

Stranded Manipuris request arrangement for their return to Chief Minister N. Biren



IT News
Imphal, May 3

12 students along with their 5 guardians are reportedly stranded at the hostel of Vizag International School, Kurukunda at Vizianagaram of Andhra Pradesh. What is

troubling is that the hostel has also been converted as Quarantine centre by the Andhra Government and presently 100 persons have been reportedly lodged at the centre since May 2, 2020. The Manipuri students – 9

boys and 3 girls, along with their guardians have miss the flight due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately locked at the same hostel with those under quarantine.

The guardians through their friend contacted Imphal Times to convey the message to the government of Manipur. The requested this newspaper to convey the government of Manipur about the problems and requested to urge the government of Manipur to make arrangement for their return to Manipur as the government of Manipur have already initiated deportation of stranded Manipuris from outside the state. They can be contacted at 7005106854 & 8974819924.

Obscured frontline warriors of COVID-19 honoured by Imphal City Police



IT News
Imphal, May 3

Frontline warriors of COVID-19 invasion, who have been sparing no pains to protect the people of the state today honoured another frontline warrior in obscurity of the same enemy today at Manipur Press Club.

A team of Manipur Police led by SDPO Imphal West Th. Bidyapati and Officer in Charge of City Police Maibam Sudhirkumar who have been sparing no pains in protecting the people from the dreaded COVID-19 invasion today honoured Journalists of Manipur who also contributes their energy in the fight but has not been notice, with gifts

of edible items and other essential commodities in reporting news beats today. President of the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) Bijoy Kakchingtabam, along with the members of the AMWJU while receiving

the gifts thanks state police for the honour. On the other hand Young Pioneer Handicapped persons Development of Manipur also presented edible food item to the AMWJU President for distribution to the journalists' fraternity.

27th anniversary of Pangal's Black Day

IT News
Imphal, May 3

Delhi Association of Manipur Muslim Students (DAMMS) observed 27th anniversary of Pangal's Black Day in commemoration to the tragic incident of May 3, 1993 at which over 100 Pangal were died in dirty clash due to misunderstandings. Victims of that heinous genocidal act included children, pregnant women and many helpless labourers.

In the aftermath, in addition to the fear and ravages felt by bereaved family members, Pangals, at large, have had discernible psychological trauma with feelings of distrust, insecurity and helplessness. Many started fleeing from their villages as they no longer felt secured staying there. Many were turned into destitute in their own homeland. A statement by DAMMS said that 27 years have passed but not even an

ounce of justice has been delivered either from both of the main culprits i.e the majority community or the state government to the bereaved families. "Is this because Pangals have been unable to represent proportionately in the state machinery? Or is it the way it should be for being a minority?" The DAMMS questioned. The statement further said that still this state of hysteria perpetuates in the form of subjecting Pangals to many stereotypical labels like-pangals are parsimonious, they tend to produce more

offsprings, they are thieves, drug peddlers, they hide Rohingyas among them, etc and committing in successive lynchings of Pangals. These prejudices and stereotypes are well used by the media and the so called Meitei intelligentsia and to help project Pangals as a degraded community who aren't fit to be on equal status with them. This is the highest form of manufacturing hatred which is, no doubt, the first steps of any genocide wherever recorded. The Delhi Association of

Manipur Muslim Students (DAMMS) demanded to constitute an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) and ensure all the perpetrators are made public with their deserved punishment. It also urged the state to compensate the bereaved family members and all those destitutes brought about by the incident. DAMMS further demanded the majority community to make a public apology to the Pangals at large and ensure similar incidents will not happen again.

China Jails Journalist For 15 Years Ahead of World Press Freedom Day

Courtesy: Radio Free Asia

Authorities in the central Chinese province of Hunan handed down a 15-year jail term to a journalist who made critical comments on social media, just days ahead of World Press Freedom Day on May 3. Guiyang County People's

Court sentenced journalist Chen Jieren to 15 years' imprisonment on April 30 after finding him guilty of "picking quarrels and stirring up trouble," "extortion and blackmail," "illegal business activity" and "bribery." The outspoken Chen had been fired from various state

newspapers including *Southern Weekend*, *China Youth Daily*, *Beijing Daily*, and *People's Daily*. He then took to social media platforms WeChat and Weibo, where he published online commentaries and investigative reports. According to the court, Chen

"used the internet to publish false or negative information, maliciously exaggerate certain mass incidents, attack and vilify the [ruling Chinese Communist] Party and the government, judicial organs and their staff, instigate troubles, and extort public and private property."

