

## Lockdown extended till July 15, inter-district buses service to resume – CM

IT News  
Imphal, June 28:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today said that his government has decided to extend the lockdown for another 15 days i.e. from July 1 to July 15 this year.

Talking to reporters during a press conference held at Chief Minister's Secretariat today the Chief Minister said that the government has also decided to open inter-district bus service from July 1 by maintaining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines issued by the government.

However, no other public transport system will be allowed during this period, he added. He appealed the people to strictly adhere to the SOPs and guidelines issued by the government to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Minister informed that the total number of positive cases is 1094, 432 cases have been discharged and at present, there 660 active cases. The recovery rate is 39.56 %, he added. He further maintained that the testing capacity has increased to nearly 2600 tests per day by getting new machines and



engaging more persons. More than 50,000 samples have been taken, including for re-test and for testing frontline workers till now. Almost all test results have been declared, he added. N. Biren Singh mentioned that in order to supplement testing capacity, TRUENAT machines have been procured. At present there are 2 machines in RIMS, 1 machine at JNIMS, 2 machines at Senapati, 1 machine at Imphal, 2 machines at IRL Imphal, 2 machines at Senapati, 1 machine at Tamenglong and 1 being installed in Ukhrul. He added, TRUENAT machine can give about 20 – 35 results per day depending on the capacity and can supplement PCR machines for urgent or vulnerable cases immediately as the result is declared within

an hour.

Informing that there is no case of community transmission of the disease in the State, Chief Minister said that almost all positive cases are from returnees except 7 frontline workers who were in direct contact with positive cases. Till date, around 43,000 persons have been sent to institutional and community quarantine centres and around 7200 inmates are at present in quarantine centres.

Mentioning about the present capacity of beds in the State to treat the COVID-19 patients, Chief Minister informed that at present, 150 beds in JNIMS, 100 beds in RIMS, 350 beds in Covid Care

Center Meitram, 100 beds in Ukhrul are functional as COVID Care Facility, in addition to isolation wards and COVID beds in each district hospital. He maintained that work is going on for adding another 750 beds in various facilities, namely in Senapati Trauma Centre-50 beds, Imphal West Family Welfare Training Centre - 100 beds, Thoubal GNM School - 100 beds, Lamboikhongkhong Trade Centre- 300 beds, Kangpokpi BIET- 50 beds, Churachandpur NIET - 100 beds and Tamenglong- 50 beds.

The Chief Minister stated that a sum of Rs. 10 crores from State Corpus Fund and donations amount of Rs. 14.41 crores received in Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund are being used in the fight against the disease. Total expenditure of Rs. 18.22 crores have been made for transportation of returnees, purchase of rice, financial assistance to stranded persons and awareness activities by Committee of CSOs, he added. Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board S. Rajen and MLA Th. Satyabrata were present during the press conference.

## Recovered COVID-19 patient found hung to death

IT News  
Imphal, June 28:

A 23 years old girl who had recently recovered from COVID-19 was found hung to death early today morning at her residence at Singjamei Wangma Pebia Pandit Leikai in Imphal West district under Irlibung police station.

The ill fated girl is identified as Naorobam Sarju, daughter of N. Shanta. According to report, she had undergone treatment after she was found

positive with novel coronavirus when she was on quarantined at Bashikhong PHC after returning from Chandigarh. She reached Imphal on May 30. Reports from JNIMS said that, the deceased girl was admitted to JNIMS COVID-Care Center on June 2, after she was tested with novel coronavirus. She was later discharged on June 14 after she was tested negative and has been under home quarantined since then.

The deceased girl Sarju is a student of DAV Chandigarh presently pursuing Master degree.

Report culled from the neighbours of the deceased girl said that, today is the last day of her home quarantine. Her head was found tinsured at the time of her death. As of now police suspect the death to have been a case of suicide. However, source said that the deceased girl seems to be in depression while she was on home quarantined.

## 'Support. Don't Punish' global campaign begins in Manipur

IT News  
Imphal, June 28:

The individuals and like minded groups who are working on drugs related issues in the state begin to observe the 'Support. Don't Punish' a global grassroots-centred initiative in support of harm reduction and drug policies that prioritise public health and human rights in a subdued manner by holding a press briefing on Friday.

