals over the measures already taken in India that is starting to freeze their enterprises out of the giant market of 1.3 billion people.

The BCCI was in talks with Indian companies about stepping in for this year but expected to make less than the \$60 million it would have got from Vivo, news agency said.