

PM to lay Foundation Stone for Manipur Water Supply Project on 23rd July 2020

IT News

Imphal, July 22:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation Stone for Manipur Water Supply Project on 23rd July 2020 through video conferencing. The Governor, Chief Minister of Manipur and his cabinet colleagues, MPs and MLAs are expected to join the program from Imphal. Government of India initiated the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide safe and adequate quantity drinking water to every rural household of the country by 2024 with the motto "Har Ghar Jal". The programme also implement

source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting. The Jal Jeevan Mission is based on a community approach to water and has extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key components of the mission. It looks to create a Jan Andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority. There are about 19 crore households in India. Only 24% have Freshwater Household Tap Connections

(FHTCs). The Mission aims to provide 14, 33, 21,049 households with FHTC through partnership of all stakeholders including inter alia the State governments, Panchayat Raj Institutions and local communities. Government of India has provided funds under Jal Jeevan Mission to Manipur for FHTCs to cover 1,185 habitations with 1, 42,749 households. Government of Manipur has planned to cover the remaining households through additional sources of funding including funds from Department for North

Eastern Region.

An externally funded project, the Manipur Water Supply project was designed to provide FHTCs to remaining households in Greater Imphal Planning area, 25 Towns and for 1,731 rural habitations covering 2,80,756 households in 16 Districts of Manipur. Manipur Water Supply Project is an important component of efforts of the State government to achieve the goal of *Har Ghar Jal* by 2024. The project outlay is about Rupees 3054.58 Crores with a loan component funded by New Development Bank.

Two journalists provided financial assistance under MSJWS



DIPR

Imphal, July 22:

Financial assistance under the Manipur State Journalists Welfare Scheme (MSJWS), Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur was provided to 2(two) journalists, today, in a simple function held at DIPR Office Complex, Nityaipat Chuthek, Imphal. The two journalists availing the benefits of the scheme are Rinku Khumukcham, Editor, Imphal Times and L. Hauchinlian, Reporter, Manipur Express. They were provided assistance amounting to Rs. 50,000/- each for medical treatment. T. Ramesh Singh, Deputy Director, Press, DIPR and L. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director (HQ), DIPR handed over the cheques to the beneficiaries. The scheme was launched formally on 30th June, 2017 at City Convention Centre,

Imphal by the Chief Minister as part of important programme of the new Government's 100 day's achievement. For the scheme, the Government made a contribution of Rs. 10,00,00,000/- (Rupees ten Crores) towards the Corpus Fund of the Manipur State Journalists Welfare Scheme on 5th May, 2017. The Scheme provides one time financial/medical assistance to Journalists and their families. The assistance available under the scheme is upto Rs 2.00 lakh, provided to the family under extreme hardship on account of death of the journalist, upto Rs 2.00 lakh provided to the journalist in case of permanent disability rendering the journalist incapable of earning a livelihood, upto Rs 1.00 lakh provided towards the cost of treatment of major ailments such as cancer, renal failure, heart ailments requiring by-

pass/open heart surgery, angioplasty, brain haemorrhage and paralytic attack, any of the ailments which is permissible for full re-imbursement under the medical re-imbursement facility of the Government. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc. However, relief under this provision is available to the journalist only upto the age of 60 years and upto Rs 50,000 may be provided in case of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc. So far, fifteen (15) media persons have availed financial assistance under the scheme since its launch.

Panic buying begins

IT News

Imphal, July 22:

With the state government likely to enforce total lockdown for more 14 days after the COVID-19 Pandemic spread far and wide across the state particularly in Thoubal district, people started panic buying of essential commodities particularly the petroleum products. Petrol pump at many places here in Imphal saw long queue of both four wheeler and two wheeler vehicles. The situation of the COVID-19 crisis is becoming serious in the last couple of days with people who have no travel history were tested positive. At Lilong and many parts of Thoubal district people who have no travel history were tested positive and even staffs of health service center like RIMS have been detected with the virus when tested. Govt. may take some stringent lockdown measure to break the chain for spread of the virus.

Staffs suspect COVID-19 reaching at MU A-Block

IT News

Imphal, July 22:

Some staffs of the Manipur University Administrative Block expressed apprehension about Coronavirus reaching the block after a person working as peon whose mother has been tested COVID-19 positive attended that office without informing to either the MU authority or his colleague. While on the other hand a staff of the DIPR posted at Ukhrul district has been reportedly advice for quarantined after a member of

his family got infected with the virus. DIPR staffs said that the person once visited at the account section some days back but had not attended at the head office other than that day. However, some staffs opines testing of those whom he contracted on that day. So far the account section of the DIPR have not been sanitized and no precautionary measures were seen taken up at Manipur University A-Block till the filing of the story. The past few days witness probable transmission of the novel coronavirus at

community level at Thoubal district with the number of people infected by the virus rise among the people who have no travel history. The way many people get infected by the virus showed that the spread of the virus is now beyond lateral transmission. And the peon working as peon at the Administrative Block is from Thoubal district and his mother has been tested positive, a report said. The person however had stopped attending office since yesterday and he has been reportedly advice for testing.