The campaign which seeks to

put harm reduction on the political agenda by strengthening the mobilization capacity of affected communities and their allies, opening dialogue with policy makers, and raising awareness among the media and the public, was usually organized since 2013 on June 26 to coincide with the United Nations' International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

He Association of drug users Manipur (ADUM) and Harm Reduction Network Manipur (HRNM) Advisors and functionaries of ADUM and HRNM have made their appeal during the day's event at the office of Social Awareness Service Organisation (SASO), one of the pioneer organizations in implementing hard reduction programs in dealing with people who use drugs (PUD) and people living with HIV in the state. Commenting on the occasion, ADUM Advisor H Dinesh expressed the need to reform the drug law in the region instead of giving priority to penalizing measures while RK Tiken, General Secretary, SASO observed that HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus)

prevalence rate among the people who use drugs (PUD) was 76.9 percent in Manipur when punitive measures were at height in 1997 but it reduced to 7.2 percent when harm reduction programs were at height in 2019.

On the other hand L Deepak of Manipur Network of Positive People who is also part of ADUM expressed concern over the drugs scenario in the state due to lack of proper policy while ADUM Co-Convenor Raj Nongthombam said the association was formed under the initiative of 17 individuals who are well skilled in providing services right from harm reduction to highest level advocacy etc. A quarantine centre for drug users to fight community spread of COVID was set up with the support of the government, he said. "So far we have also provided training programs to handle the drug issue to many health workers stationed at quarantine centres in Ukhrul and Churachandpur districts," says Sadananda of ADUM. "We have also opened a 24X7 helpline for tele-counselling at the quarantine centres."

## PM Modi says those who cast an evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh have got a befitting response

Agency  
Imphal, June 28:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the world has noticed India's commitment and might when it comes to safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said, those who cast an evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh have got a befitting response. Sharing his thoughts through Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio today, Mr Modi said, India honours the spirit of friendship and it is also capable of giving an appropriate response to any adversary.

The Prime Minister stated that our brave soldiers have proven that they will not let anyone cast an evil eye on the glory and honour of Mother India. Mr Modi said, the nation bows in reverence to the bravery of the jawans who attained martyrdom in Ladakh. Just like their family members, every Indian painfully regrets the loss. The Prime Minister said, the inner sense of pride that families feel on the supreme sacrifice of their brave sons constitutes the true power of the country. Mr Modi mentioned about the father of Shaheed Kundan Kumar of Bihar, who had spoken about sending even his grandsons to the army to defend the country. He said, this spirit permeates across all martyr families and is worthy of veneration. Mr Modi told

that the resolve with which the jawans made the supreme sacrifice for the security of Mother India, should be the aim of our lives. He called for enhancing the country's capabilities and capacities in safeguarding the borders. The Prime Minister said, a self-reliant India would be a tribute to the Martyrs in the truest, deepest sense. Mr Modi underlined the importance of defence sector preparedness. He said, after independence, we should have made efforts

in the defence sector, taking advantage of the prior experience, but we did not. The Prime Minister told that today, in the fields of defence and technology, India is taking strides towards self-reliance. The Prime Minister said, no mission can be successfully achieved without people's participation. He urged the citizens to strive for a self-reliant India with their collective resolve, commitment and support. Mr Modi said, when people buy

local, become vocal for local they play a role in strengthening the country. He added that this too, in its own way, is service to the nation. Mr Modi said, India's solemn resolve is to safeguard its honour and sovereignty. He emphasized upon India's aim as a self-reliant nation, the tradition of trust and friendship and the spirit of brotherhood. He said, the Country shall keep moving ahead abiding by these principles.

The Prime Minister reminded people that the country has moved out of the lockdown phase to the unlock phase of Corona crisis. He said, during this unlock period, one will have to focus deeply on two points - defeating corona and strengthening the economy and bolstering it. He told that during the unlock period, people have to stay more vigilant compared to the lockdown period and only their nesc can save them from corona.

## Ganesh idols should not be more than four feet tall: Maharashtra CM

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, June 28

As a sequel to an appeal, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandals, groups which celebrate the festival in public, will be restricting the height of idols of Lord Ganesh, the Hinduism's revered elephant god to 4 feet, during ensuing Ganeshotsav. This will be almost for the first time in the last few decades, the height of the idols will be reduced drastically. This year, Ganesh festival will be celebrated from 22 August till First September. However preparations for the 11 day long festival begin months in advance.

Thackeray, on Friday said that Ganeshotsav mandals should not install idols with a height of more than four feet. He had earlier appealed them to keep the celebrations low-key this year. He also suggested that they can organise health camps and awareness programmes about the pandemic and provide medical facilities.

