

## 71 locals without travel history tested COVID-19 positive during the last 24 hour

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

Even as the state Health Department still refuse to accept community transmission being started in the state of Manipur, at least 71 (seventyone) person who have no travel history have been reported tested positive with COVID-19. According to a statement of the state Health department a total of 90 persons including the 71 persons without travel history have been detected with the virus

and they are from general population. Among these 63 are male and 27 are female. In addition to this 28 personnel of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) were also confirmed as new COVID-19 positive cases. The total number CAPF tested positive has reached 823. That means a total of 110 persons have been tested positive during the last 24 hour. According to the state health department statement, among these 110 cases m 18 have been tested positive at VRDL RIMS, 78

at VRDL JNIMS and 2 at Babina Diagnostic by conducting RTPCR testing. Remaining 1 has been tested at Imphal West by Rapid Antigen Test, 1 at Imphal East and 9 at Thoubal using the same. At District Hospital Jiribam also 1 has been tested positive with COVID -19, 5 at District Hospital Ukhrul, and 1 at Raj Medicity using TruNat. The statement also said that among those tested positive 28 are from Imphal East, 10 from Imphal West, 13 from Thoubal district 11 from Kangpokpi district, 9 from

Chandel district, 5 from Senapati and 1 from Ukhrul district. 19 of the persons tested positive are returnee from outside the state, the health department statement said. On the other hand total number of recovered person after being tested negative in the last 24 hour is 117. Among them 42 are CRPF personnel and 2 general persons from RIMS CCC. @ persons have also been discharged after tested negative from JNIMS. The report by the state health department further said

that 33 have been discharged from CCCs of Meitram, 3 from Senapati, 8 from NIELIT Churachandour, 23 from Thoubal and 4 from RD wing Lamphel have also been discharged after they were found COVID-19 free on RT PCR test. Total number of positive cases in the state has reached 3753 including Central Security Personnel and so far 2044 have been recovered and discharged. Total active case identified as of now is 1698 as per the department statement.

## PM launches financing facility of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Agency  
New Delhi, Aug. 9:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a financing facility of one lakh crore rupees under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for agri-entrepreneurs, startups, agri-tech players and farmer groups for post-harvest management and nurturing farm assets. Today, only 30 days after the Cabinet formally approved the scheme, the first sanction of over 1000 Crore rupees was made to over 2,280 farmer societies. The event was conducted through a video conference and was attended by lakhs of farmers. Mr Modi also released the sixth installment of 17,100 crore rupees to more than 8,55 crore farmer beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Modi reiterated that India has a huge opportunity to invest in post-harvest management solutions

like warehousing, cold chain, and food processing, and build a global presence in areas such as organic and fortified foods. He also mentioned that this scheme provides a good opportunity for start-ups in agriculture to avail the benefits and scale their operations, thereby creating an ecosystem that reaches farmers in every corner of the country. The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction with the pace of implementation of the PM-KISAN scheme. He also noted that the scale of the program is so large that the funds released today have reached more people than the entire population of several countries taken together. He also congratulated state governments for playing an important role in the implementation of the schemes and assisting farmers through the entire process from registration all the way to disbursements. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar was also present on the occasion.

## VDF's Economic blockade suspended

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

The proposed economic blockade called by the VDF Welfare Association from midnight tomorrow in protest against the July 6 cabinet meeting resolution in connection with the remuneration of the VDF has been suspended in view of the hardship face by the people due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a statement of the association said. The statement added that the Chief Minister of Manipur had assured to settle the matter and invited them for talk after the assembly session.

## Assembly Session IT News

Imphal, Aug 9:

All is set for one day Manipur Legislative Assembly session to be held tomorrow. In view of the state assembly session there have been some changes made in the normal traffic flow the Thangmeiband to Khongnang an karak road that passes through the state Assembly. Mention may be made that only 163 staffs of the state assembly have been assigned for duty even though there are over 400 staffs. All those assigned for assembly duty have been tested negative of novel coronavirus.

## Planted sapling uprooted after taking photograph ; what is the motive ?- Village Chairman

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

Chairman of Lamlong Khonou Village, Khullak Kodar Dangsha has stated that coconut sapling planted at Ramcherbung area of Tengnoupal district on August 4, 2020 in connection with the "One day awareness and

Plantation of Coconut, Cane and Bamboo, Litchee and other trees at Nongtam Satang, Choklong and its surrounding villages has been uprooted after taking photograph of plantation. A statement by the Lamlong Khonou Village Chairman said that, those coconut sapling planted on the occasion were uprooted without any

concern of the village authority. The statement while condemning such act of the Central Agriculture University (CAU) Imphal, Apunba Image Machasing (AIMS), Nongkam Satang, Choklong and Machi Village authority question the motive behind the uprooting of the coconut sapling planted at the area.

The Village authority however welcome and appreciate MP RK Ranjan and Lorho S Pfoze for understanding the plight of the people living at the border for assuring to sent proposal to the Ministry of Road Transport and High way through the state government to construct weather roads.