New Security Barrack inaugurated at RIMS

IT News

Imphal, July 22:

Director of RIMS, Prof. A. Santa Singh, today inaugurated newly constructed Security Barrack at near Type III RIMS Quarter Complex. This newly inaugurated Security Barrack will be able to accommodate the civil security personnel and could control the

movement of un-authorized or anti-social people to the quarter complex. There were many incidents of thefts in the quarter complex, snatching of valuable items from the staffs while returning from duty. By inauguration of this Barrack, such incidents will be solved to the certain extend. Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh, Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, RIMS officials,



Engineers and Manipur Security Services officials were present during the inauguration.

'Duck Farming: An effective tool for socio-economic upliftment of people'

IT News

Imphal, July 22

Cooperation Minister, Smt. Nemcha Kipgen today attended the National Workshop on Entrepreneurship Development through Duck Farming in a video conference through Zoom Webinar at the official residence of the Minister. Delivering an inaugural message, Minister Smt Nemcha Kipgen while welcoming all the participants, highlighted that duck farming is fast becoming an effective tool for socio-economic upliftment of people engaged in poultry farming. It is a very good income generating occupation as it can be reared by marginal farmers and women farmers, she asserted. This workshop is a significant step towards popularizing duck farming as an effective means for increasing the farmer's income thereby improving their livelihood, Minister stated. Nemcha further stressed that in Manipur, duck farming has good potential for growth in the state. With the arrangement of much needed technical and financial

support, it can become a good income generating occupation in poultry sector. She stated that entrepreneurship development is the need of the hour for socio-economic growth of these duck farming SHGs or cooperatives. She also mentioned that such initiative is in the right direction in the endeavor to achieve the goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' under the able leadership and guidance of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Cooperation Minister also expressed gratitude to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for sanctioning Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure (AMI) project and approving pisciculture project in Four Districts of Manipur namely Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching and Bishnupur as well as piggy project in Kangpokpi district. It is jointly organised by NCDC, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, ICAR, Government of India, Government of Kerala, Government of Bihar, Government of Goa and Government of Manipur.

IJU Concern killing of UP Journalist Vikram Joshi and 2 Fresh Cases of Assault on Journalists

IT News

New Delhi, July 22:

The Indian Journalists Union expresses serious concern over killing of Vikram Joshi of Jana Sagar Today and two other fresh cases of attacks involving journalists in past 48 hours -columnist, blogger and environmentalist Rajiv Nayan Bahuguna in Uttarakhand, and Dilnawaz Pasha of BBC, both in Uttar Pradesh. In UP, notorious for attacks against journalists, Vikram Joshi who succumbed to his injuries on the morning of Wednesday was shot in the head at Ghaziabad on Sunday night by some men, following

his filing a police complaint regarding his niece being harassed by a group of men. Joshi was travelling with his two daughters on his motorcycle when he was assaulted and fired upon. The incident has been captured on CCTV and police have arrested nine, including three main accused. However, as the police failed to act promptly on Joshi's complaint against the group of men, an inquiry has been ordered and police station in-charge and Sub-Inspector suspended with immediate effect. Son of environmentalist Padmayibhushan Sunder Lal Bahuguna, Rajiv Nayan who is critical of BJP and RSS on

his FaceBook account, was attacked by goons after he complained about getting threatening calls lately. In his FB post, his face is swollen and left eye bruised and he has accused the RSS for the attack stating he is 'not afraid of them, would continue to carry out his campaign against them.' Bahuguna is associated with *Nav Bharat Times*, *Dinman*, *Hindustan Hindi*, *Outlook* and other national dailies and periodicals and had joined his father's movement against construction of Tehri Dam in the State. In another incident, BBC correspondent Dilnawaz Pasha did face ire of cops, who were 'initially not aware of his

identity'. In his Facebook account, Pasha says he had gone to Bahjoi police station, Sambhal district to gather information of an individual detained. He did so in his 'individual capacity' and didn't disclose he was BBC correspondent. The moment he started asking questions, the cops snatched his phone, detained him for six hours and 'misbehaved' with him. However, once they saw his identity card, they 'sought forgiveness' and when top administration learnt of the incident, they contacted him and asked him to file a case/complaint against the policemen. But he has chosen not to do so.

In a statement, IJU President and former Member, Press Council of India Geetarth Pathak and Secretary General and IFJ Vice President Sabina Inderjit said there's no letting up on journalists being targeted and demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of Vikram Joshi and a severest punishment for Joshi's killers and attacks on Bahuguns. IJU leaders also urged that police be sensitized against harassing citizens and journalists, as Pasha's case reveals. The IJU fears that increasing attacks on media freedom and media rights in the country will endanger democracy and make space for authoritarian forces.

★ Editorial

When the virus starts attacking in wide range

"Whether we die of COVID-19 or end our life out of hunger, it does not make any differences", an antonym of many preconceived mind who live on hand to mouth when preoccupied to learned people who are actively taking part in combating the pandemic will only lead to catastrophe. When circumstances evidences show the dreaded virus spreading at community level here in the state, people panic but hopes stir with the recovery rate of those infected person reaching over 68%. Fortunate for the state that there has been not even a single case of death and the credit goes to the health workers and their associates, no to be left aside other frontline workers.