In a statement here, Thackeray said faith and devotion are more important than the height of idol. Coronavirus pandemic has affected culture and traditions too. The height of the idols should be restricted, since bigger idols require more volunteers right from the installation till their immersion.

"To avoid crowds, all places of worship have been shut. We need to avoid crowds



which gather to see huge Ganesh idols in Mumbai and Pune. I have spoken to Ganesh mandals and they are unanimous about maintaining discipline and social responsibility," Thackeray said and added that with small Ganesh idols, the mandaps also can be tidy with attractive decoration.

In view of the CM's appeal and growing cases of coronavirus,

the mandals have decided to install the smaller idols and immerse them in eco-friendly tanks created by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). Usually in Mumbai and Pune, different Mandals vie with each other to install tall idols. The themes for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival are legendary and many of them are based on current issues or

have a social message.

Many mandals preferring to install idols as tall as 18 to 22 feet. In 2012, the Brihanmumbai Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Samanvay Samiti (BSGSS), an umbrella body of Mumbai's Ganesh mandals, had suggested a height of 18 feet from the ground. Despite that nearly 20 mandals, had crossed the height limit in that year, giving different reasons.

There are over 10,000 Mandals in Maharashtra, which include some of the residential colonies, who install huge idols. In addition over seven lakhs of idols are installed in households.

Veteran freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak and others, had started the public celebration of festival at Vinchurkar Wada in Pune in

1892, to organise people against Britishers. Taking inspiration from that, the public celebration of the festival began at Keshavnai Chawl in Girgaum in South Mumbai in 1893. Then the festival went on growing with addition of new mandals every year.

Some of the mandals in Mumbai are: "Lal Baugcha Raja" (king of Lalbaug) located at Central Mumbai. established in 1934 (height of the idol 14 feet), "Mumbaicha Raja", Ganesh Galli (lane), Lalbaug, established 1928( height of the idol 22 feet), "Khetwadicha Ganraj", Girgaum, established in 1959, "Mumbai's gold Ganesh", Matunga, central Mumbai. established in 1954. This year, the mandal will not be celebrating the festival.

# PREMS

## Decluttering Chaos

By: Mandakini

We shall overcome some day!  
This is what we've been reciting since childhood; and we will be!  
This is June, thus all will say;  
This shall pass soon!

In this time of spiralling, chaos & uncertainty,  
The scandal mongers aren't the only Vicinity!

The news that we hear outside is full of grief,  
But the real news that we hear inside is no news but a belief!

The Day has never been nicer,  
In compelled self-isolation, our soul has become much wiser!

You've got time to invest to know the "Real You",  
It's not where you complain and forced to say you can't do!

Your passion is in the shore,  
Craving for more!

Believing in Less is more,  
Daffodils are waiting enamour!

Of all, it's a sight of fight,  
The dawn again will be bright,  
and time will be right,  
It's a new dawn of life to be own esse's painter!!

## Live the story you design: You are the author of your life!

By -Thangminlin Haokip

Have you been living a life of mishap and hassle-filled with gratification and discontentment, a life which you think is not worth enough to live forth, thinking that there is no more hope destined for you? I hope and pray that this piece of "really- happening," small article of mine would change your view on the aspect of how you live - on the conduct of your life.

You must have been stressed up during this untamed-pandemic crisis, stressed up with your monotonous-daily routine at home or at your work place, lost the taste and energy of a spirited-like talk with your family, friends and all around you all round the clock, filled with the emotion of boredom, not realising that you've got the potential and supreme power to command over your life, which everyone is gifted the same but not everyone give their time to benefitting and purposeful works. But the simplest truth and solution behind these 'ugly lifestyle' of you which you think then believe that you've no control over them, when you are the only person in the whole universe who have the right key to unlocked this 'impossible locked door' of yours and you have the power to change and create the life you'd been dreaming to become of.

