

MLA Dingo survives deadly crash by his car with a truck

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8

MLA of the Sekmai Assembly constituency, Heikham Dingo today survives deadly crashed with the car that he was travelling and a truck at Khonghampat area in Imphal Dimapur road at around 140 pm today. Report reaching here said that the MLA and his driver miraculously survived with some injury but his PSO sustain critical injury. The PSO is undergoing treatment at Raj Medicity. The way the car that the MLA

was travelling crashed may assumed all those in the car critical injury. Report said that the car that the MLA was travelling

crashed to a truck parked on the roadside at Khonghampat. The car reportedly came towards Imphal from his residence at Khurkhu.

FEGOCTA members began relay hunger strike

IT News
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Intensifying their agitation 10 (Ten) members of the Federation of Government College Teachers' Associations, Manipur

(FEGOCTA) which has been undergoing class boycott agitation began Relay Hunger Strike at NG College. The FEGOCTA has been demanding implementation of 7th UGC Pay and Regulations 2018.

Assam Rifles team busts illegal drug manufacturing unit in Thoubal District

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8

A joint team of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) along with representatives of Maphou Police Station busted an illegal drug processing cum manufacturing plant and recovered a huge quantity of drugs from Kamu Saichang area of Thoubal District today. Based on a corroborated specific input, the troops of Assam Rifles launched an operation and busted the illegal drug processing and manufacturing plant. The plant was being utilized to extract Morphine from Opium which was further processed into Brown Sugar and Heroin. During the detailed search, the team recovered approximately 29 Kgs of Heroin Brown Sugar (Solid), 20 Litres of Brown Sugar (Liquid), 8 Kgs of



Marijuana including equipment and chemicals used for processing of drugs. The drug after processing was

being supplied in form of loose bags and moulded bricks to the youth of Manipur and Nagaland. A lady identified as

Mrs Elizabeth Khongshai has been apprehended by police while the owner of house in which the drug processing plant was functioning is presently absconding.

The assessed value of the recovered contraband items is approximately around Rs 120 Crores in international market. The apprehended woman and seized contraband items have been handed over to Maphou Dam Police Station for further investigations.

The swift operation reflects the commitment and resolve of Assam Rifles to curb the Drug Menace from North East Region by targeting the manufacturing and distribution network by means of similar surgical operations and sustained efforts to choke influx of drugs from neighbouring drug havens by means of effective manning of the Indo-Myanmar Border.

CM interacts with civil service aspirants 'Every hard work will pay off'

IT News
Imphal, Feb. 8

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that every hard work will pay off if you focus on what you want to achieve. This was stated by him at the Interaction session with the scholars of the Chief Minister's Coaching Scheme for Civil Service Aspirants held at GM Hall today. Speaking at the gathering, Chief Minister stated that the purpose of getting education is not to go after government jobs but to become a responsible citizen. He maintained that the people of the State are filled with enormous talents and these talents are exceptional. We need to groom the students and youths of the State for a better tomorrow, he added. The Chief Minister further stated that the Chief

Minister's Coaching Scheme was introduced with an objective to provide the much needed support to those deserving and meritorious students of the State. It is indeed happy that many students who come from humble background are getting the benefits of the scheme, he added.

Stating that the primary objective of the present government is to fulfill the aspirations of the people, Chief Minister said that the government has implemented human oriented schemes such as CHMT etc. for the welfare of the people. He added that around 1.5 lakh families have been benefited so far under the scheme.

During the function, the students gathered introduced themselves before the Chief Minister. Students expressed their gratitude to the Chief

Minister and Government of Manipur for implementing such noble scheme. Students also shared their suggestions and grievances to the Chief Minister.

It may be mentioned that the Chief Minister's Scholarship Scheme for Civil Services Coaching worth over Rs. 1 crore was launched in March last year. Under this scheme, the State Government will provide 100% scholarship to 150 selected Civil Services aspirants to realise their dreams. With one year course fee of Rs. 70,800 per student, the total amount, which is to be borne by the State Government is pegged at Rs. 1,06,20,000. The scheme is being collaborated with the Delhi-based ALS-IAS Coaching Institute under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

MPA to celebrates 33rd Foundation Day; Kh. Pambei greets people

IT News
Imphal, Feb 8

Armed wing of the proscribed group United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the Manipur People's Army (MPA) is observing its 33rd Foundation Day tomorrow (February 9). Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the outfit Khongdongbam Pambei, paid gratitude to the people of the region who have been supporting the cause of the revolutionary movement for such a long period.

While thanking the people the Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of UNLF categorises the present state of society where people have been injected with venoms to let them believe that without depending to the India there is no way that we survive.

"After India annexed Manipur people of the region have been treating as those living under colonial rule", the chairman said while adding that every people of the region including those who have great educational knowledge

now think that without depending to India Manipur will not survive, which in reality is a wrong perception. The statement also elaborated the reason for enforcing draconian laws like AFSPA and others which is an instrument to suppress the people.

