

42 year old man traumatised and diagnosed of 'phobic anxiety' after being called a drug addict and refused voluntary blood donation at RIMS

IT News
Imphal, July 18:

Meitram Sanatomba a 42 year old man from Sega Road has been suffering from 'phobic anxiety' after a doctor at RIMS called him drug users. According to his wife Bejenti, her husband Sanatomba was allegedly refused blood donation after labeling him as a drug addict when he visited RIMS Blood bank on June 28 last month for voluntary blood donation as part of statewide camp to commemorate the 163rd Anniversary of the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. According to Meitram Sanatomba, he had visited RIMS blood bank at Lamphel on 28th June at 10 AM and was refused his voluntary blood donation by Dr. K. Rachandra Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion, RIMS and his junior doctors. The Doctors had reportedly examined his hand where previous medical conditions have left behind certain marks on his forearms and refused his voluntary blood

donation. The doctors at the blood bank are further alleged of calling him a drug addict. Aggrieved by the incident, Sanatomba is said to be suffering from depression, sleeplessness, fearfulness after the incident, according to his wife. He had updated a post on his Facebook account airing his grievances regarding the incident the same day, following which he started receiving threatening calls asking for his apology

to the doctor and to take down the post on social media immediately, she further added. Dr. Rachandra's wife has reportedly met Meitram Sanatomba on 6th July to work out the issue following which an amicable solution was reached, and the post on facebook was removed soon after. But Dr. Rachandra is alleged to have persisted and started threatening the next day on 7th July 2020, leaving Sanatomba not only stigmatized after being

labeled a drug addict but also traumatized by the threatening calls. Subsequent medical examination of Sanatomba at RIMS Psychiatry Department by Dr. Lenin and Dr. Gojendra after he complained of sleeplessness, fearfulness, hallucination, diagnosed him of suffering from Phobic anxiety. Meitram Sanatomba said that he had approached the Medical Superintendent and the Director, RIMS regarding the incident.

Dr. Rachandra threatens to sue Imphal Times if publish the story

IT News
Imphal, July 18:

In connection with the allegation leveled by Meitram Sanatomba against Dr. Rachandra of RIMS, Imphal Times contacted him to make his statement in connection with the allegation. What is more shocking is that the Doctor while responding to Imphal Times over the phone told

this newspaper not to publish such a story and threaten to take up sue motto defamation case if publish the item. Imphal Times requested to tell his side of the story even after he threatened this newspaper. He said the confrontation as reported in this newspaper was not between Meitram Sanatomba and him but with his junior PG student Ishwurmurti. He said that he only tried to

settle the matter. While saying this story of his side the doctor threaten to sue if publish the story three times (Imphal Times have audio recording of the conversation with the doctor). The doctor however said that he was only telling to sue him and not Imphal Times when Imphal Times welcome him if wanted to sue this paper for reporting the incident.

Manipur's 4 Ministers met JP Nadda

IT News
Imphal, July 18:

The four important BJP Ministers who had left Imphal for New Delhi yesterday evening soon, after their arrival at New Delhi met National President of the BJP JP Naddu yesterday. The four Minister reportedly discussed about various issues of Manipur, a report said.

One Tockay Gecko rescued and released at Kakching Forest Reserve

IT News
Imphal, July 18:

One mid-sized Tockay Gecko (*Gekko gekko*) a prized possession in the commercial black market of South-east Asia due to its alleged medicinal properties was released at Kakching Forest Reserve by the forest officials. The reptile was rescued by forest officials from the courtyard of one Kshetrimayum Chourajit of Kakching Laitagol Leikai in the evening after it started cackling in a loud noise



scaring the family members and later reported for fear of being captured and sale by

people. N.Munal Meitei, Range Forest Officer, while releasing the reptile said, there is no scientific proof for claims that the animal can cure diseases like AIDS, Hepatitis etc. He further urged people not to kill wild animals and inform forest officials when they venture into residential area. It may be mentioned that Tockay Gecko is listed under Schedule IV of Wild life protection Act, 1972 and capturing or killing of the reptile will invite 3 years jail term or Rs 25,000 fine or both.

ADGP Arvind Kumar Sinha shoots self at his official quarter; critically injured

IT News
Imphal, July 18:

The Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) ADGP of Manipur, Arvind Kumar Sinha in a likely suicide attempt shoots himself at his official quarter at 1st MR Complex here in Imphal today. The top police official has now been rushed to ICU ward of Raj Medicity and



reportedly used his service gun and shoots himself at his official quarter at 1 PM today. Preliminary police investigations have revealed that the senior police official had shot himself on his chin and the bullet pierced his skull. Police are looking into the incident and efforts are on to ascertain the cause of the likely suicide attempt.