Susan C. Young, a positive impact, change expert, and an author, rightly quoted, "You are the author of your own life", which encircles in every spheres of our life, emphasising on how one should realise that we are the problems and solutions to all challenges we face in life and that we have the rightful power to control our way of living- the same way the author of a book writes his own way, in a way that is attractive and an inspiration for all. You are the one who is solely in charge of your life, you hold the keys to success- to be contented, you can create the life of your dreams, and you can live in whichever you choose. People do not realise that they dictate how they live. I never knew I was capable of shaping the way I live until I became exposed to what is out there. The job you work in, the way you live, the people you surround yourself with is all your choice. You are the creator of your life, so why not create the best possible life for you. There are certain things with which you are destined, things which cannot be changed and nothing does double about it. However, effort is something which you are in charge of; effort is something you put

in, so make no excuses about destiny if you are not putting in any effort. You are the author of your book. Yesterday is gone, close that chapter and write a new chapter full of success and contentment. Life is what you make out of it, so make it the best and know that you have greatness within you that is waiting to be awakened. Demand the best for yourself. Raise the bar and push yourself and stay consistent on this journey of awakening. We can get easily distracted and lose focus on the ultimate goal, if you don't take a stand for your life- no one is going to give you anything; you must get up and create the life that you seek. We are all capable of achieving anything to become the person we want to be.

You must learn to re-write your story. You are the sole author of your own life and have the leading role and get to determine how you interact with your supporting cast and other characters. Without realising it, you may have allowed the event in your life to write your story for you rather than taking deliberate action to write it in your own voice. At any moment have the power to say that this is not how the story is going to end. It all depends on you on how and about what you want to write about. Your life is right now! It's not later, it's not like 'I'm okay for today; I'd do much better the next time'. You might as well decide to start enjoying your life right now, because it's not ever going to get better than right now. Most of us are never fully present in the 'now', because unconsciously they believe that the next must be more important than this one. But then, they tend to miss their whole life, which is never now. And that's a revelation for some people- to realise that your life is only ever now. It's time to take back your life from the people and circumstances that are causing you pain and making you unhappy. Let those hardships you faced be the blood (the ink) to write your story that people will see your struggles and learn from your story. When writing your story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen. Your life is your own story. You are the author. Please, write it by yourself. DON'T LET ANYONE PEN YOUR STORY.

Dream, believe and achieve. Live life to the limits. Fill your book - your life with love, happiness, adventures, and positivity. Live the story you designed. YOU ARE THE AUTHOR OF YOUR LIFE.

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## Manipur's War on Drugs: From PLA to Biren to Brinda

By -Yambem Laba

It was in end December 1990 that I got a call from someone in the Proscribed People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur to be present at a given spot. I did not ask the reasons but simply followed the instructions and soon entered a semi-liberated zone of the PLA in the outskirts of Imphal. There I was received by a stout gentleman fair in complexion who introduced himself as Ksh. German then Finance Secretary of the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) the apex political body of which the PLA stands as the Armed wing and a Member of the Standing Committee of the Front. He then beckoned a tall lanky gentleman who was introduced as Raju, Officer-in-Command of the PLA's Unit No.1 or the Manipur Sector where all their actions of ambushes and executions were carried out. German soon told me the reasons of the meeting. He said that they had earlier seized about 4 kilograms of No.4 heroin powder from a Burmese women carrier as she was trying to sneak into Manipur to market her.

They also said that while the bulk of it was destroyed in the border area, they had retained one kilogram of it which they were going to be burning and wanted me to act as an independent witness and report on the matter. There was only one problem. They were not in the normal camouflaged uniforms in which the PLA cadres are seen on Face Book posts but were all attired in blue denim jeans. Then I requested German to display some weapons or else the picture might not be able to tell the story. Raju produced a 9MM Pistol already tucked inside his waist and another brought out a sten gun wrapped in a Manipuri khudei and a Grenade was also placed on the ground. And soon the No.4 Heroin then worth Rs. One Crore in the International Market was set on fire on the ground and I got a whiff of the smell of acetic anhydride not only a major component but a sine quo non without which Base Morphine cannot be converted into Heroin. They had also announced that come first of January 1991 all the licensed Foreign Liquor shops numbering some 50 plus of them have been ordered to shut, which the Manipur Government officially obliged with effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1991. Then there was a spate of "Sendokhabas" or Confessions that appeared in the local dailies as paid advertisements of individuals or groups confessing to their crimes or sins of having either having imbibed the fiery "fire water" or having taken No.4 shots. Quite a few individuals were also shot on their legs as a warning. This continued till about the mid-1990s. Then the PLA gun fell silent.

