

Nirbhaya: SC not entertaining Centre's plea seeking stay on Delhi HC order

**Agacy
New Delhi, Feb 11**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain Centre's plea seeking stay on a Delhi High Court order for simultaneous execution of all four convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta contended that the moment authorities move for death warrant, the one accused, who is yet to exhaust mercy petition to the President and curative petition, would move the mercy plea to stall execution of all convicts on death row. A bench headed by Justice R. Banumathi and comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan and A.S. Bopanna insisted that the Centre should move the trial court for issuance of fresh date for death warrants. "If nothing is pending then you (Centre) can ask for fresh warrants," said Justice Bhushan. Mehta informed the court that except for Pawan, the remaining three accused have exhausted all legal remedies available at their disposal.

For Manipur University Patriot's Day is a restricted Holiday, even as state Govt. declares it as General holiday

**IT News
Imphal, Feb 11**

Whether Civil offices or educational institutions run by the central government have been entrusted power not to follow holiday list prepared by the State government has not been defined at any of the servicebook or guidelines, but the Manipur University which is now a central university under the Ministry of Human

Resource and Development has converted state holiday to restricted holiday.

Patriot's Day, observed every year by the government of Manipur as a mark of tribute to Martyrs of the erstwhile kingdom by declaring as state holiday besides organizing main state function at Sahid Minar and by paying tribute at Hicham Yaicha Pat as well as at Kangla where Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal

General were cremated.

Interestingly annual calendar published for this year by the Manipur University printed the 13th of August i.e., the Patriot's Day as Restricted Holiday.

If the printed date - 13th August that is the Patriots' Day is an erroneous mistake then the University authority should clarify at the earliest possible time. Had not the University authority make any

clarification regarding the matter then it will become an open secret that The Manipur University authority has no respect for the Government of Manipur.

It may be noted that the Manipur Calendar 2020 published by the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur declared the Patriots' Day as state holiday at serial number 16 of the Holiday list.

GENERAL HOLIDAYS 1-Jan: New Year's Day; 15-Feb: Lai Hara; 16-Mar: Holi; 25-Mar: Saka Sankranti; 18-Apr: Good Friday; 13-Apr: Chaitra; 25-Apr: Bhaumika; 25-May: Del Fite; 23-Jun: Rakhi; 1-Aug: Rakhi; 13-Aug: Patriot's Day; 15-Aug: Rakhi; 1-Sep: Ganesh Visarjan; 10-Oct: Dussehra; 15-Oct: Dussehra; 16-Oct: Dussehra; 17-Oct: Dussehra; 18-Oct: Dussehra; 19-Oct: Dussehra; 20-Oct: Dussehra; 21-Oct: Dussehra; 22-Oct: Dussehra; 23-Oct: Dussehra; 24-Oct: Dussehra; 25-Oct: Dussehra; 26-Oct: Dussehra; 27-Oct: Dussehra; 28-Oct: Dussehra; 29-Oct: Dussehra; 30-Oct: Dussehra; 31-Oct: Dussehra; 1-Nov: Dussehra; 2-Nov: Dussehra; 3-Nov: Dussehra; 4-Nov: Dussehra; 5-Nov: Dussehra; 6-Nov: Dussehra; 7-Nov: Dussehra; 8-Nov: Dussehra; 9-Nov: Dussehra; 10-Nov: Dussehra; 11-Nov: Dussehra; 12-Nov: Dussehra; 13-Nov: Dussehra; 14-Nov: Dussehra; 15-Nov: Dussehra; 16-Nov: Dussehra; 17-Nov: Dussehra; 18-Nov: Dussehra; 19-Nov: Dussehra; 20-Nov: Dussehra; 21-Nov: Dussehra; 22-Nov: Dussehra; 23-Nov: Dussehra; 24-Nov: Dussehra; 25-Nov: Dussehra; 26-Nov: Dussehra; 27-Nov: Dussehra; 28-Nov: Dussehra; 29-Nov: Dussehra; 30-Nov: Dussehra; 1-Dec: Dussehra; 2-Dec: Dussehra; 3-Dec: Dussehra; 4-Dec: Dussehra; 5-Dec: Dussehra; 6-Dec: Dussehra; 7-Dec: Dussehra; 8-Dec: Dussehra; 9-Dec: Dussehra; 10-Dec: Dussehra; 11-Dec: Dussehra; 12-Dec: Dussehra; 13-Dec: Dussehra; 14-Dec: Dussehra; 15-Dec: Dussehra; 16-Dec: Dussehra; 17-Dec: Dussehra; 18-Dec: Dussehra; 19-Dec: Dussehra; 20-Dec: Dussehra; 21-Dec: Dussehra; 22-Dec: Dussehra; 23-Dec: Dussehra; 24-Dec: Dussehra; 25-Dec: Dussehra; 26-Dec: Dussehra; 27-Dec: Dussehra; 28-Dec: Dussehra; 29-Dec: Dussehra; 30-Dec: Dussehra; 31-Dec: Dussehra.

