

## Health Director appeals people not to panic on CoronaVirus Community workers suggests to close Indo Myanmar Border for some time

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 29

Health Director Dr. K Rajo today said that there is no need to be panic over the spread of Coronavirus as there is no confirm case of any such infection in the state.

"Those under investigation in India are suspected case only and has not been confirmed of carrying the virus" Dr. Rajo said. He further said that even as the people need not panic,

the state department is taking up measures to prevent spread of such virus.

Meanwhile community workers Rajit Sharma who recently went to Myanmar said that it will be wise for the government of Manipur to close the Border gate for some time until the matter about spread of Coronavirus is contained.

Myanmar having close to China and having less medical facilities may have people

carrying the virus. Prevention is better than cure, he added. Four person who return from China suspected to be exposed to the virus are presently undergoing treatment at BMC run Kasturba Hospital in North Mumbai.

A Manipuri Lady who recently visited Hong Kong has also been admitted at RIMS and is under observation after being suspected of infection. Total person under observation in

India now reached 16. 3 are under observation in Hyderabad, 7 in Kerala, 4 in Mumbai and one in Bengaluru. Wuhan along 12 other cities of China have been completely sealed by the Chinese authorities to stop the virus from spreading. The death toll has climbed to 80 with 2,744 confirmed cases. Over 250 to 300 Indian students are reportedly stuck in Wuhan triggering concerns over their well-being.

## SC rejects Nirbhaya convict Mukesh's petition challenging rejection of mercy plea

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 29

The Supreme Court has dismissed the plea of Nirbhaya case death row convict Mukesh Singh against the rejection of mercy petition by the President, saying all relevant records, the verdict of courts were placed by MHA before Ram Nath Kovind.

Dismissing the petition of 2012 Delhi gangrape convict Mukesh Singh, the Supreme Court said there is no merit in the contention. "Alleged sufferings in jail can't be grounds to challenge the rejection of mercy plea by President," the Supreme Court said on Wednesday.

The Supreme Court also said that expeditious disposal of mercy plea doesn't mean non-

application of mind by President.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice R Banumathi pronounced the verdict on Wednesday on convict Mukesh Kumar Singh's plea. The Supreme Court had on Tuesday reserved verdict on a plea of one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, challenging the rejection of his mercy petition by the President.

President Ram Nath Kovind had rejected the mercy petition of Mukesh on January 17. The four death row convicts in the case are scheduled to be hanged on February 1.

While Mukesh Singh has exhausted almost all legal options, another death row convict in the Nirbhaya case

approached the Supreme Court on Wednesday with a curative petition.

Advocate AP Singh, representing convict Akshay Kumar, said he has filed a curative plea on Wednesday and the SC registry has sought some more documents along with the petition.

"I have approached the SC registry with curative petition today. The registry has asked me to file some additional documents along with the petition and I am in the process of completing the formalities," Singh told PTI.

So far, the curative petitions filed by two convicts — Vinay and Mukesh — in the case have already been dismissed by the Supreme Court. Curative petition is the last legal recourse available to a person in a court of law.

## Pro and anti-CAA agitations in Mumbai continue; Mumbai lawyers come in support of CAA

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Jan 29

Taking inspiration from the women's agitation at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi, hundreds of Muslim women continued staged anti-CAA agitations, whereas lawyers came in support of CAA, NRC and NPR in Mumbai on Tuesday. A large number of lawyers affiliated to the Bombay High Court Advocates' Bar Association and the Advocates Association of Western India, held a march outside the Bombay high court in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The lawyers marched from one gate of the high court to another shouting slogans such as "We support CAA", "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and

"Vande Mataram". They insisted that the support to CAA is not against any Indian.

Among those who participated in the march were senior counsel Ram Apte, advocate Uday Waranjikar and Subhash Ghadge and Anjali Helekar — members of the Advocates Association of Western India.

"There is a presumption that every law is constitutionally valid and the CAA is not an exception. Unless any act is declared as invalid, the law continues, and hence we held a march in support of the CAA," Advocate Waranjikar told the media.

Whereas on January 20, a bunch of lawyers including Gayatri Singh, Mihir Desai and Agasti Vibhute, had gathered outside the high court and read out the preamble of the Constitution of India to protest the CAA. In another development, hundreds of women continued their anti-CAA/NRC/NPR agitation on a road in south Mumbai's Nagpada area, which they had started on Republic Day night. The protesters holding placards carrying the slogans like "We stand against CAA, NRC, NPR", "They tried to divide us, Respect my existence or

expect my resistance", sat down on the Morland road outside Arabia Hotel and raised anti-CAA slogans.

Many were seen also holding Indian flag and shouting slogans hailing Hindu-Muslim unity and brotherhood.

Most of the protesters are residents of nearby Muslim-dominated Madanpura, Jhoola Maidan, Aripada, and Mumbai Central areas. They have not withdrawn their agitation despite senior officers of the Mumbai Police urging them to do so. Senior Nagpada police station inspector Shalini Sharma said that she had requested the protesters to take a prior permission from the police, but the women refused to budge and continued to occupy the road.

The movement has surprised many because women along with their children spent an entire night on the road holding placards and raising slogans against the new law. Social activist and former student of Jawahar Lal Nehru University Umar Khalid also addressed the gathering.