The burning ritual soon got over and was followed by the Questions and Answers session. When asked the raison d'être behind their act, German answered that the deadly white powder was turning Manipur into a land of the "Living Dead" where scores of youths addicted to it were roaming the streets of Manipur like Zombies. He also mentioned about the scourge of HIV/AIDS which was at that moment confined to Intravenous Drug Users mentioning that it had the danger AIDS wiping out the entire population of Manipur like a plague and the danger of not only the physical damage but also the psychological damage it will have on the entire population of the State. Those were the days before the Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) medicine were available making

AIDS a manageable disease. The story was carried in three publications The Statesman, The Assam Tribune and the Northeast Star. Later TIME Magazine the international news magazine published from the USA carried the picture with my credits.

The honor of being the first VIP/Politician does not go to Luhkoshiei Zou for being involved in the Heroin or Drugs Trade or for that matter the Hon'ble Okram Henry MLA currently involved in the Airports Drugs smuggling case being taken up by the CBI. That singular honour belongs to the late Ngurdngliem former Deputy Speaker and Cabinet Minister of Manipur. Following the crackdown of the American Drug Enforcement Agency the DEA the Bangkok route as an outlet of the produce of the Golden Triangle got squeezed and Khun Sha the Chairman of the Shan State Army who produced 25 per cent of the total Heroin production in the world was sighted in Tamu. It is believed then it was Khun Sha who had recruited Ngurdngliem as a Drug Courier using Manipur as an alternative route to Bangkok for its European and American market. The first suspicion arose when Ngurdngliem was found missing from a Commonwealth Conference in London. He had visited London alright but had skipped the official programme. It is believed that he had absconded to meet his western drug kingpins. He was also once nearly caught red handed at Calcutta Airport but Inspector Robin Chakravarty of the Calcutta Police's special branch tried to nab him a minute too early which gave him time to deny that the briefcase containing heroin was his. Anyway Prasun Sonwalkar now the London Correspondent of the Hindustan Times then called him a "Drug Peddler" in one of his dispatches for The Times of India for which he was reporting then. Ngurdngliem was later hacked to death by cadres of the HNVC as he emerged from a church in Churachandpur one Sunday morning. But his legacy lived on and others donning Khadi with VIP Status were said to have fallen into his shoes. Then there was the late Md. Hellauddin former Minister of Manipur whose son was amongst five of them who were hacked to death in Lilong. The UNLF later claimed responsibility for the "Execution" stating that it was because of their involvement in the Drugs trade. And the variety of drugs had also increased from SPN-10, WY Tablets to Brown Sugar while others continued with the traditional Ganja trade buying votes with the money garnered thus to buy votes and become Hon'ble elected persons.

Then came Shri N. Biren Singh the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur who had made yet another declaration of the State Government's War on Drugs. He elaborated on how his government had seized about Rs.2000 crores of drugs destroyed poppy fields and established a Fast Track Court to deal with cases established under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS). He also had taken pride in announcing that his government had slapped the National Security Act against a Drugs dealer who was earlier set on bail by a Judge in Thoubal District. Then clouds began appearing following the arrest of Luhkoshiei Zou, Chairman of the Autonomous District Council and a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with more than 4 kilos of No.4 Heroin and a huge quantity of WY Tablets, cash and guns. The Drugs were worth Rs.27 Crores apparently. He was soon sent to judicial custody (jail) but

was soon shifted to JNIMS as he became a medical case due to stones present in his gall bladder. Then came a phone call from him to the senior lawyer whose chamber was handling the case on behalf of Zou in the NDPS Court. The Lawyer was said to have been asked by the CM about the progress of the investigations being carried in the FIR against Zou.

The learned Lawyer soon got in touch with the then SP Imphal West Jogeshchandra Singh and the duo soon landed at the NDPS Court in Lamphelpat. There they were said to have met the IO who also happened to be the OC of the NAB Wing of the Manipur Police. The end result was not very pleasant as the Judge of the NDPS Court ended up by writing to the Chairman of the Manipur Bar Council and the Director General of Police, Manipur to the effect that the duo had been giving undue pressure not to have the charge sheet filed against the king pin. So much for transparency and the war on Drugs seems to have left out the persons ferrying in the Drugs.