13th Aug Patriot's Day restricted holiday for MU

Death Anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya observed

**IT News
Thoubal, Feb. 11**

Along with paying rich floral tributes, BJP Khangabok Mandal today observed the 52th Death Anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and 25th Death Anniversary of Saheed Madhumangol at Khangabok Mayai Laikai Community Hall in Thoubal District.

Led by the BJP Thoubal District President Yumnam Kumarji and Former Vice-President of BJP Manipur

Pradesh Thokchom Jadumani, Mandak members, Mahila Members of the party and Local Workers Paid floral tributes and respect to the photo of the late leader. Former Vice-President of BJP Manipur Pradesh Th. Jadumani briefed the gathering on the life story and philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya who was born in a noble family and became a pioneer in the formation of Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) in India, his focused on social service by

providing lifelines to the youth and caring for the last person in the queue. Vice-President of BJP Khangabok Mandal T. Chourajit, Mandal Office bearers, Executive members and invitees and members of various Morchas and Cells of the Party were also present. Six (6) BJP Mandals of Thoubal District today observed the 52th Death Anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and 25th Death Anniversary of Saheed Madhumangol.

Khousabung Continues fight for justice; demands immediate creation of Khousabung Sub - Division

**IT News
Imphal, Feb 11**

Condemning the illogical, undemocratic and untenable decision of the then Okram Ibobi Singh Government that was arrived at on February 10 four years ago, the public of Khousabung Region hold a Mass Candle Light Vigil last night at Khousabung Bazar in Churachandpur District of Manipur. The public demonstration, besides others, is a continuation of



Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee takes charge as Director IBSD

**IT News
Imphal, Feb. 10**

Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee has taken charge as Director of the Institute of Bioreresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), an autonomous institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Earlier he was working as Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology and Director of the School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee is working on traditional medicine inspired drug discovery and development from Indian medicinal plants

with major emphasis on their validation, formulation and standardization, metabolomic profiling, safety documentation and related aspects. He has made significant contributions on translational research in biomedical sciences for drug discovery and development through evidence-based validation and documentation of traditional medicine for their quality, safety and efficacy. He has made several innovative and outstanding contributions in academics and research in the area of natural product studies, related to the bioprospecting of medicinal plants leading to the development of safe and efficacious products. He has contributed a lot on evaluation



and validation of drugs and pharmaceuticals from medicinal plants including their chemoprotecting, quality evaluation, safety documentation, ethnopharmacology and evidence-based validation of herbs used in traditional medicine. His multidisciplinary concerted efforts for drug development

from Indian Medicinal Plants (IMPs) and their validation with special emphasis on quality control, safety-related quality issues, synergy, value-added formulation development, metabolomics, marker profiling and related aspects have been appreciated by several industries and products have been developed, technology has been transferred through University-Industry collaborations. His works on systematic data mining for validation of Indian medicinal plants are useful bioprospecting tools for developing safe and effective products with scientific evidence. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Science,

India (FNASc) and the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK (FRSC) and The West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (WAST). Prof. Mukherjee is the President of International Society for Ethnopharmacology, Switzerland and Secretary of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE-India), Kolkata, India. Institute of Bioreresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) was established as an autonomous institute by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India in April, 2001 at Imphal, Manipur. Presently, IBSD also has its centres at Gangtok, Sikkim; Aizawl, Mizoram and Shillong, Meghalaya.