## IPAK demands effective action against drug smugglers

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

Indigenous People's Association of Kangleipak (IPAK) Manipur expressed serious concern over the smuggling of drugs and other narcotic substances to earn easy money when the people are facing extreme suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A statement of the association said that several women bodies of Kangleipak have been spending sleepless night to save their children from the menace of the drugs. The mothers of the society in hands with various organization has been been fighting to save

the children of the society from narcotics substances like WY tablet, No. 4, Opium, Cannabis, Tobacco and alcohol. Those selfish individuals who have been smuggling the narcotic substances to root out Manipuri society should not be let free and IPAK demanded immediate effective action from the government to make sure that the smugglers are punished as per the law. As for IPAK those smugglers of narcotic substances are enemy of the state. The association questioned the government on the reason for the delayed in submitting charge sheet of those arrested in connection with drug smuggling cases. It said that

such delayed in the submission of charge sheet make easier for the culprits to escape. IPAK said that such delayed had created mistrust to the people about the involvement of law enforcers as well as those in power in the government. IPAK suggested an enquiry in the connection to make sure that those involved are punished and save the youths of today who will be the future of the nation. IPAK also expressed suspicion over some hidden agenda of some vested interested people to eradicate the Manipuri society. "Thousands have been killed in staged encounter and now

many youths are being targeted to eradicate using drugs, is there a policy to wipe out the Manipuri society", IPAK said adding that involvement of government functionaries who are holding responsible position is unfortunate. The government should be serious to those people who are smuggling drugs and narcotics substances to make easy money when the people are facing extreme hardship due to the pandemic. IPAK appealed the government to act effectively and punished those responsible in the drug smuggling case irrespective of who is who.

## MSAD urges students to widen the horizon

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

Manipur students' Association Delhi has urged the students to explore more beyond the Indian subcontinent for higher education and other opportunities. Education has been playing a pivotal role in the development of humankind. Earlier, the people of Manipur have been acquiring education from Bengal then it shift towards the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai etc. Recently, only a few have been able to move out and educate themselves at countries like China, Japan, Hongkong, Germany and other well to do countries. However, most of the elite universities educated people remain in their cocoon. Thus, the misery is yet to be removed by our education or by our careers. One doesn't need to go through formal learning, if the purpose is only to serve the personal interest. Nonetheless, the Indian education system has been trickling down a theory

where education is to secure oneself, regardless of the sustainability of the society, which is a frivolous interest of an average mind. The lesson of "giving back to the society" is excluded from the curriculum we all have been through. This boxed corporate education system could be a reason for degrading our cultures and traditions too. We should study in a education system with which our cultures and tradition can be sustained and progressed which could change and give a meaningful life to the people where one can live with another peacefully serving each other. We should not stop exploring where we could find such life changing education system. Metropolitan cities of India such as Delhi, Mumbai or Chennai are not our ultimate place to land for study. We have different universities, different countries to explore which are more nearer to us. MSAD has opened a helpline in order to guide the students for any queries throughout the year.

## Rajkumari Ichanthoibi Devi of Manipur and Aditee Kashyap from Meghalaya jointly bags Wordsmith of Northeast India poetry reading Title



IT News  
Guwahati, Aug 9:

The results of the Northeast India regional level virtual Poetry Reading and Singing competition organised by

Guwahati Grand Poetry Festival in association with Kamata Foundation, a charity organisation has been declared today at Guwahati on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples with the theme "COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience". The competition being the biggest in the history of virtual poetry reading and singing competitions in this part of the country was declared open on 12 July last

on the birthday of poet Pablo Neruda. The Jury for the singing category were noted singer composer JP Das, India classical music exponents Nandita Sarma and Pragnan Barua, Ghazal maestro Anirban Das and Ahmedabad based music composer Anup Phukan. Bhupen Chakrabarty, Rakhee Kalita Moral, Asha Kuthari Choudhuri and Madhu Raghavendra were the jury for the poetry reading category.

From amongst the contestants, Aseto Zao of Nagaland and Meghdeep Deuri from Assam jointly bagged the Tunesmith of Northeast India singing competition title. Anamitra Khargharia and Debanjana Pujari, both from Assam have been chosen for the Jury's special mention award. In the poetry-reading category, Rajkumari Ichanthoibi Devi of Manipur and Aditee Kashyap from Meghalaya jointly bags

Wordsmith of Northeast India poetry reading Title. Freedy Boy Majaw of Meghalaya and Dziivinguno Dorothy Chasie from Nagaland have been chosen for the Jury's special mention award. The prizes will be given away to the winners on 5 November at Guwahati during a memorial programme that day to be organised by Guwahati Grand Poetry festival to commemorate Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's ninth death anniversary.

# Poetry Section



By- Rabin Prasad Kalita

“It’s all due to me”

Sowed me on your big green,  
Blessed me to use it to the fullest:  
I chanced to play  
With the intelligent crowd of all animals:

I forgot being a part of this big green,  
That fed me grow and shine  
Could hone my psyche along:  
Started a perverted living

Busy played with molecules,  
Spread at large on the veneer.  
Instead seeding on the greens,  
To grow up plural all over

Except to blend them with one another,  
I didn’t do much;  
But upshot was imperishable trash,  
‘Cause I played it adverse:

Chucked all over your face,  
The ground turned  
Gray from green,  
Got covered with a toxic sheet:

No new sprout from now on  
Can flash through the deadly turf;  
No space for a newborn,  
To withstand and breathe:

Why did you make me so soaring?  
So I overlook for bending,  
Why did you design me that way?  
Not alike other living beings:

I turned this globe, gray from green  
Rusted planet declined for worth living.

# Covid-19 Second Wave Entertainment Guide

Many countries in the Asian region are already combating or are facing a second wave of the Coronavirus. China, Vietnam and Australia have put certain regions under lockdown once again to manage spikes of new cases. Hong Kong is expected to announce a ban on dining in restaurants and a mandate on wearing facial masks, sometime early next week. It would be the first time Hong Kong puts a ban on restaurant dining since the Covid-19 epidemic started. Earlier this month, the state of Victoria in Australia announced new lockdown restrictions and recently informed that they may extend the lockdown further due to a continuous rise of new cases in the region. In the Philippines, the government is considering stricter rules since they relaxed the lockdown restrictions on the first of June, this is because they are witnessing a massive surge in new cases in the capital city. Even North Korea recently reported their first official case, which was brought in from a citizen that had been in South Korea for the past three years. In India, the government is still relaxed about the restrictions despite having the highest number of infections at 1.4 million cases, only behind the United States and Brazil. It’s not unlikely that the Indian government will impose tougher restrictions again to combat the epidemic.