In CM Biren's war on drugs he seemed to have benefited a lot when he had a dynamic non-nonsense commander in the field in the form of Ms Brinda Thounajam MPS. Her entry into the Manipur Police Service was via the Manipur High Court when the then Ibobi Singh led Congress Government held that she being the daughter-in-law of R.K. Meghen Supremo of the UNLF her entry into the Manipur Police Service will compromise the entry counter-insurgency measures of the Government it was as if she was going to be inducted as the Director General of Police. Before the High Court passed their verdict she was inducted as an Assistant Commandant with the Women's IRB Battalion. After seeing service for some time she threw in her resignation letter. It was simply because she found out that her Commandant was drawing money in her name for petrol expenses. Her formal complaints to the top brass of the Manipur Police drew no response and so also was her complaint to the O.C Imphal Police Station. Then she rejoined her service following heavy pressure from the Government of India through the Intelligence Bureau and she joined service as DSP of the Narcotics and Border Affairs wing of the Police. Then the nightmare of the drug dealers in Manipur began. Being Meghen's daughter in law there was no chance of them threatening her and being the wife of a successful businessman the scope of trying to buy her into an inactive cop was also very minimal. The Brinda juggernaut soon swept across Manipur and her drive included destroying poppy fields to busting clandestine Heroin production factories to nabbing her own colleagues in uniform for indulging in the trade along the Heroin Highway. The biggest catch was however Lhokhosei Zou, a man who was Chairman of the Autonomous District Council of Chandel and that Zou being a member of the ruling BJP was a further embarrassment to all the concerned parties in the Governance of Manipur.

The present controversy arose when Zou applied for bail on health grounds. The man was absconding for over year having jumped bail. According to his own statement he was abducted by a Myanmar based armed Kuki outfit and kept in their custody for the period of his absence. None in the State bothered to ask him for details nor did he lodged a complaint with the police to that effect and it did not occur to Chief Minister Biren Singh to slap the National Security Act on Zou

as he did earlier in the Thoubal case. When it appeared that he was going to be granted bail, Brinda threw an outburst and vented her full fury on Face Book against a system that had failed according to her. The Judicial Officer's Association took exception and the matter soon landed up in the Hon'ble High Court where she was made to appear. Since the matter is before the High Court one cannot make any comments on the merits and demerits of the case as it would be sub-judice.

However in Manipur which has often been described as a failed State the role of the Judiciary appears to be the last ray of hope in the War on Drugs. With a population of over 60,000 drug addicts in the state the problem cannot be said to be an imaginary one. Also as in any democratic state which has four pillars that of the Legislative, Executive, Judiciary with the Press as the fourth one. The role of the Legislative has been proven by the recent spree of horse trading witnessed in the State. The Executive has more or less been a suspect in the eyes of the people for very long now. As far as the Press is concerned, I am afraid that the term Pressstitutes can be applicable to a section of my fellow scribes. That leaves only the Judiciary as the only means left to rein in the Drug warlords and by that account the flow of drugs in the market which is steadily eating into the social fabric of the society turning our youths into Zombies or living deaths.

I recollect how in 1999, we in the State Human Rights Commission with its limited powers curbed the menace of persons being killed by the army after taking them into their custody or mysterious disappearance deaths. The story began with Loken and Lokendra from Khongmang in the early 1980s to that of Bijoy in the early 1990s to that of Sanamacha in te late 1990s. The last recorded was in 1991 when Mina Khatun from Kairang Muslim Village approached the Commission stating that her husband Tayeb Ali arrested by army men in mufti had waylaid him and taken him side the Kangla Fort where the 17<sup>th</sup> Assam Rifles was located then. We asked the Police do a full police investigation into the disappearance besides asking the army as to whether he was picked up by them or not. Tayeb Ali's body has not been till death but the National Human Rights Commission to whom we had referred the case to. The NHRC for the first time since its inception had interpreted section 19 of the Protection of Human Rights Act 1994 to the fullest extent possible and had held that the "onus to prove that Tayeb Ali was not in their custody lay with the Army itself". The NHRC awarded a sum of Rs.3 lakhs as interim relief to Meena Khatun. The matter went up to the Gauhati High Court who ordered a CBI probe and the investigations revealed that Tayeb Ali was shot at Motbung a place beyond the operational jurisdiction of the 17 Assam Rifles. But that was the last time the Army had killed anyone in Manipur clandestinely.

Likewise it is hoped that the Manipur High Court the Manipur High Court will also take a proactive role in the model of Judicial activism as envisaged by late Justice P. Bhagwati who was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India in the early 1990s. It is hoped that the Hon'ble High Court of Manipur will look beyond Brinda and have a look at Manipur's war on Drugs with a view to reigning in the Drug Lords and cut off the supply chain.