

40 year old man dies at quarantine centre, suspected to be COVID positive

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

In a disappointed turn of fate, one 40 year old man from Nambol who has lived in Guwahati for last 7 years and had returned home by flight yesterday expired at the Nambol High School, Community Quarantine Centre, late last night. The

deceased had medical history of viral infection and multiple organ failure and was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Guwahati. Upon his arrival at the quarantine centre and due to his poor health conditions, District Surveillance Officer Bishnupur, Dr. L Raichandra Singh and Dr. L Kuber Singh, MO I/C CHC Nambol were

overlooking his treatment but he expired around 11.18 PM. The body was taken by an ambulance to a crematorium where his last rites were performed.

Medical team at the quarantine centre as per SOP is presuming the deceased as Covid positive until test sample results negative. All due precautions were taken

up while cremation and the area will be disinfected afterwards, sources added. Meanwhile the test samples of the deceased's wife who returned by same flight have also been sent for testing. Close contacts of the deceased and his wife will be quarantined if the result of the test sample returns positive.

Meanwhile, 17 individuals whose samples were collected for testing at VRDL of JNIMS have been confirmed Covid positive according to press release by Covid-19 common control room yesterday. The cumulative positive cases in the state stands at 1626 out of which 656 are active and 970 recovered cases.

YACPIP appeals Assam Govt. to include Manipuri Language as Associate official Language

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Youth's Action Committee for Protection of Indigenous People (YACPIP) has expressed strong support to the demand of the Manipuri Youth Front of Assam (MYFA) and demanded the Assam Government for inclusion of the Manipuri Language as an Associate Language of Government of Assam.

"The demand of the MYFA is valid in nature as being Indigenous peoples inhabited in Assam since the 16th Century having a population

of more than 3 lacs spreading across the 13 districts of Assam. The Manipuris inhabited in Assam has been serving the Government of Assam with high dedication and commitment since the fast many decades", a statement by Laishram Gulshan, President of the Committee said.

The statement said that the recent decision of the Government of Assam on non inclusion of Manipuri Language saddens the large population of Manipuri inhabited in Assam which is very unfortunate.

YACPIP as being an indigenous

youth's organization would like to draw the urgent attention of Government of Assam to review its decision on the non inclusion of Manipuri Language and kindly include the Manipuri Language as an Associate Language of Government of Assam in the best interest of Indigenous Manipuri Populace, it said and added YACPIP will continue to support the Manipuri Youth Front of Assam (MYFA) in demanding the Manipuri Language as Associate Language of Government of Assam until the demands are fulfilled.



EHWF condemn the increasing act of crime against women in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Eastern Himalayan Women Forum (EHWF), a network of women organisation working to the cause of indigenous women and children in Eastern Himalayan Region of North East India base at Shillong has expressed strong concerns to the rise of crime against women who people across the globe are having tough time fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

A press statement issued by Maggie L. Ralte, Convenor of the forum said that as the Covid-19 pandemic intensifies, its gendered effects have also intensified. The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing

vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic.

Women in particular have become more vulnerable during this pandemic. In the last one week we have seen 3 cases of women killed during this pandemic in Manipur. EHWF strongly condemns the suspected killing of a woman on 12th July 2020. The body of the woman was found floating at Imphal River near the Northern side of Sanjenthong on the morning at about 8.30 AM. She is identified as Ms. Nishakumari (21 yrs), D/O Binod Kumar Shah who is originally from Bihar and resides currently at

Chingmeirong, Imphal. We fear that it is a case of forceful sexual assault before killing her. Further on July 3rd 2020, a dead body of woman was seen floating in the Thoubal River. EHWF have serious concern to the increasing dead of women in Manipur.

On 7th July, a 14 year old girl from Langol Laimanai, Imphal who was raped by her own father died in a hospital at Imphal West.

EHWF with deep concern appeal to the government of Manipur to form independent, impartial investigation team to initiate investigation of Crime against Women especially raped, raped and murder, domestic violence, women trafficking etc.

Booked those who supply substandard medical kits meant for Covid Warriors—KSA

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Kangleipak Students Federation (KSA) in a press release has urged the Director General of Police, Manipur and the CM who is also in charge of Home to expedite the vigilance case pending against senior medical officers of the Health Department who are responsible for

procurement of substandard medical kits meant for Covid health workers of the state. The valley based student body further pressed concerned authority for strict punishments of the people responsible for the heinous act of using Covid-19 pandemic as a business opportunity and compromising basic human rights.