We know from the first lockdown that we won’t be able to move around, visit cinemas and go out for dinner whenever we like. All of that ends with a lockdown, and we are confined to spend a lot of time inside our homes instead. Struggling with what to do for

entertainment is a luxury problem. Many people in India already lost their jobs and many more risk losing it if we have additional lockdowns. Most people did, however, express concerns of boredom and lack of social and entertaining activities. Below is a list of some past-time activities that were popular during the previous lockdown.

All the knowledge of the world is at our fingertips. Even if someone is not in school anymore, there’s no reason why they should stop their brain from working. There are resources everywhere online, from free online courses or topical blogs on almost any subject available to write and read about. So if time was ever an excuse to learn a new language or skill, the lockdown is a great opportunity to make time for it. Staying isolated at home is a great opportunity to educate yourself further and then exit lockdown as an even more skilled person.

Not everyone is interested in reading and learning some new skills. Most of us like to watch a film or play games as a past-time activity and during a lockdown, there’s plenty of time to do just that. Streaming subscriptions surged

during the first lockdown. Disney+ Hotstar recently added a hundred feel-good films to their library to ease the mood during a potential forthcoming lockdown in India. Online casino companies reported about soaring revenues during the lockdown as people looked to add some thrill in their everyday lives during the lockdown period by playing live casino games and slots. Live casino games, in particular, add a level of social interaction as the player would engage with a dealer through live streams as they play Blackjack or Roulette. A lot of younger people turned to video gaming to kill time, one particular game called Animal’s Crossing shot to fame during the lockdown. With new updates coming to the Animal’s Crossing series, gamers can bet on staying entertained for many hours if a second wave of the Coronavirus comes.

Stay social while practising social distancing. Sounds contradicting no? Popular video conference tools can be used not only for business meetings, but also for staying in touch with friends and family, doing quizzes or even having dinner together, digitally. ‘Zoom boom’ became a

thing during the lockdown where many private people started using Zoom, a popular video conferencing tool, to organize large get-togethers with family and friends while they were confined to their homes. This caused a spike in Zoom usage and propelled the product to worldwide adoption. Other tools can also be used, Skype works well for larger groups and then there’s Messenger and Facetime for one-to-one’s or small group calls.

With so much time on our hands, this could be a good time to start a blog to share knowledge and insights. Or maybe write a fictional story about a long-lost world? What about painting and experimenting with different materials to create unique art? Each person is their own and getting creative can be a great way to spend time and get to know ourselves better. Maybe knitting some socks and jumper would be fun? Don’t forget about the digital capabilities we have today, if the shops are closed and it’s difficult to get materials to start painting, there’s always free software that you can use to start animating, painting or maybe editing photos of family and friends.

# Dismantled ninth times and safer in the tenth times

By- Mamta Lukram

Tears rolled down the cheeks of the women in shabby figure with untidy attire, high enough was her pitch, shaken and broke, as if the heart was about to burst from the blows of deception by the so-called ‘power politics’ and its ‘development induced displacement’. She seems to be a feeble self with monstrous intrinsic strength to defend one’s self dignity.

“I am from a much marginalised background; this fact everyone knows. I used to collect wild vegetables from the nearby ‘pat’ (wetland) out of which I would make ‘singju’ (an indigenous Meitei culinary item equivalent of ‘salad’) and sold it as my meagre earning to support my family.” (sigh...pause for a moment... restarting breaking the ice...) I brought up my grandchildren whose father was no more. Time had been unleashing boundless miseries in my never failing attempts to make them attain some level of formal education.”

“Nine times, it was nine times that my house was dismantled and safer in the tenth times. We were being instructed that our settlement site were to be evicted for the construction of drain.” (.....trying hard to control emotion....stops for while...resumes the talk with a heavy heart...) “sara-thugaira, sara-thugaira, (meaning constructed-dismantled), it was nine times that they (blaming the authorities) dismantled my house along with those of my neighbours. It was the tenth time of constructing my house as a challenge to the authority that we can settle. I have no problem as of now.”

She seems to be a woman ageing faster than the chronological reality, over burdened by the struggles shouldered solely for existence. She had been sharing her bitter life experiences mocked by development induced displacement in the ‘Public Consultation on Tipaimukh Dam and Indigenous Peoples Rights’, jointly organised by Citizens’ concern for Dam and development, North East dialogue Forum and Centre for Research & Advocacy Manipur, where I got the privilege to listen to her heart wrenching episodes of life. Like someone who is made to

observe the bubbles over the surface of a water body defying the knowledge of currents and the velocity of the water flowing underneath the bubble covered surface; I have been listening to her heartfelt stories without much knowledge about what had happened to her, yet very sure in my personal understanding that it was inhuman and unjust to dismantle a marginalised house without appropriate arrangement, snatch it coercively and make their plight miserable, vulnerable. An atmosphere of hatred must have hovered all around inciting strong senses of distrust, discontent and untold miseries.

Gripped by curiosity, I try reopening the forbidden pages of development injustice history. I realised that the woman was one of the ‘Lampelpat Eviction 2011’ victim. On June 6, 2011, fourteen (14) houses of Yaipha Leikai village, Lampelpat Wetlands near Employment Exchange, Imphal West District, Manipur had been destroyed by Manipur Police from the Lampel Police Station under the orders of the Government of Manipur on the pretext of construction of drain along Lampelpat under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The eviction was carried without any rehabilitation and resettlement arrangements for the affected community of the Lampel Yaipha Leikai. It is described that the properties of the affected families were confiscated during the eviction rendering the already impoverished families to more physical and mental anxieties.<sup>1</sup> She long years back, been wrapped up beyond cognizance from the state’s timeline. However, the recurrent exposure to prolong trauma engulf with a sense of insult, galore with disrespect to the dignity of lives makes the victims still pass on with deep scar in their hearts. Psychological instability reeled through the everyday lives of these people.