The recent case of one hospital staff working as attendant at RIMS reverted the trust that people slowly perceived after witnessing the sacrificial spirit and the extraordinary skills of all staffs in handling or say in providing treatment to the people affected by the virus. It is natural that when a staff of a hospital gets infected with the virus and had been attending duty until checked and tested after showing symptom, people will presume the virus has started spread at community level. The more danger will be on the news about tracing the place of spread at Hospital and that too when happen at a hospital like RIMS or JNIMS. Saying so undermining the credential of the hospital just because a 56 years old lady working as attendant was tested positive at RIMS will be wrong. However, perception about the health care center as another hotspot will not be wrong as details information on how she contracted the virus has not been revealed to public.

Ethical bindings may tight the hands of those authorities in revealing the details, but then concealing the details also creates fear psychosis to the people. As rumours spread faster than the wild fire, timely revelation of how persons with no travel history and particularly those working in health sector got contracted with the virus and from where is the need of the hour.

On July 16, a division bench of the Manipur High Court had directed to let every people knows the details about how COVID-19 has been combating by various agencies of the state. The directives of the High Court however did not mention anything on whether the details of those tested positive with novel Coronavirus should be made public or not, but logics says that people will be safer disclosing the details including the history of those infected by the virus.

Now, the general OPD of RIMS along with other department that the lady attendant had visited has been closed till July 26 and almost all those whom she contacted including doctors are to be tested for the virus. It is fortunate that the Superintendent of RIMS while talking to Imphal Times narrated on why the lone attendant is tested for the virus when many other working at the hospital have not been tested. On mere suspicion about other staffs of the hospital infected by the virus if the one has been tested positive, Dr. Arun, the Superintendent of RIMS said that she was tested after she showed symptoms of the COVID-19. Before testing, she has been treated by the doctor where she has been assigned as she also has diabetes. Dr. Arun further told that the department of Community Medicine RIMS has been tracking her record and there is a possibility that she contracted the virus from outside the RIMS premises. This, Sr. Arun presumed as she had a dinner together with the pradhan of Moijing who was tested with the virus some days back.

The total lockdown being announced in Thoubal district perhaps would not have been required had the authority revealed the details of those tested positive with the virus. At least the large scale transmission being taken place could have been stopped if information about who are infected or not has been systematically let known to the public.

Point wanted to bring to the notice of those concern government authority combating the COVID-19 is that, the war against COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Strict regulations as per SOPs issued by the government have not been fully enforced. Patients, staffs or any outsiders are not checked before entering the hospital (almost every). Shops are open without taking up measures to prevent spread of the virus, traffic are jammed with no persons following the SOPs.

Is it because that people started thinking that 'to die by the virus or to end life out of hunger makes no difference', a matter the government authority need to ponder and make clarification that dying by the virus will eliminate the entire community when hunger can be tolerated to make sure that the virus is defeated.

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Politics of delimitation over different communities in Manipur

By - Joyshree Heisnam

The recent move of the central government to reactivate delimitation exercise for Manipur along with some other states has got mixed reactions. The move has caused a hullabaloo in the Imphal valley dominated by Meitei community while many communities in the hill welcome it, though. The hill and the valley have socio-cultural differences and that often are reflected in politics. Many a time, they have opposing political aspirations which can be observed on how the two sides see delimitation from their respective perspectives. Such a process tends to facilitate democratic processes but has various implications on electoral politics, emotional integrity of the state.

Election in representative democracy plays an important role in upholding citizens' right to equality and freedom of choice. Everyone who has fulfilled the constitutionally given criteria has the, "right to vote" and the, "right to contest", in elections or the right, "to be represented", and the right, "to represent". The whole country is divided into electoral constituencies but population is unevenly distributed across the constituencies. The constitution envisions for equal number of people to be represented by equal number of representatives. Under article 82 of the constitution parliament is empowered to enact delimitation act after every census. Upon the enactment of the act, the union government shall set up "Delimitation Commission", a high power independent body. The major objective of the commission is to readjust the territorial boundaries of constituencies so as to provide equal representation to equal segments of population as far as practical. Besides that the body is tasked to identify seats to be reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in regions where their population is relatively large.

Delimitation is a politically and socially sensitive issue. It is found to be controversial on several accounts. As per the constitution delimitation has to be carried out after every census but failed to do so. In the past Delimitation commission has been set up only 4 times. The reasons were largely political though the debate went around furtherance of certain socio-economic policies, mainly "family planning". In other words the contention was over "political control" rather than "population control". The decadal population growth has not been uniform across the states. If readjustment of seats, to be precise parliamentary seats, is to be done after every census states that are successful in family planning programs including Punjab and southern states are likely to lose some of their shares. While states with high fertility rate like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, are probably getting their share increased considerably. To settle the dust and also given the urgent need of population stabilization the then government in 1976 amended the constitution to freeze the seats for both the parliament and state assemblies till 2001 which was further extended to 2026. Again the issue arising out of this is that the freeze would amount to denial of equal voice in democratic process because many people happen to be living in high population growth, without concerning the possibility that many of them might be successful in achieving family planning goals. Nevertheless, losing seats simply because some states have lesser population would also tantamount to injustice. Such a dilemma is inherent with delimitation process.

Another issue with delimitation is the apprehension among opposition parties regarding the likelihood of the Commission getting influenced by the ruling parties. It could be in the manner of gerrymandering where delimitation may facilitate inclusion or exclusion of some segments where some parties would have an edge over the others in elections. It could happen on ethnic or communal line, bolstering the identity politics: Caste-ism and communal politics. The diverse Indian society is vulnerable to such politics and also become a cause of concern in nation building process.