The statement also categorically mention on how the self sustain economy resulted out of the natural resources available in the state have been sabotaged and made dependable. The

statement mention about how the government of India destroyed the natural resource of the state by establishing NHPC at Loktak lake destroying over 80,000 hector of cultivable land.

The statement also gives a critique of how the people of the land are trying to wipe out from their own region by bringing act like the CAA.

The statement recalled on how we the indigenous people can make our own destiny by joining hands together and fighting for the rights of the people.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen calls for peaceful co-existence amongst all communities



IT News
Kangpokpi, Feb. 8

Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister, Nemcha Kipgen today graced the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Leimakhong Bazar Hill Town held at Community Hall Campus, Leimakhong Bazar. While addressing the gatherings as Chief Guest, Minister Nemcha Kipgen acknowledged that the Leimakhong Hill Town is one such place in Manipur where people from different communities reside; in short it is like a 'Mini India'. On this note, she called upon all to

reside in peaceful co-existence and set an example to all other people that no religion, caste or creed can break the bonds of brotherhood that are present since its existence. Beating the traditional gong, unveiling the monolith and cultural items performed by different communities were the major highlights of the celebration.

MLA, 51 Saitu AC, Shri Ngamthang Haokip and Chairman, Sadar Hills ADC, Kangpokpi, Shri Haokholal Hangshing also graced the occasion as functional President and Guest of Honour respectively.

CAA unconstitutional, say Catholic religious at grassroots

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 8

A group Catholic priests and nuns (Justice Coalition of Religious) (JCR) working among the poorest and most marginalized communities in Maharashtra has opposed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as unconstitutional.

"The CAA is the first instance of religion being overtly used as criterion for citizenship under Indian nationality laws and therefore fundamentally discriminatory and divisive in nature," a press release from 36 representatives of 16 Catholic congregations of the act, stated.

JCR which recently met in Mumbai, opposed CAA, National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC). They said these laws are at odds with secular principles enshrined in the Constitution and contradict Articles 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21 that guarantee to every citizen the right to equality, equality before the law, and non-discriminatory treatment by the State. JCR attended a capacity-building

workshop titled, "Rights-based Advocacy in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at the end of the last month. The grassroots workers also noted that the new law undermines India's commitment to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and other human rights treaties to which the country is a signatory.

The CAA fast-tracks Indian citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhist, Christians, Parsis and Jains who arrived in India on or before December 31, 2014, from its Muslim majority neighbours, namely Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.

"By giving special privileges to migrants from these religious communities, the government has singled out Muslims for exclusion. As citizens and members of the minority Christian community in the country, we are dismayed that a statutory attempt is being made through the CAA to privilege peoples of certain faiths while relegating another, Muslims, to a

secondary status."

Muslims and Christians, the Catholic religious noted, have been experiencing "a deep sense of vulnerability and insecurity with the rising tide of majoritarian nationalism in the country and actual violence perpetrated against minority communities particularly Muslims."

JCR also said that the CAA "unfairly" disadvantages Muslim groups, such as Hazaras and Ahmadis who have historically faced persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh from seeking refuge in India. "It leaves out Sri Lankan Tamils who form the largest refugee group in India residing here for now almost three decades."

The CAA also excludes the Rohingya Muslims, the "world's most persecuted minorities," from Myanmar with whom we share a border. The country needs a proper law on refugees and so we appeal to the government to develop a sustainable refugee policy that is non-discriminatory and compliant with international conventions, like the UN Refugee Convention, 1951

and the 1967 Protocol to which India is not a signatory.

Since 2013, the north eastern Indian state "has been reeling under the impact of an ill-conceived NRC exercise. Apart from the huge material costs, the human costs have been immeasurable."

When asked whether the press release condemning CAA put up by the Archbishop of Bombay Cardinal Oswald Gracias in December 2019 helped boost the community's voice of dissent, Brinelle Dsouza, coordinator for JCR (Western India), said, "Our protest is a part of the larger Christian voice that is emerging. As Christians, we are strongly opposed to that which gives privileges to certain religions over others. In the meanwhile, the TISS students' union (TSU) has demanded that an FIR lodged by police against one of the students Urvashi Chudawala, be withdrawn. She was charged with sedition for raising slogans pro-Sharjeel Imam slogans at a rally organised by the "Mumbai Pride" solidarity gathering on 2 February. She

reportedly raised slogans such as "Sharjeel Tere Sapne Pure Honge" in support of his demand to divide India. The cases of sedition have been registered against Imam in Assam and Uttar Pradesh for his inflammatory speeches against the country and he is in police custody in Delhi.

The TIS statement stated, "A Supreme Court judgment says that only raising slogans doesn't lead to sedition until and unless there is an implicit threat of violence. Using these charges to curb the dissenting voices of the oppressed is highly condemnable..BJP is trying to play with our education, career and future. In the same gathering, Urvashi had also read out the Preamble. This negates all claims of being anti-national, TSU stated. The Adivasi Students' Forum, Ambedkarite Students' Association, Muslim Students' Forum, Muslim Youth Voices, North-East Students' Forum, Progressive Students' Forum, Spaceless Collective and Queer Collective have come out in support of the statement.