Forced migration has been the fatal blow to the pursuit of happiness. Eviction drives like the Lampelpat eviction, Loktak lake eviction etc, internal displacements arising out of the mega structure like the numerous dams and other

infrastructure constructions have been the essences of human miseries in this state. At this stance, the feasibility in the implementation part becomes highly questionable. Development activities without proper mitigation measures resulting in mass pauperisation will prove illogical.

Impacts of Displacement in the lives of Women and children are the first of mankind to be worst hit during a natural or an artificial catastrophe. They are known to be naturally inherited with some sort of physical weakness or differences. Documentations have revealed that women are doubly discriminated during any aggression or oppression, firstly because of the discriminating system, and secondly, because of being women. For children their implicit meanings are interpreted as a ‘taken for granted’ part of the woman. Maybe this due to the innate emotional bond that develop out of the caring, nurturing facts of the women or else, this bond binds the women within limit. Though the world has been advocating for gender mainstreaming and gender equality, gender based impositions remains a cultural construct. Compounding the challenges of the women is the children.

(Footnotes)

The intrinsic explanation is not to instigate against the development moves sloganising anti-development stands. Development optimally should be welfare oriented taking into account the possible uncertainties; affected communities would be facing. It shouldn’t be a deemed mechanism for aggressively oppressing an already marginalised group. It should pay a heed to the effective plementation of the alternative arrangements.

Twisted the fate of the welfare oriented programmes into profit seeking, business oriented assertion will propagate endless disorientation, disorganisation and conflicts in the society. Internal displacement arising out of the various development projects in the state jeopardised the integrated lives of women in a traditional society.

(Contd. on Page 3)

# Local economy to get a huge boost by Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

By: Silhen Oinam

The Covid19 pandemic has posed a severe threat to the economy of the country. In a response to an extraordinary challenge, Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi came up with “Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan” that helps in promoting local economy and making the country self-reliant. Linked to this, a special and comprehensive economic package of Rs.20 lakh crore, that accounts for 10% of India’s GDP, has been announced. Under this, the MSME sector, farmers and migrant workers, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and industrial infrastructure are provided with special funds and important structural reforms have been announced across these sectors.

Agro-based start ups will greatly benefit from these developments. One of the beneficiaries will be the bamboo linked industries. In our modern society, there has been a rise in the demand of the bamboo products as bamboo is a versatile material which is also very fast & easy to grow. Earlier, even though there were numbers of bamboo artisans and cultivators, they struggled to meet the demands of their customers.

There are number of ways that recognition of this sector to be promoted makes sense. Let us take a small example to understand its potential. In India, there is a huge demand for incense sticks, which are used in almost every household for

daily rituals. In order to fulfill this demands, bamboo is imported from other countries. Since, the NE states have high yield in bamboo, Govt. has started to promote its farming and slowly local bamboo is replacing the imported bamboo.

Tripura’s bamboo water bottle has become a hit in India. The project is the brainchild of IFS officer Prasada Rao Vaddarapu, Chairperson of Tripura Rehabilitation Plantation Corporation (TRPC) with the help of Bamboo & Crafts Development Institute (BCDI) & some other organisations. This project attracted over one lakh orders in a day & enquiry call for bulk order from U.S & Dubai. It has generated huge employment potential and livelihood can be provided for thousands of artisans of the region. From farmers to artisans to migrant labours - many are benefitting from it now.

For bamboo water bottle project, bamboo is the most important input. Cultivated bamboo needs to be shifted from the farm site to the industry, so the local transporter will benefit in the process. Then, the local artisans will induce their labour for making the bottles after which the packaging sector takes up the process of packaging the finished products. From here, it will be transported to the market which will reach the customers. Those who can export it will add value to the chain and generate foreign exchange for the country. Thus, the project of making bamboo bottles can give a helping hand for the



growth in India’s economy. It will make the dreams of many come true, and Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan will help by providing the required fundings and other essentials.

Under the Aatma Nirbhar Abhiyan, there will be value addition of the local products and clustering of the artisans for the upliftment of bamboo local products. This might help to strengthen the economy of NE states as well as the country’s. During the pandemic, Hon’ble PM has taken the initiatives to announce the special schemes for bamboo related industries and start ups in NE states. To mention a few, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first bio-fuel refinery in Assam, that will primarily use bamboo and also, the first ever bamboo industrial Park in NE region has been set up in Assam. In his Man Ki Baat programme, he highlighted the Bamboo tiffin boxes of Manipur.

It is now the responsibility of the states to take the further steps for promoting their local products. Taking the opportunities granted by the schemes, the youths of the country can also innovate with new ideas and establish their own industries instead of relying on the Government jobs and instead provide jobs to hundreds of people. It will indeed be a game changer if we take the idea forward with full intensity.

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# UPSC merit holder complains of fake Instagram accounts

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Aug. 9:

Former model and "Miss India Top 21 finalist 2016" and recent UPSC all India rank winner Aishwarya Sheoran (23) has lodged a complaint of fake Instagram accounts in her name, at Colaba Police station in South Mumbai.

The Police have registered an offence under section 66 of the Information Technology Act against unknown persons and

further investigation is on. Senior Police Inspector Shivaji Phadtare said. Soon after the news broke of Aishwarya Sheoran (a daughter of an army colonel), having cracked the UPSC exams in her first attempt achieving an All India Rank of 93, multiple accounts on Instagram impersonating her have cropped up. In fact she does not have a single Instagram account.