As far as smaller states like Manipur are concerned, ensuring equal population across constituencies in all states would compromise the concept of equity in democracy. It means if we go by the book, least populated states might get no seat or one or two at maximum in the parliament. So an exception was made in the criteria for the composition for the House of People where the normal rule does not follow for state whose population does not exceed 6 million.

Though Manipur is small in terms of territory as well as population, it is ethnically a diverse state. Human settlement across the state is also uneven where the valley (10% of the geographical area) is hugely populated while the hill (90% of the geographical area) is sparsely populated. The valley is largely inhabited by Meitei (general), Muslim and some tribal communities, and the hill, by the tribes who are roughly categorized as Nagas and Kukis. There has been trust deficit among the communities. Delimitation has become a hectic task in the state. Delimitation for Manipur under Delimitation act 2002 was deferred due to security reasons and the discrepancies in 2001 census. The presence of insurgency left the law and order of the state un conducive for normal working of the Delimitation Commission. Moreover there was a hue and cry against the faulty and defective 2001 census of Manipur. In some of the sub-divisions in hill districts the decennial population was found to be abnormal. The Guwahati High court ordered the deferment of delimitation of Manipur until the 2001 census was rectified. Meanwhile the status-quo with regard to delimitation in the 60 assembly and 2 Lok Sabha constituencies shall be maintained. Accordingly the Registrar General of India and the census commissioner cancelled the 2001 census report of 3 sub-divisions, namely Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district. However, so far any conclusive action has not been followed up.

Following the announcement on 28th February 2020, the union government has set up a Delimitation Commission. The commission will delimit the territorial boundaries of constituencies of Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of the Delimitation act, 2002 which was based on 2001 census. As per the act readjustment will be done within the existing 2 Lok Sabha and 60 assembly constituencies without affecting the number of seats.

The hill people from the tribal communities welcome the delimitation. In 2001 census the hill districts experienced huge decadal population growth (above national average). The deferment of delimitation in the state has caused under representation of the hill population (20 seats in the state assembly). If went by the number, on average one MLA from the hill

represents more than 60,000 people as compared to one MLA from the valley representing around 40,000 people. In their views, under representation could have been a reason for underdevelopment in the hill districts. Delimitation is a positive step for them. While ensuring equal representation in all the constituencies, the hill districts may gain some seats. The possible increased seats are likely to be reserved ones as hills are majorly inhabited by tribes. Parity in representation is likely to bring parity in development as compared to the

valley. The reason behind their advocacy for the urgent need of delimitation is not for just "few leaders representing large population" but also "few leaders representing large geographical areas". Assembly constituencies in the hill are as large as 1000 square kilometers while many valley constituencies are as small as 50 square kilometers. There must be shortfall in funds allocated per constituency in the hill. For instance an MLA in the hill has to manage his or her Local Area Development Fund which is same to that of an MLA in the valley representing small area.

The outer Lok Sabha constituency is reserved for scheduled tribes. However due to insufficient population, 8 assembly segments from the valley were included in the outer constituency. The 8 segments are unreserved constituencies which mean people from there have the right to vote but not the right to contest in Lok Sabha elections. In the past, the 8 segments have played decisive role in Lok Sabha election. Neither Kukis or Nagas could not dictate the mandate by their own electorate. The candidates who addressed the issues of the valley voters were likely to succeed in the elections. However in 2001 census the hill population was large enough to exclude the 8 assembly segments from the outer Lok Sabha constituency. The growing population necessitated delimitation exercise. However, there have been historical ethnic conflicts in the hill and if fewer candidates contest in the hill there is chance of transforming election into communal politics i.e. Nagas vs Kukis. Yet for the people from valley in the 8 segments delimitation is a chance to restore their legal right to contest in Lok Sabha elections.

The valley people, mainly the Meitei communities and opposition political parties opposed the delimitation exercise. As the 2001 census figure of Manipur was found to be defective it would be irrational to conduct delimitation process on that basis. According to that census the valley witnessed a stable decennial population growth which was below the national average. Chances of losing seats in the state assembly are high for the valley if delimited as per the Delimitation act 2002. In other sense, population control is not compensated by political control but it is the opposite. So the valley advocates for deferment of delimitation until the 2001 census figure is rectified or a new census is conducted. Moreover, if seats are increased, the seats are probably reserved ones for scheduled tribes which mean the valley people would lose the right to contest in elections from that reserved constituencies. As of now, maintaining the status-quo is the best policy for the valley. Nevertheless even under normal circumstances delimitation happen to be a cumbersome task as it involves population, territory and electoral politics. Apart from birth and death, today migration plays an important role in population change which is

happening in cities and towns including Imphal valley. And so, geographically smaller constituencies in the valley are nullified by the increased population density which has become difficult in space management and basic goods and service delivery.

Delimitation is also a deal maker or a breaker for minority communities including Muslims and scheduled castes. Muslims or the Meitei - Pangals constitutes around 10 % of the total population of Manipur. They are lagging behind in many socio-economic indicators. They are scattered almost in every part of the valley sharing same constituencies with the Meitei communities where they failed to play a significant role in democratic process with the exception of few constituencies. Their numerical and religious status is transformed into political minority. In other words lack of voices in democratic platforms to address their issues could also be a reason to reinforce their historical backwardness.