IPSA distributes edible items to Rickshaw pullers

IT News
Imphal, May 3

Volunteers of the International peace and Social Advancement (IPSA) today distributed edible items to around 160 Rickshaw pullers who have been struggling hard during the lockdown called to break the chain of the

COVID-19 Pandemic. Most of the rickshaw pullers who are presently staying at urban areas including Imphal East and Imphal West are staying at rented houses and have been often deprived of getting the essential items distributed by the government through the MLAs as they are not enrolled in the voter list.

PFI condemns criminal charges framed against Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan by Delhi Police

IT News
Imphal, May 3

Popular Front of India (PFI) has strongly condemned the sedition and other fabricated criminal charges framed against the well-known Islamic scholar, journalist and Chairman of Delhi Minority Commission Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan by the Delhi Police.

A statement by O M A Salam, Chairman PFI stated that - a tweet by Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan was taken out of context, distorted and added inflammatory content to it by some miscreants. This was followed by a vicious campaign against him by a section of media and social media handlers. Now it is reported that the Delhi Police Special Cell has booked Dr. Khan for sedition (sec 124A) and creating communal divisions (sec 153A). This is indicative of the very low level of individual targeting and character assassination ongoing in our country under the patronage of BJP

government. Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan who is a blameless personality and a strong advocate of human rights and minority rights has been doing an exemplary job as the chairman of Delhi Minority Commission. The Delhi Police was made answerable on account of many complaints received by the Commission. Due to this reason, the communal divisive elements in government and police found him a threat to their abuses of power and hence the vilification campaign against him. This malicious campaign by Hindutva camps and misconduct of Delhi Police under Central Government against the head of a statutory minority panel will further worsen the already damaged overseas image of India.

Popular Front called upon the Central Government and Delhi police to stop the witch-hunt and withdraw the baseless criminal charges against Dr. Khan. O M A Salam expressed solidarity with Dr. Khan and ensured our support through all legal and democratic means.

Palghar lynching accused tests positive for Covid-19

Restrictions in non-containment zones eased by Maharashtra Govt.

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 3

One of the 110 accused in the Palghar lynching case, who was locked-up at Wada police station, has tested positive for coronavirus and has been admitted to a prisoner ward at JJ Hospital in Mumbai. The accused was believed to have contracted the infection as nearly 20 accused were reportedly lodged in a single cell. He was initially admitted to an isolation ward of Palghar rural hospital and was subsequently shifted to the JJ Hospital. He is believed to have contracted the infection in a lock-up where nearly 20 other accused were reportedly lodged with him in a single cell. In the meanwhile the Maharashtra government on Saturday eased restrictions in non-

containment areas. The government asked district administrators to demarcate containments areas within red and orange zones earmarked by the Centre in connection with the coronavirus outbreak. Out of total 36 districts in Maharashtra, 14 are in Red Zones, 16 in Orange Zones and 6 are in Green Zones, as per the latest government release. Activities not permitted in Red Zone (Hotspots): Cycle rickshaws and auto rickshaws, Taxis and cab aggregators, Intra and inter-district plying of buses, Barber shops, spas and saloons. Activities permitted in Red Zones with Restrictions: Four wheeler vehicles will have maximum two passengers besides the vehicle driver, for two wheelers, pillion rider is not allowed. Manufacturing

units of essential goods including drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, their raw materials and intermediaries, Production unit which requires a continuous process, and their supply chain, Manufacturing of IT hardware with staggered shifts and social distancing and Manufacturing units of packaging material. Activities prohibited in Orange Zones: Inter and intrastate plying of buses, Activities permitted with restrictions: Taxi and cab aggregators with one driver and two passengers, Inter-district movement of individuals only for permitted activities. Activities in Green Zones: Buses can operate at 50 percent seating capacity. Bus depots with 50 percent capacity. In cities like Mumbai and

Pune, the containment zones will be defined keeping in mind the capacity of administrative reach and control, the order said. It said maximum precaution will be taken to ensure there is no movement of population in and out of these zones except for medical emergencies and for maintaining supply of essential goods and services. It added that, in containment zones, movement of individuals will remain strictly prohibited between 7 PM and 7 AM. Activities to remain prohibited irrespective of zones are: All domestic and air travel excluding medical services, air ambulance, All passenger movement by trains excluding for the purpose mentioned by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Metro Rail