As of now, there are at least 20 accounts on Instagram masquerading as 'Aishwarya Sheoran'.

One of the accounts, with the handle name 'aishwaryasheoran', had a publicly available photo of Sheoran as the profile picture. While the account was set to private, it had three posts and 44 followers. Another account, called 'aishwarya.sheoran', had a bio which read "Aishwarya Sheoran, Femina Miss India Finalist 2016, UPSC ALL INDIA RANK 93". While the profile picture of this account too was publicly available, there were two posts made by



the account. One account which claimed as "an official account" had 27,000 followers. She came known about the fake Instagram accounts in her name on

05 August 2020, during an interview to a newspaper. Interviewing Reporter asked her about her Instagram accounts, to which she replied that had none.

Then reporter provided her information about the accounts operating in her name. After checking Instagram she was in rude shock when she came across a number of fake accounts, which claimed as her official accounts. She then promptly approached the police. Aishwarya resides with her mother and siblings at Army Officers' Colony at Colaba, while her father Colonel Ajay Kumar Sharon is posted at Karim Nagar in Telengana. Incidentally the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU)

recently set up by the Mumbai Police to detect cyber related crimes has been constantly receiving the complaints of fake accounts on social media. Till now the police have arrested two persons in connection with fake social media followers. According to police a larger global fraud racket is involved in creating crores of fake identities on various social media platforms and making fake performance statistics like fake followers, fake comments, fake views etc, to inflate

the influencers' performance statistics. Such fake statistics is used to promote social media marketing business. Besides, such fake profiles and followers are also being used to create rumours and panic in the society. The Mumbai Police officials have also found that a few Bollywood stars, sports persons and high profile people have allegedly paid to get fake followers on social media.

## Disulfiram: Alcoholism drug may help in fight against Covid-19

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, Aug. 9:

While a global hunt for a cure to COVID-19 infection continues, a group of researchers at NRUHSE University and "Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry" in Russia have identified "Disulfiram", (a treatment drug for alcoholism) and "Neratinib", (a drug used to treat breast cancer), to stop the multiplication capacity of "SARS-CoV-2", the COVID-19 causing virus.

The results, published in "Mendelev Communications journal", showed that these drugs were able to 'switch off' the enzyme vital for a protein on "SARS-CoV-2's" surface, and thus were able to stop the reproduction of the virus. Scientists will go ahead with in-vitro trials of "Disulfiram" from 01, September. However the potency of "Neratinib" against the live nature of virus is yet to be proved.

The latest tests performed on 27 July, 2020 at the US-based Reaction Biology Corp, found "Disulfiram" "really inhibitory" in nature against the COVID-19, whereas "Neratinib" was found insufficient for clinical use.

Among both the drugs, "Disulfiram", a drug used to treat alcoholism, is easily available in India with a tablet of it costing no more than Rs 3 in retail. Four of the ten biggest makers of the drug are based in India, implying a self-



sufficient nature of the drug as far as supply in India is concerned.

FDA officials in Mumbai said that if the trials are successful it will be a great boon since, "Disulfiram" is highly recommended as an "anti-alcoholism" drug and it is available at much cheaper rate.

Both the drugs, are found to be inhibiting the action of protease (Mpro) enzyme, and thus could put a full stop in further infection in the body. "Disulfiram" was found fighting COVID-19 symptoms such as the significant decrease in the concentration of antioxidants in the body, a deficiency that may lead to severe infection of COVID-19 in the body.

The researchers from National Research University Higher School of Economics (NRUHE) have noted that the structural elements of the novel coronavirus that are less subject to mutation during its evolution should be chosen as a target for the potential treatment. Otherwise, a medication effective against

one strain would no longer be effective against another.

The best candidates for this are conservative proteins, such as the "SARS-CoV-2" virus main protease Mpro. In addition to being resistant to mutations, Mpro plays a major role in coronavirus replication, which means that its inhibition is able to slow down or even completely stop its reproduction inside the body, the researchers said.

The potential drugs were taken from the database of medications approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The modelling data demonstrated that sulphur-containing drugs show unusually high ligand efficiency at the active centre of SARS-CoV-2 main protease Mpro, but only disulfiram 4 retains stable interactions. It fights COVID-19 symptoms such as the significant decrease in reduced glutathione, which is an important antioxidant, according to the researchers. This deficiency may lead to severe manifestations of the disease, they said.

## Let pandemic cast no pall on I-Day spirit: Sangbadik Sangha Purbanchal

IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, Aug. 8:

India is waging a rousing battle against Covid-19 with the world brought to its knees by the pandemic. Indians have been saluting their Covid warriors and with the country's 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day drawing near, now is the time to renew their pledge to stand tall, strong and proud. May they congregate under the Tri-colour on August 15, albeit observing social distancing norms and other Covid-19 precautions this year as responsible citizens, said a statement by the newly constituted journalists' association for eastern India 'Sangbadik Sangha

Purbanchal' (SSP).

"Independence Day along with Republic Day provide the opportunity every year to Indian nationals to honour and pay tribute to martyrs who made immense sacrifices to liberate their motherland. The struggle continues for every generation of Indians to keep their country strong, united and relentlessly forging ahead in the face of all challenges external and internal" said the SSP in its statement.

Born with the objective to bring together all professional journalists of Eastern India on an inclusive platform and enhance their capacities through

developmental, intellectual and research activities, the SSP is committed to strive for the cause of journalists based in Eastern India and safeguard their interests. It also aims to encourage the exchange of ideas among journalists in the region, as well as promote understanding and cooperation with their counterparts based in other parts of India through regular interactions and shared agenda.