Delimitation may have impacts on Muslims' electoral politics. If delimitation facilitates the formation of constituencies or inclusion of segments in constituencies with considerable Muslim population, the political strength of the Muslim community is possibly increased. If not their political power could be minimized. So in the upcoming delimitation exercise they demand for a membership from their community in the Delimitation Commission as an associate member in the hope of getting their interests protected. The scheduled castes, also backward communities in the state constitute around 3.5 % of the total population of the state. Likewise they are also a political minority with the exception of a reserved seat and in one or two constituencies. What they hope from the delimitation process is the increased reserved constituencies for scheduled castes so that their political interests are protected and their issues are addressed effectively.

With considerable population of scheduled tribes delimitation will always be a difficult task in Manipur even if done on the basis of correct census data. As per the 2002 delimitation act there is no readjustment in the number of seats. It means the total strength of the assembly will be 60 and delimitation has to be done within the existing seats. But the scheduled tribes population will increase under normal circumstances also and so they would demand for reserved seats. It cannot be possible without sacrificing some of the valley seats as the reserved seats have to be accommodated within the 60 seats. Accepting it by the valley people is far from reality.

Nevertheless, the main issue around delimitation in Manipur is the authenticity of census report. With the correct census data political dramas over delimitation could be handled effectively. The constitution sees everyone equally regardless of his or her caste, religion, sex, race etc. Every citizen has the equal right to vote and contest in elections regardless of his place of birth or residence, provided criteria are fulfilled. Failing to exercise or exercise in unequal terms this right because he or she happens to be living in high population growth areas is unjustifiable. Even the principle of "One vote, one value" would be compromised. And as census is concerned, technological adoptions and use of biometric data such as Aadhaar card etc would be more scientific and error free.



By:Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is an initiative by the government of India in which all farmers will get up to Rs.6000/- per year as minimum income support. The initiative was announced by Piyush Goyal during the 2019 interim union budget of India on 1st February 2019. The scheme will cost Rs.75,000 crore per annum and came into effect from December 2018. Rs.6000/- per year will be paid to each eligible farmer in three instalments and will be deposited directly to their bank accounts.

The scheme was first conceived and implemented by Government of Telangana as the Rythu Bandhu scheme, when certain amounts are given directly to the eligible farmers. The scheme has accolades from various organizations for its successful implementation, including World Bank. Many economists suggest that this type of investment support is better than loan waivers. With the positive outcome of this scheme, Government of India wanted to implement it as a nationwide project and it was announced in 2019 interim union budget on 1st February by Piyush Goyal. For 2018-2019, Rs.20,000/- crore was allocated under this scheme. For the year 2019-2020, the scheme has been revised to benefit nearly 2 crore beneficiaries by allocating Rs.75,000/- crore by central Government. On 24 February 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the scheme in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur by transferring the first instalment of Rs.2000/- each to over one crore farmers.

The objectives of the scheme are: (i) with a

PM-KISAN & Phantom Beneficiaries

view to augment the income of the small and marginal farmers (SMFs), the Government has launched a new central sector scheme namely "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)". (ii) The PM-KISAN scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the SMFs in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate fields commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of the each crop cycle (iii) This would also protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses in the farm activity. The eligibility criteria are: (i) in the database, the land owner's name, gender (ii) Social classification (ST/SC) (iii) Aadhaar number, bank account number and mobile number etc. (iv) land record details (v) Jan-Dhan Bank Account number, Aadhaar and mobile number will help in identifying eligible beneficiaries and incomplete claimants (vi) the scheme is sponsored by the Central government. Therefore the farmers have to be Citizens of the Country. The documents required for the registration are: citizenship certificate, landholding papers, Aadhaar card, and Bank Account details. The categories of higher economic status will not be eligible for benefit under the scheme like all Institutional Land holders, farmer family in which one or more of its member belong categories like: former and present holders of constitutional post; former and present Minister/state Minister and former or present member of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha/ state Assemblies/ state Legislative Council; former and present Mayors of Municipal Corporation; former and present chairpersons of District panchayats; all superannuated/retired persons whose monthly pensions is Rs.10,000/- or more. All serving or retired officers and employees of Central Government Ministries/ offices/Departments and its field units Central/State PSEs and attached offices/ autonomous Institutions under government as well as regular employee of local bodies. All persons who paid income tax in last assessment year and professionals like Doctors, Engineers Lawyers, Chartered Accountants and Architects.

Such a beautiful scheme of India Government for the welfare of Small and Marginal Farmers(SMFs), has been mired in controversy in Bishnupur District, Manipur, since names of non-existing villagers were found in the list of beneficiaries under 2018 PM-KISAN. Nodal officer of PM-KISAN, Bishnupur district however stated that some beneficiaries who are not residents of Khoijuman Khullen, Khoijuman Khunou(Kwashiphai) and Nachou, villages under Nachou Zila Parishad of Bishnupur Block were wrongly entered in the list of beneficiaries. Explaining in detail, the nodal officer stated that inclusion of beneficiaries from other districts/ villages was due to the "miss-match" of beneficiaries in the web portal as there were similar village names in different districts of our state. However, in the current case names of many Pangals (Muslims) have been found in the list of PM-KISAN beneficiaries of the above mention villages where not a single pangal (Muslim) family is existed. As such, there is a strong suspicion of some people committing gross manipulation. It is also reported from certain reliable sources that such fraudulent is found in other districts of Manipur too. One, interesting question arises after the clarification from nodal officer PM-KISAN of Bishnupur district that how come miss-match in the entry of beneficiaries name crop up though similar village names are there in our state? In the registration form it's clearly mention the name of the State, District, Sub-Division, Block, and Village No. Zilla Parishad, Gram Panchayat, PO & PS with Pin code of Post Office apart from personal information like Aadhaar, Pan Card, Mobile number and many other documents mandatory for the purpose. At the same time registration is done through respective district authority. If this is so then, how miss-match is possible? This Pandora box was first opened on 12th June 2020 by KYVO, (Kwashiphai Youths Volunteer Organisation) a very pro-active Organisation working to uphold the welfare of the people. Reacting to the clarification of nodal officer, on 14th June 2020, KYVO (Kwashiphai Youths Volunteer Organisation) said, the statement of nodal officer PM-KISAN,