BMS presses EPF 26% For 2015, 2016 to contract labours of MHMSociety

IT News
Imphal, July 14:

Bhartya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) Manipur State in a press release has urged the Manipur Health Mission Society (MHMS) to allow EPF 26% of contract health workers of the society for the year 2015 and 2016. The labour Union expressed grim concern over the efforts of the State Health Mission to put off the social security scheme of health worker earning minimal wages guaranteed by the central Government and also listed in the union gazette notification No.S.O.1431 dated 14.05.2010.

The labour union raised pertinent questions on the lackadaisical approach of the Health Mission to delay EPF

payment to the contract workers since 2015, while neighboring state of Nagaland had approved and implemented it on 01.04.2015. The union termed the Health Mission Society's decision to take up the issue only after BMS mulled to take up the case and file an FIR, as insincerity on its part. BMS in the press release also refuted the claims of an undisclosed MHMS official who had gone on record to the media stating that the delay in EPF is due to incomplete documents of the workers.

The Union warned of relentless efforts for every labour so that they get their due wage for their work. BMS Manipur state will join the week long nationwide "Sarkar Jagao Saptah" from 24.07.2020 to 30.07.2020, it further added.

★ Editorial

Stop threatening media: We stand by our report in connection with MCPRC

The MCPRC chairperson had defamed the Manipur government saying that salaries for them were paid in a lump sum. She also violated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's service reformed by appointing her husband as a consultant of the MCPRC. Besides, she cheated the people by showing two different copies for the engagement of her husband as a consultant.

In the court of law, several provisions empower the court to punish any citizens for providing false information, fabricated stories, or any misleading declaration.

The law of the land applies to all citizens whether he or she serves as the top post in the government or is just a simple common person living on hand to mouth. Even media are sued/ threatened for defamatory cases charging or alleging baseless /fabricated stories published that might malign or hurt the sentiment of an individual or group of individuals. An individual has every right to clarify on news report published against him or her, but should approach to the same media house that published the story. It is his or her rights to go either to Press Council of India or to other media houses if the said media house refuses to provide space for clarifications. This is as per the local adjustment framed by journalist fraternity working in the state. Violation of the local adjustment may affect the unity of the media fraternity of the state. This is because the media houses in Manipur had experienced certain difficulties while rendering their service for the society.

This column is to draw the kind attention of the All Manipur Working Journalist Union (AMWJU) and Editor Guild's Manipur (EGM) regarding a publication of a clarification story by the chairperson of MCPRC Sumatibala, which even indicate an intention to malign the image of this newspaper, published and broadcasted by some media houses.

When the MCPRC conducted a press conference to clarify a news report appeared in Imphal Times under the heading "Husband appointed as a consultant by MCPRC Chairperson gets Rs. 9,10,000/- as hiring charge for his vehicles", almost all media houses were invited except Imphal Times which she was supposed to clarify. And the news was carried at some newspaper including a highly circulated Manipuri language daily and a cable TV network. These media never take a look at what has been reported in Imphal Times is true or not but simply published a story that the Chairperson had stated.

To be frank whatever Imphal Published in connection with the financial mismanagement or irregularities at MCPRC is based on the document procured through the Right to Information Act. The Chairperson lied about the payment of vehicle hiring charges to her husband and was published or broadcasted at some newspapers and Cable TV.

Here, this newspaper would like to remind those media as well as the Cable TV that under section 218 of the Indian Penal Code it is stated that "Whoever, being a public servant, and being as such public servant, charged with the preparation of any record or other writing, frames that record or writing in a manner which he knows to be incorrect, with intent to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, loss or injury to the public or any person, or with intent thereby to save, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby save, any person from legal punishment, or with intent to save, or knowing that he is likely thereby to save, any property from forfeiture or another charge to which it is liable by law, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both".

In Section 196 of the IPC, it is also stated that, "Whoever corruptly uses or attempts to use as true or genuine evidence any evidence which he knows to be false or fabricated, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave or fabricated false evidence. And in section 200 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) it is stated that, "Whoever corruptly uses or attempts to use as true any such declaration, knowing the same to be false in any material point, shall be punished in the same manner as if he gave false evidence".

The provision provided here is enough to take legal action against the MCPRC for giving false information to the media. As for those media that carries the one-sided story, let the matter be the first check by talking to the media that somebody is blaming.