Presently headquartered at Shed no. 28 (a), Bye-lane 2, Industrial Estate, Guwahati-21, Assam, the forum aims to undertake various beneficial programmes for needy scribes. The first meeting of SSP, held recently in the city under the

chairmanship of veteran journalist DN Chakraborty, adopted a number of resolutions including an immediate relief programme for media persons facing hard times due to the pandemic. A Convener Committee comprising senior journalists Rupam Barua, Iswar Mahanta, Chandra Kr Barua, Anjanil Kashyap, Sewali Kalita, Jagadindra Raychoudhury and Nava Thakuria was also formed to pursue necessary activities of SSP at its inception. The meeting was attended by Rubie Das, Khagen Saikia, Girindra Kumar Karjee, Raman Bora, Kamal Krishna Das, Bhupen Goswami and other journalists.

## Import embargo to be introduced on 101 items in push for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat': Rajnath Singh

Agency  
New Delhi, Aug. 9:

The Ministry of Defence is now ready for a big push to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said his ministry will introduce an import embargo on 101 items beyond the given timeline to boost indigenisation of defence production. Mr Singh said the Prime Minister has given a clear call for a self-reliant India based on the five

pillars, Economy, Infrastructure, System, Demography and Demand. Defence minister in a series of tweets said, taking cue from the call of the PM, the Ministry of Defence has prepared a list of 101 items for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timeline indicated against them. Mr Singh said this is a big step towards self-reliance in defence. He said this decision will offer a great opportunity to the Indian defence industry

to manufacture the items in the embargoed list by using their own design and development capabilities. Mr Singh said the defence industry of the country can also adopt the technologies designed and developed by DRDO to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces. The minister estimated that contracts worth almost 4 lakh crore rupees will be placed upon the domestic industry within the next 6 to 7 years. Mr Singh said, items worth almost

1,30,000 crore rupees each are anticipated for the Army and the Air Force while items worth almost 1,40,000 crore rupees are anticipated by the Navy. The Defence Minister said, The embargo on imports is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 to 2024. He informed the aim is to apprise the Indian defence industry about the anticipated requirements of the Armed Forces so that they are better prepared to realise the goal of indigenisation.

Contd. from page 2

## Dismantled ninth times and safer in the tenth times

Distrust, frustration and helplessness have deeply impacted the life of the woman that she relieves the avenging self with the mystic oracle of cursing the government. She expresses herself as a mystical woman, "mabi" the one who is believed in the Meitei society of possessing some sort of supernatural power to communicate with the supreme soul, carry out religious rituals and foretell one's fortune. She manifested a big blow will befall the fate of the government and the authorities concern. She finally concludes her sharing with a curse, "(...in a shaken voice, trying hard to subdue her exaggerated expression....)

Now I am no more afraid of anybody or anything, once being born then, we are destined to die someday, my father and mother deities will never forgive them and the government will end splitting and clashing from my curse." Socio-cultural, economic and political perspectives corrode in a displaced community. The intrinsic entirety constituting the vital social fabrics, rip apart in disoriented societies, tangling into endless chaos and conflicts. The plight of the women and children become vulnerable and are prone to fall prey of oppressions. Personal experiences with Displaced Women Short experiences with shallow understanding limit my

experiences with the women affected by forced migration. Chadong is an upstream affected community of the controversial Maphel Dam. The commissioning of the dam has submerged vast tract of land including prime wetland agricultural land, forest, homestead land, grazing grounds, heritage sites and many more. It directly affect 6 (six) villages, out of which Chadong is the worst affected village. The unwarranted ascending water from the dam has deluged the whole village. The impounding water took away every belonging of the people in the chadong village. They shifted their village up to the higher Maphel ranges. The only means by which the

village connect with the rest of the world is through a boat and bamboo rafts. Words will fail to describe the pathetic plight of women in that displaced village. Their values of lives overturned in a messy whole with a distorted and deformed means of sustenance, directly appraising multiple impacts in every possible spheres of life's pedagogy. Undermining every other odd, the most disheartening reality in this village is the life threatening maternity challenges and sanitation concerns of women. Approaching due dates of expecting mothers haunts every while of their lives. They have to arrange a place for

short stay at a relative's place, an acquaintance or a rent around the valley, preparing for days to come. Having other little kids multiplies the challenges with the increasing negative social elements evolving a mental insecurity. Dichotomy of desperately striving for livelihood with simultaneous doubling of expenses glared at this stance. This tangent of life struggle splits life from the real pursuit of life. Frequently, women are compelled to opt for or voluntarily resign to the traditional method of childbirth which put to risk both the mother and the infant. The drastic increase in infant and maternal mortality rate in

the village is of the artefact of development injustice. One woman from the village shared their experience, "We cried sleepless nights with due dates approaching and helplessly resign our fate to God for safety. Hatred filled our hearts for rendering helpless and miserable in the name of the larger good. Are we not human who are excluded from the understanding of 'larger good'?" A house is built by hands, a home by hearts. Merciless dismantling of a poor man's house is not merely an apprehensive physical threat but a symbolic mental oppression. The dumb walls have witnessed the epitaphs of life events of its members.

Standing upright for years, the blind walls have sensed the laughter and silent tears. Destruction without proper resettlement measures will injure the core of human hearts. Such acts will aggravate the conflict situation in the state, backtracking the disbelief in the development activities taken up by the government. The helpless victims bear the burnt in their heart with subdued voice of queering "whose subduement?" Someday those subdued voices will burst and echo, shrilling into the deaf ears of the development stakeholders. (Concluded)

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# Prez Ram Nath Kovind pays tribute to freedom fighters on 78th anniversary of Quit India Movement

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Aug 9:

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday, remembered millions of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence on the 78th anniversary of "Quit India Movement".