Bishnupur District is a complete flirt, misleading the innocent farmers and unfounded. This seems to highlight that there are ghost beneficiaries in this PM-KISAN not only in Bishnupur District but also in the whole state. Members of KYVO also expressed that they have seen a little ray of positive hope that such fraudulent may be checked as honorable CM Shri N.Biren Singh has listened to the grievances of farmers and held a meeting on 8th July with the members of Bharatiya Kisan Sangha, Manipur Prant to curb the menace of ghost beneficiaries in PM-KISAN. Under the initiative of DC Bishnupur and Thoubal, eight persons involved in the malepractice were reported arrest. Three of them registered 933 ghost beneficiaries in Bishnupur district. The king pin is a person who was working at the Directorate of Agriculture who used State admin PM-KISAN login credentials to login at the PM-KISAN web portal. He allegedly created a fake profile of a person working as LDC at Bishnupur. The other five with his help registered 33,800 ghost beneficiaries in Thoubal & other Districts as reported by local media but as per the report of leading local dailies, five of them have been released on bail on 20th July by CJM Imphal west on the ground that the Counsels of the accused claimed that the evidence against their clients was baseless. Is it the right punitive punishment for such a heinous crime? This is not the end of the story rather just the beginning. Concern authorities need further combing exercise to nab many more such lice. It may be mentioned that the union agriculture ministry had recently asked the Assam government for a report and a probe into a potential fraud in PM-KISAN, which allowed non-farmers to get cash in the state as authorities halted further payments.

(The writer can be reached to: sjugheshwor7@gmail.com)

Students, Journalist and club member honoured on 5th Foundation day of Co-ordinating Body, Khurai



IT News
Imphal, July 22:

Co-ordinating Body, Khurai – a body of local clubs, Meira Paibis and Working class people of Khurai had celebrated its 5th Foundation day at its office premises located near Khurai Lamlong Bridge on Tuesday. As people across the world is facing COVID-19 Pandemic and to contain the spread of the virus Manipur government too has taken up certain measures in the state the apex local body celebrate the day by following the social distancing norms provided under SOPs framed by the state government.

As a part of the celebration 6 (six) meritorious students of Khurai area who included in the top 20 rank in the class XII examination conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary School Manipur (COHSEM) in Science, Arts and Commerce stream were honoured with citation and gifts. Besides, TV Journalist Nabakumar, who is working at TOM TV and recently beg the RK Sanatomba Journalist award and an active member of the co-ordinating body who had relentlessly work for the welfare of the people were also honoured as a mark of encouragement to their service.

SBI donates 350 PPE kits, 3 ventilators

IT News
Imphal, July 22,

State Bank of India (SBI) donated 350 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits and three ventilators to the State Government today. Officials of the nationalized bank handed over the equipments to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at Chief Minister's

Secretariat. Later, the Chief Minister handed over the PPEs and ventilators to JNIMS and RIMS. JNIMS Director Prof. Th. Bhimo and RIMS Director Prof. A. Shanta received the equipments from the Chief Minister. Proprietor of Medis & Co., Porompat Ayangpali, Shri Th. Sudhir also donated a D-Box UV Ray Sanitizer for use of

sanitizing official files to the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Manipur Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker Shri K. Robindro, MLAs Dr. S. Ranjan, Shri L. Sushindro, Shri Th. Satyabrata, Shri H. Dingo, Chief Secretary Dr. J. Suresh Babu, Health Services Additional Director Dr. Kh. Shasheekumar and other high ranking officials were present at the occasion.

Lifting Of PDS items under PMGKAY and NFSA continues

IT News
Imphal, July 21:

PDS items allocated to Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of the State for July 2020 continues to be lifted from certain godowns located at various parts of the State. In Imphal West District, Sekmai-Saitu AC lifting of allocated quota of 1,587.35 quintal of rice for July under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) has been completed. Thangmeiband AC and Lamshang AC of the District had also lifted 1,600.85 quintal and 2,270.7 quintal of rice respectively under the same scheme on 20th of this month completing its allocated quantity.

Imphal East District too had started lifting of PMGKAY rice allocated for the month of July with Andro AC completely lifting its allocated 2,212.35 quintal today. Singnat AC of Churachandpur District had completed lifting of its allocated quantity of 2,290.40 quintal of rice under National Food Security Act (NFSA) by lifting 1,039 quintal today and 1,251.40 quintal on 20th of this month. Under PMGKAY, Singnat AC today lifted 981.75 quintal of rice while Henglep AC lifted 118.95 quintal on 20th July completing its allocated quota for July.