(Note: The MCPRC Chairperson had not invited Imphal Times while organising the press conference for clarification of a news that was published in Imphal Times)

State government ensures PDS items reach to the beneficiaries

DIPR
Imphal, July 14:

In its effort to ensure that the people of the State are provided adequate PDS items especially rice, the State Government continues lifting and distribution of rice in the State.

In continuing distribution in Imphal West district on July 13, a total of 3600.15 quintal of rice under PMGKAY were distributed in Patsoi and

Sekmai Assembly Constituencies. The district had also distributed 93.5 quintal of rice meant for migrant workers to 1870 persons while the allocated 5.5 quintal of Chana for the district was completely distributed to migrant workers.

Ukhrul AC in Ukhrul district has reported lifting of 722.05 quintal of rice under NFSA from FCI godown Ukhrul on July 13.

In respect of Nungba AC in Noney district, 3.22 quintal of Chana under Atma Nirbhar Bharat for May & June have been lifted from FCI godown, Sangaiprou on July 06.

The State Government has been distributing PDS items in all the districts of Manipur to ensure none to suffer on account of non-availability of foodgrains on the backdrop of the outbreak of COVID-19 and the ongoing lockdown in the State.

Two workmen died in a blast in steel unit



IT Correspondent
Mumbai, July 14:

Two workmen died on the spot and another was grievously injured, in a blast that occurred in a leading steel plant, engaged in the manufacturer of stainless steel products, located at Khopoli (Raigad district), about 80 kms from Mumbai, in the wee hours of Tuesday.

A blast with loud sound occurred in a special steel division, of the India Steel Works Limited, located at Zenith Compound, at about 1 AM on Tuesday. The intensity of the blast was so severe that the bodies of the deceased virtually tore into pieces and the entire area was

reverberated with the sound, local people said.

The deceased have been identified as Dinesh Chavan (55), Pramod Sharma (30). The injured workman Subhash Wanjale (55) has been admitted to MGM Hospital, Navi Mumbai, and his condition has been described as critical.

India Steel Works Limited, is the oldest company involved in manufacture of stainless steel products, including bars, wire rods, billets and the work of steel melting is carried out in the huge plant. The incidents of blasts have occurred in the plant, earlier too. In the meanwhile the matter is being inquired by police and officers of the Khopoli Municipal Council.

Violence against Christians spreads to 50% of Indian states

95 incidents of mob violence so far in 2020

IT Desk
New Delhi, July 14

The Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown does not appear to have brought much relief to Indian citizens following the Christian faith. The first half of this year has so far witnessed 121 incidents of violence against Christians in 15 states of India as per the recorded data of New Delhi based **United Christian Forum (UCF)**.

The 121 incidents of violence have, sadly, taken the lives of two. Mob violence grew with 95 incidents recorded. Several of the churches which were attacked, were either illegally occupied or sealed shut. An additional 20 incidents of social boycott took place in several areas as well. UCF and its networking partners - Alliance Defending Freedom India (ADF India), Religious Liberty Commission of EFL and Christian Legal Association (CLA) have managed to get 19 churches reopened, 28 pastors released (either on bail or acquitted of false charges) and obtained positive outcomes in 45 cases of false conversion charges in various courts of India.

These incidents reveal the grim reality that the freedom to practice one's faith is being curtailed in 15 of 28 states in India. Similarly, since 95 out of 121 incidents are mob attacks, mob violence now accounts for over 75% of the various communal crimes, becoming the new norm. UCF is troubled to observe that no political party is taking a strong position against such acts of violence.

Dr Michael Williams, National President of UCF says: "Nobody should be persecuted because of their faith. It is worrying to see these horrendous acts of mobocracy still continuing even after a slew of directions to the government from the Supreme

Court Bench. The police and local administration who are responsible for law and order, must take quick action against anyone who involves themselves in mob violence."

Meanwhile, another new norm, the trend of not filing FIRs against the perpetrators of violence, continues to grow unchecked. Only 20 incidents out of the 121 have FIRs registered against them. Modus operandi followed in all these incidents are similar... a mob, accompanied by the local police, arrives at a prayer service shouts slogans, beats up the men, women and children. Then the pastors are arrested or detained by the police under the false allegation of conversion. Following is the list of States wherein violence against Christians has been reported: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

In Chhattisgarh from where the highest numbers of incidents of violence against Christians are reported (32 incidents), majority of them are of social ostracism wherein the Christian families are threatened to renounce their faith in Christ. Those who resist are denied basic public facilities including drinking water. Some are even thrown out of their own houses.