Protests are underway in different parts of the country against the new law, which grants Indian

citizenship who entered India on or before December 31, 2014 due to religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 29

UNLF made a press release signed by M. Sak-hen, Director, Department of Publicity, saying that the Lamhei Maheikol scheme was not properly implemented and the ZEO and AI of Wangoi should pay up, further stating that they will punish corruption in educational institutions. The government had announced various schemes in the name of betterment of education system, but the ministers, MLAs, and officials used up all the money for their own benefits. The press release further added that they received a complaint that "Lamjing Maheikol" scheme introduced by SSA Manipur State Mission under the central sponsorship of MHRD was not properly implemented and the officials had used up all the money of the scheme

allotted for Wangoi zone for 2017-18. On receiving the complaint, they said, their special investigation team did the digging up and found the following:

1. SSA State Mission selected 90 schools from 17 different blocks for LM scheme, 2017-18. The sanction amount for each school was Rs. 2,15,300, but the issue emerged because of non allocation of the sanction amount and corruption.  
2. For ZEO Wangoi Block, SSA State Mission selected 10 schools under the recommendation of the ZEO of Wangoi, namely: i) Chajing Mairenkhong UPS ii) Haoreibi Jr. HS iii) Phoubakchao HS iv) Shamsang Shantipur UPS v) Yumnam Huidrom HS vi) Langthabal Phuramakhong UPS vii) Sekmajin HS viii) Khagemba Jr. HS ix) Malon Megha HS x) Irom Meijrao New PS. The total amount sanctioned for these 10 schools

was Rs. 21,53,000.

3. As the implementation agency of Wangoi Zone, ZEO formed a committee with him as the nodal officer and chairman, and the responsibility for the scheme was handed to Ojah Brojen.

4. When investigated, the expenditure statement submitted by Wangoi ZEO did not match with the statements of the school Head. The activities and expenditure were not consistent.

5. There was no transparency in the whole process.

6. AI Brojen had only verbally communicated without any documents, keeping the school authority in the dark.  
7. After admitting that there were mishandling in the expenditure statement furnished by AI Brojen, a new statement was submitted, but it also had a lot of wrongdoings. For example - a) It added that out of the Rs 21,53,000 sanctioned for 10

schools, Rs. 5,38,000 was assigned to Ojah Ranbir for supervising the implementation of the scheme. b) An expenditure statement for allocation of Rs. 50,000 to MLA Lukhoi for ground leveling of Yumnam Huidrom HS.

c) Another expenditure statement of extra expenses on the "Go To Village" program from the sanction money of this scheme.

d) Allocation of Rs. 100,00 for regular meetings that never happened.

The press release said that if ZEO Hemchandra and AI Brojen did not pay up the amount in the given time, they should be responsible for the further consequences.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> Kapam Day Celebrated

IT News  
Chandel, Jan. 29

Kapam Village in Chandel district also known as Komlathabi Village today celebrated 72<sup>nd</sup> Kapam Day at Kapam Public Ground commemorating the first settlement in the village.

The celebration was attended by Minister for Tribal Affairs & Hills N. Kayisii, MLA D. Korumthang and former MLA W. Morung Makunga as dignitaries.

Minister N. Kayisii while speaking on the occasion said that Komlathabi Village which is known for having better school and college have not change much.

He said that villagers have full responsibility of making Kapam village as a model village.

As a part of the celebration, a two minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed villagers.

Cultural programme and narration of the origin of Kapam village were the highlight of the festival.

## 'Custodial Death' -

## When citizens are killed in their own land using colonial laws

By -Wisdom K.

Only a day after the Nation celebrates the enactment of the constitution of India, which made the country Republic as well as guaranteed hosts of rights to its citizens including Right to Freedom and Right to life, the security forces reportedly thrashed a man to death in Kangpokpi, making a complete mockery of human rights and our Constitution.

The Armed forces special power act, a draconian colonial law still in vogue in the Hills of Manipur robbed the people of their rights given by the Constitution of India. Many had earlier voiced their concerns to this outdated special power,

which the Britishers used to contained our Freedom fighters. Custodial deaths and fake encounter deaths are the two synonyms of AFSPA in Manipur. Why is a statute which has obnoxious clauses to take people's lives easily be given a place in 21st century? Is it because we are tribals and our blood less-precious?

On that fateful day i.e. 27th January 2020, Mr Thangboi Lhouvum, an unarmed cadre of KRA, which is a signatory of SOO with Government, was nabbed by the Assam Rifles Kangpokpi and after reportedly beating the victim black and blue, the AR handed over the victim to Kangpokpi Police, where

the victim succumbed to his injuries and died in the police station. The public is furious on two counts; why is the victim mercilessly beaten by the AR and in what condition was he handed over to the Police. Why was not the victim taken to hospital by the police? Was there too many to hide? Mention may be made here that the Assam Rifle has hundreds of cases on custodial deaths and fake encounters labelled against them and the Force has recently received flaks from all counters over their alleged mishandling and molestation of a Lady IPS officer. It is no surprise that the Manipur Cabinet has passed a resolution to replace all Assam Rifle

checkpoint with state security forces. Taking nothing away from the gross human right violations and record inhumane treatment meted out to the Hill people by the the Assam Rifles, it will be a little far-fetched to hope that public agony from security forces will end with the replacement of Assam Rifles by Manipur Police. The latter, especially its commando unit has been regarded as a trigger-happy bunch of personnels, whose presence only adds sense of insecurity to the public. Together with the Assam Rifle, the Manipur Police commando has tormented the people of Manipur for decades now, even after Suspension of operation /

cease-fire is signed by the Government with various militant groups.

It is high time concerned authority look into the prevailing law and order situation in Manipur especially in the Hills, where security forces boldened by inhumane colonial acts like AFSPA has only caused more tears to the people. That we have lost yet another precious life to custodial death in 2020 should be an eye opener as to how security forces value the lives of the tribals in General and the Kuki people in particular. It is time the Government looks into the concerned of the Kuki people and their aspirations for a rightful self governance and end their long pending political issue.