There was report on lifting of 161.12 quintal of dal, allocated for the month of June under

PMGKAY, in Senapati District for its Tadubi AC. It may be mentioned that PDS rice and dal under various schemes namely NFSA, PMGKAY and Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) are being lifted for distribution to the residents of the State to ensure availability of foodgrain.

Green India Initiative



IT News
Imphal, July 22:

Mantripukhri and Keithelambi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organized Tree Plantation Drives at Chingmeirong Company Operating Base (COB) and Chanchipur Company Operating Base (COB) respectively on Tuesday. The Tree Plantation drives were organised with an aim to raise awareness about the importance of healthy green

environment amongst the troops. The event commenced with an informative lecture on 'Importance of Trees to control Global Warming' followed by tree plantation drive. The battalions planted a total of 610 saplings of multiple varieties mostly fruit, flower bearing and other saplings. The battalions had a dual aim of Environment Protection and Soil Conservation and also ensuring that it contributes its efforts towards making the society clean and green.

Contd. from page 2

Politics of delimitation over different communities in Manipur

But even if with that, failing to collect correct demographic data would mean the circumstances that prevented delimitation in Manipur under Delimitation act 2002 would be considered still exist. Further deferment of the exercise is a wise option. If not handled properly delimitation as such a sensitive issue can cause emotional partition in ethnically fragile state of Manipur in which territorial integrity would become meaningless.

It is to be noted that the government has deleted and removed 75,000 fake voter and the implementation of Inner Line Permit System (ILPS) has contributed in identifying other non native people in further times the right to contest in elections and their ability of influence. The people should keep in mind not to mingle things into identity politics. At the same time, the government must uphold the sake off stakeholders and provide a mutual harmonic system for

the communities to co-exist. Thus, letting the community lines to preserve itself instead of mixing up. The policy makers must also try to remake the Delimitation policy which is full of loophole. The government should start a debate on how to deal with the problems which will arise soon.

(The writer is a student of D.M College of Arts reading B.A 6th Semester in Political Science Department)

Name Change

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name Thingujam Priyanka Devi as I have assumed my new name as Priyanka Thingujam.

Sd/-

Priyanka Thingujam

Address : Singamei Wangma Bheigiyabati Leikai, Porompat Sub-Division, Imphal East, Manipur- 795005

JFA expresses shock at scribe's murder, demands stringent punishments

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, July 22:

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA), expressing shock and anger over the murder of Vijay Nagar (Ghaziabad) based journalist Vikram Joshi, who worked for a local newspaper named JanSagarToday, demands stringent punishments to all the culprits, at least nine of the suspects have been arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police.

Media reports reveal that Joshi (50) was attacked by a group of goons on 20 July evening as he was returning home on a two-wheeler with his two daughters (aged 5 and 11). The goons not only manhandled Joshi, but also shot at him and fled. Few locals took critically injured Joshi to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to



Vikram Joshi

injuries this morning (22 July 2020). The incident that took place under National Capital Region was caught on CCTV, where both the girls were seen screaming on the road. The younger daughter sat beside her injured father who was bleeding in an unconscious condition. The elder one was seen running for help from the onlookers. She also called the family with Joshi's cell phone.

"Vikram Joshi was seemingly attacked as he lodged a complaint to the police demanding actions against some goons who harassed his niece on 16 July. But the police sat over the complaint for days. The goons took advantage of it and shot at Joshi in front of his minor daughters," said JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria, adding, "It was so disgusting".

The UP government in Lucknow has already ordered the police to nab each and every individual involved with the sensational murder and the Vijay Nagar police post in-charge was suspended because of negligence in duties. A departmental inquiry was also ordered as Joshi's family alleged total police inactions over the matter.

A non-Tata may head group Trusts one day, says Ratan Tata

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, July 22:

Tata Sons' Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata in his submission before the Supreme Court has stated that although he happens to be the current chairman of the Tata trusts, but in future it could be somebody else and the person may not have the surname 'Tata'.

In response to a petition filed by Cyprus Mistry, representing "Cyprus Investments Pvt Ltd" (CIPL), claiming that the "Tata Sons Pvt Ltd" (TSPL), the holding company was a 'quasi-partnership' between the "Tata" and "Mistry" and the mistry family has 18.37 per cent stake in the TSPL, Ratan Tata said that, TSPL was never intended to be and is not a two-group company and there is certainly no quasi-partnership between CIPL and "Tata Group".

Modi in an affidavit has

sought removal of certain anomalies in NCLAT order for getting representation on the TSPL's board in proportion to the stake held by his family. In response, Ratan Tata, mentioned that other group companies, which cumulatively hold close to 13% stake in "Tata Sons", do not have any special rights. Therefore, it is not the case of the Mistry group being singled out with regard to the denial of any rights.

Tata stated, "This is by choice, and not by accident. As early as 1919 and 1932, the founding members consciously endowed their wealth and shareholding in "Tata Sons" to charitable trusts with a vision to create an enduring



legacy and institution which would become—and that has become—a benchmark for business excellence."