There were 66 women and 16 children who sustained injuries in the 121 reported incidents. Tribals accounted for 106 of the total injured. The data on record with UCF and its partners shows the dangerous trend of violence against Christians has been steadily increasing. The numbers of incidents recorded in 2014 were below 150; nearly 200 in 2015, over 200 in 2016, crossed 250 in 2017, doubled to 300 in 2018. 2019 witnessed 328 incidents.

Delimitation 4.0 in Manipur: Background, Issues and Challenges



By -Mr. Paojakhp Guite

Population and territory are important characteristic features of a sovereign state to have an effective government, more so in democratic ones. In other words, the four important pillars of a state are population, territory, government and sovereignty. Under Article 82 of the Constitution (Readjustment after each census), the Parliament by law enacts a Delimitation Act after every census. Thereafter, the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission. In India, four such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under Delimitation Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002 respectively.

The Delimitation Commission set up under the Delimitation Act, 2002 was to readjust the division of each state and union territory into territorial constituencies for the purpose of Lok Sabha and state assembly elections on the basis of Census figures of 2001. The Commission has completed the delimitation exercise and the Delimitation Order, 2008 in respect of all the states, except in four North-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

Gerrymandering- The Beginning Gerrymandering is the practice of setting boundaries of electoral districts to favour specific political interests with legislative bodies. The concept was introduced in 1812 by the American politician and diplomat, Elbridge Gerry.

Right from day-one post-independence, Manipur tribals have always been taken along and been part of India's democratic journey. This was for the first time experimented in India's first election in 1951-52 under the auspices of the Delimitation Commission. Notwithstanding the tribal population being short of the required number, the Delimitation Commission reached an agreement that for the purpose of Lok Sabha elections, the electorates of the erstwhile Thoubal sub-division (excluding Bishenpur tehsil) in the Manipur plains were clubbed with the Outer Manipur PC because, the number of eligible tribal voters in the Outer constituency was only 1,80,641. With the addition of 1,20,185 non-tribal voters of the Thoubal sub-division, the total strength of the Outer Manipur PC rose to 3,00,826. At that time, the Inner Manipur PC consisted of

what was then Sadar sub-division (excluding the area which formerly constituted the Mao sub-division) and Bishenpur tehsil of the Thoubal sub-division. Today, the Outer Manipur PC consists of the tribal areas of Jiribam, and the districts of Ukhrul, Kamjong, Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Tamenglong, Noney, Kangpokpi, Chandel, Tengnoupal and Senapati or the area which formerly constituted the Mao sub-division, along with the non-tribal areas in the Thoubal sub-division (excluding Bishenpur tehsil) and Jiribam. This arrangement is known as Gerrymandering.

Delimitation Justice- A Holy Grail in Thoubal

Today, the erstwhile sub-division of Thoubal (excluding Bishenpur Tehsil) comprises of eight Assembly Constituencies spreading across Thoubal, Kakching and Jiribam districts. These three non-tribal districts have the total voter strength of more than 2,35,000 as against their population size of 1,20,185 in 1951-52. Buoyed by its population strength, people of these districts began to show their dissent. They do not want to accept the gerrymandering anymore. For them, this arrangement is egregiously a travesty of justice, hence no more acceptable. The issue is not just about the denial of their right to contest the Lok Sabha election. More importantly, it is about the violation of their constitutional and citizenship rights. This injustice apparently makes the Representation of Peoples Act (RPA), 1950 an elephant in the room. This Act's mandate is to give proper and separate representation of both tribals and non-tribals. Therefore, they are opposed to this constituency arrangement and boldly point out that the RPA Act, 1950 is more important than the equal distribution of population in the two Parliamentary Constituencies of Manipur.

Laishram Jogeshwor Singh and Rishang Keishing, Members of Parliament from Inner and Outer Manipur Constituencies respectively submitted the people's dissent note to the Delimitation Commission in March, 1954 that the arrangement was "much criticised and protested against by all sections of the public of the Manipur State". On 12th April, 1954, the Delimitation Commission held a public consultative meeting on the issue at Imphal. On 16th June, 1954, the Commission issued its orders without change in the letter and spirit of the existing arrangement. Even the Commission failed to provide justification of its order. Unfortunately this fateful decision has only ended up in antagonising all the people involved on the issue over time. In the past, the Thoubal MP Candidature Demand Committee with support of the people in these segments had even boycotted the elections.

Moreover, various Civil Society Organisations also demanded that the lone Raja Sabha seat of the State be at least given to the people of these 8 Assembly Constituency segments as consolation.