Delhi-Mumbai expressway— Chinese companies bids rejected

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 18:

In keeping with India's policy to retaliate China, with wallet, instead of bullet, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has rejected the bids for a Rs. 800 crore project, from two Chinese

companies that emerged as the lowest bidders for the upcoming Delhi-Mumbai expressway.

The bids were regarding two stretches of the upcoming expressway. However two Chinese companies were denied letters of award. Now the contracts will be offered to the second-lowest bidders, if their bids match the Chinese companies. The two companies were subsidiaries of "Jiangxi Construction Engineering Corporation". The bids were rejected on issues of security clearances, officials here said.

The move comes after Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that Chinese companies would be barred from highway projects. He said that they would not be allowed even as joint

ventures.

Indian Railways had also recently cancelled a Rs 471 crore signalling contract awarded in 2016, to Beijing National Railway Research & Design Institute of Signal & Communication. The company was working on signalling and telecommunication work in the 417-km long Kanpur-Deen Dayal Upadhyay section. The decision was reportedly taken as the company had completed only 20 per cent of the total work.

These announcements have come after the India-China clash in the Galwan Valley that resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers. India has already banned 59 Chinese apps, including "TikTok", "UC Browser", "Shein" over security concerns after the border clash.

Art & Culture Minister Felicitates Film Maker, Amar Maibam

DIPR
Imphal, July 18:

Art & Culture Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh has facilitated film maker Amar Maibam on winning best international film award, Liberation Docfest, Bangladesh, 2020.

Speaking at the felicitation occasion Minister Jayantakumar said that winning such award at the very early age by Amar Maibam is indeed a landmark in the history of Manipuri Cinema. The film 'Highway of Life' depicts the hardships faced by drivers and handymen during their journey on the National highways of the state. It also reveals the true pictures meted out on the highways with a message to the public, he added.

He said that it is just a beginning of Amar's career in film. There is a long way he

has to cover in his film career. The remaining part of Amar's film career will be filled with lot of success if he continues working in this line with strong determination and dedication, minister added.

Arts Steam topper Khomdram Menaka Devi of Kwakeithel Moirangpurrel and Irengbam Thoingamba Meitei, of Khagempalli Pankha, Ningom Leirak, Imphal West who stood 13th position in Science Stream in the 10+2, exam, 2020, conducted by Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) were also felicitated by the minister. Six months' honorarium of the agents of the Keishamthong Assembly Constituency were also distributed to the agents by the minister as a part of the occasion.

On the occasion P. Premila Devi, Corporator Ward No. 12, Imphal Municipal Council and other local leaders were also attended.

Mobile manufacturing firms shifting their base to India; Good response to PM's Rs 41,000-crore PLI scheme

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 18:

Days after reports of Apple supplier 'Foxconn' planning to expand its facilities in India, another iPhone manufacturer 'Pegatron' is also planning to set up its plant in Chennai, the reports stated. The product lines of Pegatron, a Taipei-based electronic manufacturing behemoth, include notebooks, netbook computers, desktop computers, game consoles, handheld devices, motherboards, video cards, LCD TVs, as well as broadband communication products such as smartphones, set-top boxes

and cable modems. 'Pegatron' will be the fourth partner of Apple to set its footprint in India after 'Foxconn', 'Wistron', and 'Compal Electronics'. At present, only 'Foxconn' and 'Wistron' assemble iPhones in India. 'Foxconn', the Taiwan-based company has registered its India subsidiary in Chennai and is planning to expand its base in India. It assembles iPhones in a factory in Sriperumbudur near Chennai and has plans to invest \$1 billion in its plant, located at about 50 kilometres from Chennai. The expansion is expected to create over 6,000 skilled jobs. It also has a plant

in Andhra Pradesh's "Sri City" where it manufactures smart phones for Chinese company "Xiaomi Corp" and others. Another Taiwanese manufacturer "Wistron", which makes for Apple exclusively, already has a factory in Bangalore (Karnataka). "Winston" has also announced its expansion plan with an initial investment of Rs 2,000 crore and increase the manpower up to 20,000 (10 times compared to existing capacity). The plans by electronic manufacturing giants, is in response to a Rs 41,000-crore productivity linked incentive (PLI) package (Atmanirbhar),