Services, Interstate movement of individuals excluding medical services or purpose mentioned by MHA, All schools, colleges, education institutions, training/coaching institutions etc. However, online/distance learning shall be permitted. Hospitality services other than those used for housing health/policy/Government officials/ healthcare workers, stranded persons including tourists, and those used for quarantine facilities. All cinema halls, shopping malls, gyms, sports complexes, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditorium, assembly halls and similar places. All religious places/ places of worship shall be closed for public. Religious congregations are strictly prohibited.

PREMS

ARTISTE

By -Niranjan Bhuyan

The interest he deals
In the hearts of people
Disrespects the sun's jealous sky
In the avenue of bold avatars
He's the edifice of durdery
He concocts the scion of his character
That sanctifies the inherent spirituality.
Honesty is his chattel,
Personates the patrium of global village
Never ever dispense meagre flair
A vilicious in the latifundium of success.
Millions envy his Homeric style
Nonconformist, yet commander of race
An artist who bequeath idiosyncratic gist
He's one in a million, invisible
Aficionado follows his footsteps.
Shinplaster is his sole desideratum of bread
He's the epitome of ascendancy
Never deploys artistry for sale
Social cognizance is his raison d'être
Ne'er give him money, he is worthy of respect.

More News

Embroidery Cluster Distributed Face Mask

IT News
Thoubal, May 3

Traditional Embroidery Cluster, Khongjom has distributed around 650 numbers of face masks to the weaving Artisan, Police Personnel on Duty of Khongjom Police Station, Shopkeeper and Vander of Khongjom Bazar today. Speaking to Media, Naorem Subhash Cluster Development Executive (CDE) of WATEFADEAS stated that the masks are designed by artisans which is sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, KVIC Under



SFURTI Scheme of the Government of India. He further informed that the design and quality will be tried to empire for further distribution to the general public in the mass.

Churachandpur VDVK : For the tribal, of the tribal and by the tribal

IT News
Imphal, May 3

The PCCF & HoFF inaugurated the VDVK products and a Mobile vending shop of Churachandpur VDVKs. The Self Help Groups members presented the first sets of every processed products to the dignitaries, yesterday. CCF-T II, Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, VDVK, Manipur were present at the formal inauguration of the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, Churachandpur. As the name indicates, Prime Minister Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is a scheme for tapping the rich forest wealth of the country. Taking into consideration the issues faced by the indigenous population in remote areas like unable to get a fair and equitable income, shrinking areas of NTFF (Non-timber Forest Products), non-regulation of Mandis, Haats, Keithel, Absence of processing facilities and improper management of the wealth of the forest, the Prime Minister launched the scheme as a pilot project in Bijnor, Chattisgarh on 14th April, 2018. With proactive stand by the Chief Minister Manipur was sanctioned 77 VDVKs by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Churachandpur, located in the southern fringes of Manipur, is rich in various Minor Forest Products, especially, Pineapple, Gooseberry, Fig, Bamboo, Mushroom, Wild Pepper, Ginger, Rhus, Passion Fruit, Wild Honey, Changpi, Heining, Bahleng, Wild Tea, Broom Grass, etc. These Minor Forest Products were abundantly found in the Forest area of Churachandpur adjacent to the tribal villages. Under the able leadership of the Divisional Forest Officer, N Ganesh, IFS, 10 VDVKs (Van Dhan Vikas Kendras) were set up in strategic location of Churachandpur Forest Division. The Kendras are set up at Kapiyah, Leimata, Behiang, Singnat, Songpi, Henglep, Sagang, Tuilaphai, Santing and Churachandpur. Each Kendra consisting of around 15 SHG (Self Help Group) of around 300