It is worth remembering that the 8 Assembly segments had elected several Ministers from these segments as well as Okram Ibobi Singh, a unique record holder as the first and only MLA who became Chief Minister of the State for three consecutive terms.

However, apparently, the fate of political representations of the tribals in Parliament is held by the vagaries and mercies of the non-tribal electorates of Thoubal and Jiribam. In other words, electorates of the two non-tribal areas look like a King-Maker.

In 2014 Lok Sabha Elections, Soso Lorho of Naga People's Front (NPF) could manage to garner 2.8 lakh votes from tribals and only 5,358 votes from non-tribals, while Thangso Baite of the Congress was voted winner with 1.9 lakh tribal votes and a huge 1,06,120 non-tribal votes. This way, the non-tribal votes cast in a solid block somewhat unfairly decided the winner in the tribal constituency. But, the story was otherwise in the 2019 General Elections. Due to the fragmentation of Kuki votes and consolidation of Naga votes, Soso Lorho emerged victorious with 3.62 lakh tribal votes and just 6,450 non-tribal votes (3.54%) over K. James (INC) who got 87,926 non-tribal votes and H. Shokhopao Mate (BJP) who was voted 63,255 non-tribal votes. As a result, the non-tribal voters failed to determine the winner this time. The tribal people of Manipur need an effective voice of their own in Parliament. That is why one seat was allotted to them in the first place. Yet, by adding a block of valley voters to this reserved constituency, that very intent seems to have been defeated by itself. All stakeholders apparently agree that the 8 non-tribal Assembly Constituency segments need to be taken away from the tribal Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency.

Skewed Population- An Achilles' Heel

In the Census report of 2001, nine sub-divisions including Mao-Maram, Paomata, Purul, Saitu Gamphazol, Chakpikarong, Machi, Chandel HQ, Kasom Khullen and Moreh of three hill districts such as Senapati, Ukhrul and Chandel have shown unrealistic, unnatural and abnormal population growth rate as expressed in percentage. Each of the districts has hit more than a 100 per cent mark of population growth rate. This has drawn criticisms from different quarters of Political Organisations, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and even the State Government. They point out that the population growth is rather baseless, because such a growth rate is biologically impossible in a ten years time (1991-2001). Moreover, the Constitution of India was specifically amended as 84th

Amendment in 2002 not to have delimitation of constituencies until the first census after 2026. Thus, the present constituencies arranged on the basis of 2001 Census shall continue to be in operation till the first Census after 2026 and, therefore, existing total number of seats in each state is frozen till 2026. The Centre while made an announcement that the delimitation will now be conducted in the four North-eastern states, it also notified that the delimitation shall be based on the 2011 Census. However, it is not acceptable to the people of the three hill districts, thereby plead with the Centre that the Delimitation Act, 2002 shall be used and the delimitation exercise shall be based on 2001 Census. They assert that the delimitation process is long overdue, while already done in other states of the country based on 2001 Census report. People of the three hill districts have been pressing hard for the conduct of delimitation as soon as possible, so that their befitting population size would be served justice.

Although the Centre shifted to 2011 Census as the base year from 2001's, yet people of the valley districts are not convinced to accept it. They observe that the Census report of 2011 was incorrect and not acceptable even for the people of the three hill districts.

Strongly reacting to the proposal to conduct delimitation based on 2001 Census report, the Ethno Heritage Council (HERICOUN) has appealed to the State Government, Opposition and all political parties, CSOs to stand unitedly and sent a clear message to the Central Government that delimitation process should be done fair and square. International Peace and Social Advancement has also urged the Government(s) and authority (ies) concerned to conduct the delimitation process only after completing the 2021 Census. Recalling that the then Central Government had resolved not to have delimitation till 2026, IPSA warned that ignoring the sentiment of Manipur might invite agitation. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act deferred delimitation in 1976 until 2001; second time, the 86th Amendment Act deferred it until 2026 where in both Amendments; existing total number of seats across states were kept frozen.

To ensure a representative democracy, the Centre should work in tandem with the State Government, Opposition and various CSOs. Foreigners inhabiting in the state should be detected and deported to their respective states or countries before conducting the proposed delimitation exercise. Biometrics data (Aadhaar) and physical evidence should also be collected while counting heads to ensure transparency. The three hill districts that reported abnormal growth of population should be scrutinized at the earliest. Taking all these steps beforehand would enable us to become one. The buzzword "Chingam-Tam Amani" principle will dwell in us.

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