So far as the members of the Tata family (descendants/relatives of founders) are concerned, no special right or role has ever been stipulated or given to them in the company (Tata Sons), or its management, apart from the rights that they would have under law as a shareholder. "Their shareholding itself shows that the structure of the Tata Group is delinked from the family. He and his relatives have less than 3% stake in Tata Sons. Members of the Tata family have no "vested right" to that position or even

to the chairmanship of Tata Sons."

It is worth mentioning that Ratan Tata was the only chairman of both "Tata Sons" and "Tata Trusts". In response to a plea filed by Mistry, Tata said the current chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran, is also not from the family.

The octogenarian is believed to be evaluating plans to institutionalise the management of Tata Trusts with an eye on the future. He could seek to form a committee of high-ranking individuals from various fields, especially (with a background) in philanthropy and humanities.

Ratan Tata ended his active association with Tata Sons in December 2012 when he stepped down as Chairman of Tata Sons after 50 years at the helm and was appointed Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons. He continues to serve as Tata Trust chairman.

Two bids for debt ridden Jet Airways

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, July 22:

"Kalrock Capital" (a global financial advisory firm) and Abu Dhabi based "Imperial Capital Investments LLC" (ICIL) submitted their bids, on the last day to submit bids to salvage debt ridden Jet Airways on Tuesday.

The first bid came from ICIL, Haryana-based Flight Simulation Technique Centre Pvt Ltd (FSTCPL) and Mumbai-based Big Charter Pvt Ltd (BCPL). The second bid that came in before the deadline ended at 6 PM on Tuesday was from a consortium of UK-based financial advisory firm

"Kalrock Capital" Partners, along with an individual by the name of Murari Lal Jalan, a resident of Dubai.

As many as 12 suitors had come forward in the fourth round of bidding for the airline and submitted Expressions of Interest, but only 4 of them made the eligibility cut. The four final shortlisted suits who were invited to submit bids included the two consortiums led by "Kalrock Capital" and "ICIL".

The other two, who did not submit bids as the deadline ended included a Canadian entrepreneur by the name of Sivakumar Rasiah, and Kolkatta based Alpha Airways.

"The revised timeline for completion of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of Jet Airways, is now 21 August, 2020, subject to any further extension of the lockdown by the Maharashtra or the Central Government.

The Jet Airways has received claims of over Rs 37,300 crore under National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) from various creditors. Of these, the resolution professional has admitted claims of over Rs 15,900 crore. This also includes claims of over Rs 8,000 crore from a clutch of banks led by State Bank of India, Yes Bank, Punjab National Bank and others.

RBI cautionary against black listed terrorist

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 22:

With United Nations (UN) declaring "Tehrik-e-Taliban" Pakistan chief Noor Wali Mehsud (47) as global terrorist, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned its regulated entities, including scheduled public and private sector banks across the country, that no account should be opened in his or his associates' names in their banks.

The circular dated 18 July 2020 issued by RBI here states that the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has forwarded a press release of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Committee, which has stipulated the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals.

The circular states that as per section 51 of RBI's "Master Direction" on "Know Your Customer" dated February 25, 2016 (as amended on April 20, 2020), the regulated entities shall ensure that in terms of section 51A of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (UAPA) Act, 1967, the accounts of individuals/entities appearing in the lists of banned persons are not opened in their banks. The names of individuals/entities with suspected terrorist links are periodically circulated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee added Mehsud, to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List on 16 July 2020, subjecting the Pakistani national to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.



Blacklisting by the Security Council entails that all states are required to freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities. They are also required to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories by the designated individuals and prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale and transfer from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and

related material of all types, spare parts, and technical advice, assistance, or training related to military activities, to designated individuals and entities.

Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud was named the leader of "Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan" (TTP), following the death of former TTP leader Maulana Fazlullah in June 2018. The Group was designated by UNSC on 29 July, 2011 for its association with Al-Qaida.

Under Noor Wali's leadership, TTP has claimed responsibility for numerous deadly terrorist attacks across Pakistan, including an attack targeting Pakistani security forces in North Waziristan in July 2019 and a bomb attack against Pakistani soldiers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in August 2019.

TTP had also claimed responsibility for an attempted bombing in Times Square on first May, 2010, and in April 2010 it had launched a multi-pronged assault against the United States Consulate in Peshawar, killing at least six Pakistanis and wounding 20 others, the UN's Committee added. The TTP was blacklisted by the UN on July 29, 2011 for its association with al-Qaida.

Blacklisting by the Security Council entails that all states are required to freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities. They are also required to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories by the designated individuals and prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale and transfer from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and



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Sports News

Fit India Movement is becoming people's movement in true sense: Kiren Rijiju

Agency
New Delhi, July 22:

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has said that Fit India Movement is becoming people's movement in true sense. Addressing a Webinar 'Fit Hai to Hit hai India' today along with Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Mr Rijiju said, it is the largest movement in the world.

He said, in the last few months, 2.5 lakh schools have registered for Fit India School

Programme. The Minister said, the movement aims to make the country a great sporting nation. He said, India has a rich tradition of sports, but we have not developed it as a culture. The Minister expressed happiness that CBSE and other organizations and the sports persons are taking the Fit India Movement forward.

Addressing the webinar, Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank



@KirenRijiju

said, physical and mental fitness is crucial for everyone. He said, to make the country strong and best, fitness is necessary. The Minister said,

India has given Knowledge, Science, Research, Sports and Yoga to the World. He said, India can again become world leader, Vishwa Guru.