tribal members each, were set up with an aim of generating livelihood for tribal population by harnessing the wealth of forest. Altogether, 3238 members were benefited from the programme. A District level Advocacy cum Training programme was held on 31st January, 2020 at the Kangvai Community Hall, Churachandpur. Multiple trainings for all SHGs were conducted by Experts. The total training duration is of 240 hours, spread over 1.5 months so far. The members were fully trained on collection technique of MFP, Value addition of MFP, handling and operation of various machines and equipment. Apart from branding, packaging and marketing of about 30 value-added products, including Gooseberry candy, Wild Honey, Pineapple Squash, which are a hit in the local markets, Churachandpur Forest Division also provided the essential machineries and equipment for the Kendras. Materials worth Rs. 12,000 were also distributed by Churachandpur Forest Division to each SHG. Under the branding of CCpur VDVK-from the doorstep of tribals, Heimang Candy, Pineapple Candy, Ginger Candy, King Chilli Candy, Gooseberry Candy, Wild tea, Heimang tea, Ginger tea, Pineapple Juice, Olive Juice, Pineapple Squash, Pineapple Jam, Turmeric Powder, Ginger Powder, Bamboo Shoot Pickle, Gooseberry Pickle, King Chilli Pickle, Mushroom Pickle, Dried Bamboo Shoot, Dried Mushroom, Dried Amla, Honey

etc. are produced. The price of the products ranges from Rs. 40 to Rs. 1200. The idea is to create an entrepreneur model through decentralized processing units for Minor Forest Products and some Agriculture Products. The various SHGs will process these products in their villages and sell into Common Facilitation Centers of the Kendras. The supply chain management will be done by these Common Facilitation Centers after proper packaging and Food security scrutiny. The marketing will be done by Kendra office bearers as a whole sale business. Most of the Kendras will be provided with Hot air Drier, Pulveriser, Pulper, Boiler, Continuous Band Sealing machine and Batch coding machines. Apart from Minor Forest Products, Kendras are also producing Bamboo handicrafts with export quality finishing. Bamboo machineries were given to Santing, Tuilaphai and Henglep Kendras. Efforts are on to rope in E-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart. CEO of Flipkart has already accepted request of Churachandpur Forest Division to give a marketing space to these products in their platform. DFO also appealed to all supermarket around Imphal and Churachandpur to buy these products from VDVKs. The scheme provides a viable alternative for the forest dependent communities, thereby reducing their dependency on forests. It also helps in doubling of farmer's income, a policy of GoI and GoM. This, we hope will have agglomerative effect and

act as a centripetal force for more such groups to indulge in processing and hope will yield better conservation results. Under the strict supervision of Churachandpur Forest Division, these value added products are manufactured in highly hygienic environment. All products are duly checked, monitored and certified by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The SHGs, with their hardworking attitude, coupled with their traditional knowledge has brought the business prospering. In a short span, the income of the tribal members is expected to increase manifold. The vehicle inaugurated is a brainchild of Churachandpur Forest Division. The SHGs are also coming up with innovative ideas and are adding more value added products. The success story can be felt from the fact that all Kendras have contributed to Mobile vending Kiosk from the common fund of the Kendras. Seeing the zeal and enthusiasm of the SHG members, Divisional Forest Officer, Churachandpur Forest Division is to build Work-Shed cum Warehouses for all Kendras. The office has already approached Multinational corporates (MNCs) and Agencies to sponsor the work through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Schemes. He lauded the efforts of Division's staff, particularly, Range Officer, Henglep, Deputy Ranger (HQ), Forest Guards of the Division and Master Trainers Bemben Devi, Tonjao, Latashini Devi who have worked tirelessly in the past three months to implement this Scheme and also ask them to continue the good works in the future. Although the SHGs are not working to its fullest potential due to the current COVID-19 lockdown, the scheme will be a great boon to the tribal people as it will help them double their farm income, earn money and improve their living standards, thereby minimizing the impacts of Economic blackout due to COVID-19.

'I For India' concert for COVID-19 relief fund

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 3

"Facebook", in collaboration with Indian entertainment industry, will be organising the four-hour long global concert on Facebook (www.facebook.com/facebookindiapp) on Sunday, 3 May 2020 at 7:30 PM (IST) featuring performances and personal messages from over 85 Indian and global celebrities to raise funds for COVID-19 relief. This is a home-to-home concert and the show has been produced in a record two weeks, Fountainhead vMKTG Co-Founder V G Jairam said and added that the concert will entertain people. The proceeds from the fundraiser concert will go to the India COVID Response Fund managed by "GiveIndia", to support on-ground relief efforts. "GiveIndia" (www.giveindia.org) is India's largest platform with reach

across 23 states. It is associated with over 100 NGOs, working on-ground to support the required interventions with prevention, healthcare infrastructure, livelihood support and essentials for people in need. "I for India" Fundraiser is already active on Facebook and people can donate via fb.me/IforIndiaFundraiser. People will also be able to make a donation via the donate button next to the video while watching the concert. The vision for the concert by leaders from the entertainment industry is three-pronged: to entertain those locked down in their homes, to pay tribute to those who are working on the frontlines and to raise funds for those who have no work and no home and do not know where their next meal is coming from. Some of those who will perform include: Ustad Zakir Hussain, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Gulzar, Anoushka Shankar, Bryan Adams, A R Rahman, Shankar