recently announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to make India a major production hub for exporting mobile phones. Under PLI, an electronic company has the potential to get an incentive of around Rs 7,500 crore if it scales up production to worth about Rs 1.5 lakh crore over next five years. The firms can apply till 31 July and the announcement of the selected companies will be made by early August. Five global and five local companies will be selected initially for the scheme. "Foxconn" and "Winston" are said to have applied under PLI. Besides, other major global players in the mobile

manufacturing including South Korean "Samsung" and Singapore-based "Flextronics" are also expected to submit their applications for the PLI scheme soon. Also Indian companies like "Lava", "Dixon Technologies" and "Karbonn" have also applied for the scheme so far. The government expects to generate manufacturing revenue potential of Rs 10 lakh crore and create direct and indirect jobs for 20 lakh people by 2025 through these schemes. India is looking as a base to manufacture and export, essentially diversifying its production out of China.

★ Editorial

4 BJP Ministers' visit to Delhi: Is there an agenda to replace CM?

If what the four BJP cabinet Ministers who had left Imphal for New Delhi yesterday evening after meeting the governor of Manipur Dr. Nazma Heptulla turns out to be what some media and political analyst of the state, not only Chief Minister N. Biren Singh but the whole organizational set up of the BJP, which is the largest political party in the world, is going to be in deep trouble here in the state of Manipur. A change of guard in the present coalition regime led by the BJP will only weaken the party's strategies while preparing for the much awaited by-election after the disqualification of some MLAs under the 10th Scheduled of the Indian Constitution and also for the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election which is just about one and half years left from now.

The four top profile Ministers who are from the BJP in the coalition government, before leaving Imphal had stated that their visit is not related to change of Chief Minister. Each of them termed news report about the four Minister lobbying and camping for change of Chief Minister as a bunch of irrational speculations, all the four Minister said while talking to media at Imphal Airport before leaving for New Delhi. One among the Minister also said that their visit to New Delhi is to meet the central leaders and to consult for the strengthening of the BJP led coalition government in the state. Every political analyst knows that politicians speak only some part of the truth and hide most of the real agenda most of the time. However, if one analyzes the earlier revolt for change of Chief Minister where none of the MLAs or Ministers who were in the dissident camp refused to talk to the press, the four Ministers clearly expressed the press on the reason for their visit.

Political drama in the post-Rajya Sabha Election is worth analyzing and there may be some sort of differences between the 4 BJP Ministers and Chief Minister who were the only BJP representatives to hold Ministerial portfolios in the coalition government. The move of the four BJP Ministers cannot be simply taken as stated by them, but there are reasons to believe that these four Ministers may have other agenda as they have stated one very important line – "propose of our visit is to strengthen the government under the BJP".

Imphal Times, had carried a news report about the crippling in the functioning of the Manipur Pradesh BJP, with some hardcore BJP men and women expressing apprehension in fighting either the By-election or the General election as the party has not still appointed any office bearers. Newly elected President of the BJP Manipur Pradesh while talking to Imphal Times however had stated that he had directed all the former office bearers to continue their service until new office bearers have been appointed.

The political crisis and the race for Chief Ministerial post in addition to the failure to restructure the BJP Manipur Pradesh and in addition to these serious allegations against Chief Minister N. Biren Singh about his nexus between drug lords and him by a decorated police officer have made every observer thinking beyond what the politicians (4 BJP Ministers) had stated to press before leaving Imphal.

And this time no other Ministers from other ally political parties with the government had accompanied the four ministers, which showed that something beyond calculation or speculation may likely happen soon.

Saying so, change of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at this crucial hour will only sabotage the strength of the BJP in Manipur and this is well understood by the Central BJP leaders.

Google helps on Transforming Education

"Technology alone will not improve education, but it can be a powerful part of the solution" - Sundar Pichai



By - Kamal Baruah

A decade and a half ago, Bill Gates' owns a mansion in Washington which is a technological masterpiece for its design that contains even like a rare manuscript of Leonardo Da Vinci with a high tech sensor system that indeed grabbed attention to the world. India is keen on developing a Digital India only in 2015 for every Indian to access internet without any hassles. Not long ago, prior to the data revolution from the Jio Effect, people were looking for free zone WiFi connectivity. I never wondered my compact 2BHK would soon fall a virtual home someday. The prolong lockdown made things goggling around.

Our home seemed to fall under school zone apart from household activities. While my 12th standard daughter goes on to communicate online coaching platforms such as Gmail, Google Classroom, Meets and Chat through G Suite endlessly, my better half is also facing hard days to manage classroom through Assignments, Google Forms by collaborating Docs, Slides, Sheets and Drive. Teachers / students are made to fall in with the line of virtual media for the entire day. And I am too confined at the living room with my Laptop enabling Wi-Fi around and keying some write ups. Interestingly our little one 'Tikla' a Kindergarten is also using digital

devices that got addicted to every time the smartphone gets a notification sound from WhatsApp, where a class is taught virtually to toddlers. They choose YouTube channels to pick their ideal playmate. It really kept kids so entertained and learned without realizing.