"On the anniversary of Quit India Movement, we gratefully remember millions of our freedom fighters who sacrificed their all for our Independence. Their courage and patriotism continue to inspire us to work for a prosperous and ever stronger India. #Saluting Freedom Fighters," the President tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while observing the occasion, gave a call for the revival of the spirit of the "Quit India Movement" by coining a new slogan "karenga aur karake rahenge" in place of Gandhi's slogan of "karo ya maro" (Do or Die). The PM's slogan was given to achieve the goal of building a "New India" by 2022.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also remembered the "brave fighters of this revolution". Taking to the microblogging site, he said, "The 'Quit India Movement', popularly known as the August Revolution, challenged the British Government from the smallest village in the country to the big cities. Today, on the 78th anniversary of this movement, I remember all the brave



fighters of this revolution and salute them."

In Mumbai, the Mumbai Congress President Eknath Gaikwad was joined by party leaders and workers in paying tributes to the freedom fighters on the "Quit India Movement Day" at the historic the Gowalia Tank ground( August Kranti Maidan) in South Mumbai. Similarly BJP Mumbai President MLA Mangal Prabhat Lodha and others paid floral tributes to the freedom fighters on the "August Kranti Diwas".

However Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray did not visit the August Kranti Maidan to pay the tributes. The official sources maintained that the function was not official state government function. The "Quit India Movement"

was launched from Gowalia Tank on the midnight of August 8-9 after a historic session of the Congress that lasted two-and-a-half days. Gowalia Tank was later renamed "August Kranti Maidan".

After the Quit India resolution was passed, veteran leader late Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the tricolour at the August Kranti Maidan on August 8 midnight after which the senior leaders of the Congress were arrested. Due to the arrests, an action plan for the movement was made. The relatively young leadership of the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was active, but it had to go underground. Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) wrote two long letters from unknown places to provide guidance and encouragement to the revolutionaries and to explain

the character and method of the movement.

The Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on August 8, 1941, during the Second World War, demanding complete independence of India from British Rule. The Quit India Movement was an important milestone in the Indian freedom struggle. It was launched following the failure of the "Cripps Mission", which offered an autonomous dominion but not full Independence to India. It also indicated the partition of India, which was not acceptable to the Congress at that time.

Congress leaders struggled to coin a slogan for the movement. One suggestion was 'Get Out'. But Gandhi thought it was impolite. C Rajagopalachari, whom Gandhi called as his 'conscience keeper', suggested 'Retreat' or 'Withdraw'. Finally, Yusuf Meherally — the Socialist and trade unionist who was imprisoned 8 times during the freedom struggle - came up with 'Quit India'.

Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, people across India united to uproot imperialism. On this day in 1942, Gandhi gave the slogan of "Do or Die" to all Indians to drive away Britishers from the country. The movement which had begun from Gowalia Tank in Mumbai, is observed as "August Kranti Day" every year.

# Many Demands to Organize more Awareness Programme on Cane and Bamboo in the Remaining Dist. of Manipur

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

An Awareness Programme on Cane & Bamboo and its Application organized by Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, Manipur and Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS), Manipur with supported from Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati, Assam under North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India, was held at Song Song Village, Senapati District yesterday.

MPs of Manipur Dr. R.K. Ranjan and Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze were attended as the Chief Guest and President respectively of the programme. Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University (CAU), Lamphelpat, Imphal; Registrar, Manipur University; Mr. Heni Kaikho, Chairman, Song Song Village and Mr. Mayanglam Bham Khelendro Singh, Vice President, The Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS), Manipur were attended as the guests of

honour.

Not only Bamboo, Mao is famous for agricultural products in Manipur. That is why Chief guest of the programme, Dr. R.K. Ranjan proposed to establish a Slope Land Research Institute under the initiative of Central Agricultural University and another Hill University the under initiative of Manipur University. The president of the programme, Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze is also willing to set up the high-altitude research institutes under the initiative form Central Agricultural University and Manipur University as soon as possible to deceleration of knowledge.

Central Agricultural University has already agreed on it, he further added. During the programme, apart from the distribution of bamboos, coconuts, avocado, beehive boxes, piglet, sprayers, Chief Minister-gi Hakshegi Tengbang (CMHT) cards are provided instantly to the villagers. Many demands to organize more Awareness Programme on

Cane and Bamboo in the Remaining District of Manipur especially in Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Chandel, Noney, Jiri, Ukhrul, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl and Kamjong districts.

Before the programme is started, both the Members of Parliament of Manipur, Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze and Dr. R.K. Ranjan visited the land subsidence sites. The villagers of the area are taking refugees to the neighbouring areas due to its vulnerable situation. As the preliminary report, the land subsidence might be caused due to the aquifer-system hydrocompaction. It occurs when large amounts of groundwater have been withdrawn and may lead to more surface water-groundwater interaction and excess groundwater withdrawal which in turn may pollute the aquifer, cause land subsidence. However, it needs to study further. During the investigation, there are a geologist and seismologist experts from Manipur University. It will find out the exact cause of subsidence soon.

# 4 more COVID death reported in Tripura, 28 fresh positive case in Mizoram

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 9:

Four more persons including two jawans from Border Security Force (BSF) have lost their lives due to Covid-19 in the last 48 hours in Tripura.. So far 40 people have lost their lives due to COVID in the state. Out of 1,97,734 COVID

tests, 6,164 have found positive for the virus. Currently the state has 1,876 active cases. The positivity rate stands at 3.04 percent, test per million is 49,463 while the recovery rate stands at 69.61 percent and mortality rate is 0.67 percent. Meanwhile, in Mizoram, 28 fresh Coronavirus positive

cases were detected while eight patients were discharged in the last 24 hours. According to an official statement, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the state has gone up to 593. So far 296 patients have recovered from the highly infectious disease and 297 patients are undergoing treatment.