Ehsaan Azmi, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, Priyanka Chopra, Anushka Sharma, Rani Mukerji, Zoya Akhtar, and Katrina Kaif, Tiger Shroff, Virat Kohli, Sania Mirza and The Shillong Chamber Choir. Facebook India VP and MD Ajit Mohan, said, "As a company, Facebook is committed to being an ally for India as the country fights the coronavirus outbreak. Our efforts so far have been focused towards providing access to accurate health information and supporting communities around the country. We recently launched Facebook Fundraisers, that allow people to leverage the full scale and power of the platform, and their passion, to direct resources to initiatives that can protect and save lives. GiveIndia CEO Atul Satija, said: "The I For India fundraiser concert, backed by a fabulous line up of stars, really feels like a nation coming together - though we are isolated, we are united in our efforts to win this battle against COVID-19."

Donations to CM's relief fund

IT News
Imphal, May 3

Various organizations and individuals continue to donate towards the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund. Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff of Ng. Mani College, Khurai donated Rs. 50,000, Director, Treasuries & Accounts, Manipur contributed Rs. 224,527, L. Basanta, Ex-Candidate, BJP, Thoubal A/C donated Rs. 50,000, Md. Yunus Sheikh, Thoubal Moijing Awang contributed Rs. 50,000, S. Ranbir Singh, Thoubal Sabantongba donated Rs. 10,000, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption contributed Rs. 95,920, Masters Athletics Association donated Rs. 20,000, Loukrakpam Johnson

Singh contributed Rs. 10,000, Ph. Rajendra Singh, Retired Director (Agriculture) donated Rs. 50,000, Kamakhya Pemton College, Hiyangthang contributed Rs. 100,000, Rajkumar Sivachandra Singh donated Rs. 50,000, Rev. Dr. Rishikanta Sorokhaibam, Pastor contributed Rs. 10,000, Manipur Motors & East India Machines Company, Mantripukhri donated Rs. 50,000, Unemployed Local Truck Owners Association contributed Rs. 30,000, All Manipur Petroleum Products Transporters Association donated Rs. 100,000, Kuki Students Organisation contributed Rs. 50,000, Senapati District Truck Owners Association donated Rs. 50,000, S. Digbijoy Sharma, Proprietor of SD Industries (Loktak

Tank) contributed Rs. 100,000, All Manipur Association of Deaf & Mute donated Rs. 17,900, Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Imphal contributed Rs. 100,000, Manipur Adventure & Mountain Biking Association donated Rs. 50,000, Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. contributed Rs. 1,000,000, Irang Part-I Village Authorities, Kangpokpi donated Rs. 71,000, El Shaddai Resource Centre contributed Rs. 5,000, Manipur Mountaineering and Trekking Association donated Rs. 55,000, CCAN FORUM 1996-98 Batch contributed Rs. 50,000, State Health Society, Manipur donated Rs. 1,198,226 and Manipur Electronics Dev. Corp. Ltd contributed Rs. 18,873.

Army troops donate blood in Dibrugarh

IT News
Imphal, May 3

In its fight against COVID-19, Indian Army in association with Assam Medical College and Hospital, Dibrugarh (AMCH) conducted a voluntary blood donation camp at Dibrugarh in Assam on 30 April 2020. Due to COVID-19 lockdown, non availability of blood donors had led to shortage of



blood in the local hospitals. A medical team from AMCH, Dibrugarh under Dr Cheng

Know Weingken along with Medical Officer of Army supervised the blood donation camp. A total of 40 army personnel volunteered and donated their blood for the cause. The locals and civil medical fraternity appreciated the efforts of Army towards the fight against COVID-19 and expressed their gratitude for the valuable contribution.

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