We live in cybernetic world nowadays. Ed-tech is the latest buzzword in the education sector. But there are challenges from primary to secondary level to integrate online learning programmes because they are huge in volumes across the country to connect gradually. It would

availability of broadcasting channels Gyan Darshan, Diksha and Swayam Prabha TV, the Ministry of HRD has recently announced the launch of one class, one DTH channel plan for students of class 1st to 12th with the expertise agencies like the NCERT and the CBSE to develop content and broadcast absolutely free of charge. To explore the option for higher education, All India Radio platform is planned to broadcast academic content through the radio as well. But teachers are in loggerhead to overcome that tectonic shift in teaching online. It

on science and research. Paradoxically, other state boards' teachers from elementary (5.8M) and secondary (2.1M) schools are not included and most of them are teaching in vernacular schools. There are over 240 million children enrolled in schools. The infrastructures of Primary and Secondary education under government run schools are pitey. A large number of students from rural India do not have access to a television, smartphone, laptop or internet. Denying class room education for them after a fear of pandemic would further deteriorate sharply.

It could be fulfilled over projectors on real time or later in downloadable format? Should India make Internet a fundamental right after right to education? It's a huge area for government to fulfil the demand as the online and blended learning models will continue in higher education. Oxford University online learning tools benefit students from WebLearn to iTunesU. As the world is moving towards digital education, IIT Madras has already launched an online BSc Degree course in Programming and Data Science. Other institutions should also adopt new thinking of virtual learning environment through Webinar.

To empower learning, teachers could play a key role to focus students with flexible, secure and easy-to-use tools. The tech giant Google made all tools for free and built for education to administer confidently. At the same time, excessive use of screen time activities could cause serious health effects for young minds. There are no easy solutions to overcome it. With technology imparted a great deal of knowledge to next generation with future skills, will this suited to improve education?



genuinely provide learners to transform lives and bridges the opportunity. In India equipped to transition from traditional classrooms to online learning?

Online learning seemed to have gained acceptance in urban areas despite issues like Internet penetration and bandwidth. Parents faced niggling challenges to provide online platforms to their wards. While on the other hand, Reliance Jio is preparing to welcome Made in India 5G solution, a large number of people still have no access to high-speed internet. On the other hand, the government aided educational institutions have not yet decided their future course of action to their curriculum. The developed countries have started online practicing to their day to day lives but India face mayhem to go digital. Besides the

required broad directions to follow plan, review, arrange, guide-talk, assign, track and appreciate etc. that requires scientific training and digital know-how.

Fortunately Google & Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai has come forward with a new \$10B digitization fund to help accelerate India's digital economy including education, consumer tech, health and agriculture. Google also announced a partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education to train 1 million teachers across 22,000 schools by the end of 2020. Also it would enable to train seven lakh teachers in India to deliver virtual education through TV and radio, where smartphones are not available. This would certainly help to transform India into a global knowledge superpower, with a focus

Mount Koubru: Its dying glory, and the way forward



By - Janghaolun Haokip

When mountains, once glorious of its rich vegetation, stand and remain depleted, we all know where we are heading towards.

Koubru is one such mountain. As one treks to its peak, most of the vegetation one can find are grasses and bushes; and trees, especially big and tall, have become a rare sight. In addition, one can find small to bigger landslides all along the way to the peak particularly during monsoon. Indeed, the once glorious mountain has but become a victim of human ignorance, and is now therefore but a dying beauty.

It is true that Mount Koubru was glorious. Apart from its rich wildlife, it is also a great religious and cultural significance to the people of Manipur. According to the Meities, Mount Koubru is the abode of *Lainingthou Koubru* and other *Meitei Manipuri deities*. With it, it is also believed to be the most visited pilgrimage sites in Manipur. Meanwhile, it is also stated that it has been the source of livelihood for the Kukis settling in its

foothills since the time well before the British conquest of India. On the other hand, the Nagas too also settle in the foothills of the mountain.

Why and how has Mount Koubru come to its ruins?