## International News

# Myanmar remembers the popular 8888 uprising

Courtesy Mizzima  
Yangoon, Aug 9:

Myanmar citizens marked the 32nd anniversary of the '88 Popular Uprising in downtown Yangon yesterday, remembering those who died in mass protests for democracy in 1988.

Students and former activists marked the 30th anniversary of the famed 1988 pro-democracy uprising with a low-key ceremony, dampened by social

distancing and mask requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hundreds gathered in the square in front of the Sule Pagoda to pay their respects, many placing red roses in remembrance of those who died. Events were also held in other places around the country, including Mandalay.

After years of economic decline and a tightening clampdown on rights, student-led protests swelled

into nationwide strikes and marches on August 8, 1988. But troops rushed in to stamp out the movement, shooting protesters and locking them up en masse. The number of political prisoners in Myanmar's fetid jails swelled while many fled the country into prolonged exile.

During the uprising, Aung San Suu Kyi - the daughter of independence hero General Aung San who had returned from England to

care for her sick mother - was seen as a beacon of hope, giving rousing speeches to adoring crowds and maddening the paranoid junta.

She was placed under house arrest for a combined total of 15 years before being released in 2010 and leading her National League for Democracy (NLD) party to victory in the historic 2015 elections.

Myanmar now looks forward to the elections in November 2020.

# State Govt continues to provide PDS items

DIPR  
Imphal, August 9:

State Government continues to provide PDS items to the Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of the State for distribution to the beneficiaries. The Government had been taking this initiative to ensure availability of foodgrain to its residents during the ongoing lockdown

Yesterday, in Imphal West

District, beneficiaries of Uripuk AC and Yaikul AC were distributed with 2,046.95 quintal of rice under National Food Security Act (NFSA). Another 1,431.3 quintal of rice under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was also distributed to the beneficiaries of Sagolband AC.

In Thoubal District too, 1,830.60 quintal of rice, allocated to Wangkhem AC under PMGKAY for the

month of July, was distributed to the beneficiaries of the AC today. The rice which was distributed to Wangkhem AC today was lifted from godown on 7th of this month.

Meanwhile in Tamenglong District, there was report on lifting of 484 quintal of PMGKAY rice, allocated to its Tamenglong AC for the month of August, from FCI godown, Sangaiprou.

# 'Everything is gone.' Flooding in China ruins farmers and risks rising food prices

Courtesy CNN  
Hong Kong, Aug 9:

By this time of year, the rice growing on Bao Wentao's family farm should have been ready to harvest. Instead, heavy flooding has engulfed huge swathes of southern China, including more than 36 acres of rice fields that 19-year-old Bao and his father tend to in their village near Poyang Lake.

"The crops have completely failed," Bao told CNN Business in an interview over the social media app WeChat, adding that his family has already lost roughly 200,000 yuan (\$28,000) worth of produce.

"The rice was nearly ripened and ready to harvest before the flooding. But now everything is gone." Surging floodwater burst the banks of Poyang Lake in Jiangxi province last month, destroying thousands of acres of farmland in what's known as the "land of fish and rice." The broader Yangtze River basin — which includes Poyang Lake and stretches more than 3,900 miles from Shanghai in the east to the Tibetan border in the west — accounts for 70% of the country's rice production.

For farmers like Bao and his father, the damage has been devastating. Not only did the rainfall ruin crops they

were about to collect, but the scale of the flooding has made it impossible to salvage anything from this year.

"The land is still under water," Bao said. "That means we are not going to have any harvest for the entire year."

The flooding that walloped Bao's farm and 13 million more acres of cropland — about the size of West Virginia — is the worst that China has experienced in years. China's Ministry of Emergency Management pegs the direct economic cost of the disaster at \$21 billion in destroyed farmland, roads and other property. Some 55 million

people, including farmers like Bao, have been affected. The disaster is bad news for the world's second-largest economy, which is already in a fragile state because of the coronavirus pandemic. Beijing has so far been able to secure food supplies by importing vast amounts of produce from other countries, and by releasing tens of millions of tons from strategic reserves.

But analysts warn that such measures can only be useful for so long. Tense relationships between China and much of the Western world, and the coronavirus pandemic, may make importing a lot of food trickier in the future. The

flooding in China, meanwhile, could soon get worse: Heavy rainfall is expected through much of this month, and Chinese officials have warned that the flooding could creep further north, threatening the country's wheat and corn harvests.

"The flooding is already among the worst since 1998, and could worsen in coming weeks," analysts from Nomura said in a note late last month.

**Food security**

It's not entirely clear how much of China's food supply may be at risk, since the government hasn't released specifics about the current state of

production.

If the flooding is contained by the end of August, agricultural GDP growth could fall by nearly a percentage point in the July-September quarter, according to analysts at Nomura — equivalent to more than \$1.7 billion in lost agricultural output. That amount is based on losses recorded in mid-July in seven southern provinces that were hit particularly hard.

Analysts at the Chinese brokerage firm Shenwan Hongyuan, meanwhile, recently estimated that China could lose 11.2 million tons worth of food compared to last year, given how much cropland was damaged by

mid July. That would be equivalent to 5% of the rice that China produces.

The damage might be even worse, though. Nomura's analysis was based on data about flooded crop fields that the Chinese government released in July. Since then, the amount of cropland that has been damaged has roughly doubled, according to China's Ministry of Emergency Response.

Damage estimates released by analysts also don't include the potential loss of wheat, corn or other crops, which could be threatened should the flooding spread.