the long fight for justice and demands for immediate creation of Khousabung Sub - Division. Khousabung is located in the most centre point of the mighty Thantlang / Thantlang Hill Range and is the Headquarters of 01 - Khousabung District Council Constituency since 1972. It may be pointed out that the then Okram Ibobi Singh Government took an unilateral and divisive Cabinet Decision renaming the erstwhile Thantlang Sub - Division to Kangyai on February 10, 2016, smashing the popular sentiments and aspirations on the ground, and side stepping the public demand for creation of Khousabung Sub - Division. It may be recalled that more than 117 villages out of a total of 125 villages and localities

have supported and endorsed Khousabung as Sub - Divisional Headquarters. "Khousabung has been a political martyr in the hands of the Congress for electing BJP candidate to the District Council", said Ng Sang, a social activist. In the 2015 ADC election, Seilenmang Khongsai was elected from 01 - Khousabung, the lone BJP candidate to win election in Churachandpur ADC. Drawing the attention of the BJP Government, the public resolution calls for immediate creation of Khousabung Sub - Division to accelerate fast pace of progress and development in the region. The Mass Candle Light Vigil was participated by Seilenmang Khongsai, Member, ADC / Ccpur, village chiefs, public and women folks of Khousabung Region.

Coronavirus outbreak, supply of vital drug ingredients hit

**By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 11**

As a sequel to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak in China, the supply of actual pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) has been severely affected and the Drug Controller of India (DCI) has directed the Food and Drug Administrations (FDAs) across the country to collect information of available stocks of 58 APIs, from drug manufacturers. API is the part of any drug that produces the intended effects. Some drugs, such as combination therapies, have multiple active ingredients to treat different symptoms or act in different ways. Production of APIs has traditionally been

done by the pharmaceutical companies, in their home countries. But in recent years many corporations have opted to send manufacturing overseas to cut costs. Nearly 75-85% ingredients are imported from China. Some 354 drugs and drug ingredients were imported from China in 2017 and the situation was same in the year that followed. But due to the coronavirus, import of APIs has come to a standstill. The Hubei province is considered as a hub of API manufacture. Since January, Hubei remains in a state of lockdown to limit the spread of the virus and imports of APIs from China have stopped. Prior to that, the supply was slow because of the Chinese New Year and holiday season

during December. A top official from Maharashtra FDA confirmed that the instructions to take stock of APIs have been received from DCI and the information is being collected from the manufacturers. The government is also collecting data on overseas manufacturers of APIs, the quantity imported since 2018, as well as the production capacities of domestic manufacturers in case a scale-up is needed. Some of the APIs include: Cyclosporine, Clozapine, Clindamycin hydrochloride, Cyclophosphamide, Ciprofloxacin, Methotrexate, Carbamazepine, Lithium carbonate, Phenytoin, sodium,

Lamivudine, Penicillamine, Thiabendazole, Efavirenz, Nevirapine, Rifampicin, Lopinavir, Ritonavir, Zidovudine, Aciclovir and Ampicillin. Lopinavir and Ritonavir, are used for HIV/AIDS treatment and have been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for treatment of coronavirus infection. Amoxicillin, Cephalaxine are used as common antibiotics to treat a bacterial infection. Rifampicin is used in tuberculosis regimen. Paracetamol, Doxycycline, Gentamycin, Prednisolone, Meropenam are commonly used APIs. China remains a major supplier of not just antibiotics, but also Vitamin B12, B1, B6, and E to

India. The manufacturers in India had faced a spurt in prices earlier and imports were stopped from China, for some time. For finished products we have a month's stock right now. But if the situation continues, we need to do something. Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) Secretary General Daara B Patel, said. Coronavirus and its impact in India will be a worrisome factor. If domestic production, that accounts for 30 per cent of APIs, is unable to cope up, key medicine supply for malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, cancer and even diabetes may get hampered and even National health schemes can get affected. The India pharma industry's reliance on China for its bulk

drugs and APIs and the risk this poses to India's health security has been a subject of policy discussions for many years now, but with little follow-up action. The current situation is a "call for action" for India to shore up its strength when it comes to drug intermediates, since India imports over 60 per cent of its requirement from China, Secretary-General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Secretary-General Sudarshan Jain said. Industry executives fear that if the situation does not improve soon, the cost of materials used to make medicines in India will rise regardless of therapeutic category. In the case of products that are under price control, the prices that customers pay should not be

impacted. On earlier occasions, industry bodies had sought an increase in the maximum retail prices of these medicines, arguing that they were unable to recover the cost of manufacturing them. In the meanwhile, ICMR stated that all the 654 samples from quarantine centres tested proved negative and they will be retested on the day 14 of the quarantine period. Out of 918 samples referred from suspected cases, three confirmed laboratory positive for nCoV. In addition to ICMR, NIV, Pune, 13 Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories across the country and National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi are performing testing.