Certain reasons may be pointed out of how this once glorious beauty has sadly come to meet its dying days:

The foremost reason is the traditional *Jhum* cultivation. The Kukis called it "Thinghaang-lei" and is and has been their primary practice for food sustenance, contextually for those settling in its foothills. This practice of *Jhum* cultivation is also known as *slash and burn* agriculture, and it involves the cutting and burning of plants in a forest to create a field for cultivation of various crops from food-grains to vegetables. Consequently, due to constant exploitation in a time-span of over more than a century the mountain range has not only become infertile but has also been devoid of trees that once flourished in its ranges.

Apart from it, pollution from plastic waste is another important factor leading to the dying beauty of Mount Koubru. Every year, and all the year round, the mountain has passionate visitors because of its beauty. While there are many who are strictly on a pilgrimage to offer worship, there are also many others who are basically trekking for the joy of adventure.

Unfortunately, few of these trekkers often leave behind large amounts of plastics and food wastes scattered along the way and at the peak. These wastes are detrimental to both the plants and the soil as they are non-biodegradable and hence remain as pollutants, polluting both the soil and the beauty of the peak.

The construction of a motorable road is also another factor in the decline in the area of forest land. A construction at such difficult terrain involves higher machinery works that proves adverse in its entirety. While it may facilitate easy trekking, it exploits the virginity of the mountain. Other factors may include cutting trees for firewood and the Kuki's traditional style of hunting that involves burning large areas of land.

Immediate and long-term impacts: Due to these reasons, the mountain now stands only as a structure completely exploited. The trees that once stood tall with its shadows dark and deep have long vanished in the hands of mankind's survival instincts. Consequently, as one explores the mountain, one can see that it lies barren, dry and infertile, with bushes as its only vegetation. The decreasing fertility of the soil, on the other hand, had naturally prompted the use of fertilisers which is harmful to both plant and animal life, and more importantly to human health. The land has indeed slowly come to lose its boon and beauty and may become but a source of disaster as large landslides or sudden flooding especially during monsoon.

The soil has become loose without trees to hold it together, and it appears that the land could slide at any

moment and cause great amounts of hardships to the people. One may remember the Keithelmanbi incident where a major landslide occurred and caused great havoc to the people and the state. Furthermore, in a few years from now, besides sudden flooding and major landslides, water scarcity except during monsoon may become a crucial issue to tackle. The decreasing quality of air and the variation in weather conditions is also a cause of concern.

Save Mount Koubru
Mount Koubru has been devastated and been robbed of its beauty and being. But it has become clearer every day that it cannot stand like this but be restored to its youth and glory. This is because the range not only affects its foothills but the entire state, and otherwise it may cause greater hardships to the people and the administration alike. Afforestation and reforestation are therefore requisites. Besides, efforts and vigilance to revive and safeguard the vegetation has become a must to bring back the mountain to its glory. Moreover, in order to save the mountain, the mechanisms leading to its devastation must be deliberately checked and addressed. While it is true that the deterioration is primarily due to *Jhumming* or *Thinghaang-lei* by the people settling in its foothills, one cannot entirely blame the people alone. Subsequently, this can also be viewed as an economical drawback of the state in failing to provide means for the livelihood of the people. As such, if the state may provide financial assistance in forms of job opportunities or other forms of



A view of Imphal Valley from the foothills of Mount Koubru

skill management, the issue of exploitation may be effectively addressed. It is therefore imperative for concerned societies and individuals to step up to change the course of the future of the mountain. SGAYO and its benevolent effort. Fortunately, the Saitu Gamphazol Area Youth Organisation (SGAYO), the youth wing of Saitu Gamphazol, an area in the foothills of Mount Koubru, has recently stepped up to stand out and offer benevolent service to revive and safeguard Mount Koubru. Apart from organising online workshops for the people in the area on the impacts of environmental pollution, and the importance of afforestation and reforestation, the organisation has also conducted field review that may facilitate planning and implementation. The organisation's objective is to repay what had been provided in several forms by planting saplings and maintaining cleanliness in the foothills to the peak. It is also learnt that the organisation earnestly

urges trekkers to be responsible and help the organisation in reviving and safeguarding Mount Koubru. The degrading Environment and the way forward

It is not only Mount Koubru today, but environmental degradation and pollution has become a concern all throughout the world. It is one of the most crucial issues that have brought the world leaders and intellectuals into several talks and conferences in trying to find a way to cope with the rising environmental issues.

However, the issues have until now remain a far cry. It is therefore all the more imperative for us, as responsible individuals, to contribute as much as we can, towards safeguarding our environment and making possible a sustainable world for our future generations. *Because the existence of mankind would be lost as specks in the vastness of the universe if we do not realise now the urgency and necessity to save and conserve our Environment.*

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