

General strike called by Muslim students disrupt normalcy in Muslim dominated area in the state



IT News Imphal, Oct 29:

Normalcy amidst hard time due to COVID-19 pandemic has been severely disrupted almost all Pangal (Muslim) dominated area in the state as student bodies of the community called 48 hours general strike denouncing foul play while providing reservation quotas for Muslim (Pangal) in the selection lists to colleges under DM University. Large number of people belonging to the Muslim community were seen at the street at Hatta, Pangei road, Imphal Ukhrul road in Imphal East, Hiyranthang in Imphal West and also at Lilong in Thoubat district and supporting the general strike called by the All Manipur Muslim Students Organisation (AMMSO) and Pangal Students Union Dhanamanjuri University (PSUDU). The general strike supporters blocked road at the middle of the road and force all sorts of

vehicular movement along the road. At Khurai Heigru Makhong police vehicles and some VIPs with escort party were seen allowing movement but the general strike supporters stopped all civilian movement. Some security forces were seen present near the place where the general strike supporters burn tyres in the middle of the road but seems helpless to control the situation. At Hapta near Minuthong, large number of people halted all sort of vehicular movement forcing to turn back. This reporter witnessed the general strike supporters forcing the vehicle of former Minister Th. Shyamkumar who came along with his escort to return back towards where he came from. Some of the supporters turn hostile and they not only stopped vehicular movement but pelted stone towards any vehicles. Large number of police

team led by SP Imphal East throng to the site and tried to controlled the situation with extra care to ensure that nobody got hurt. This reporter show the police team with baton and stone shield marching towards the general strike supporters showing intimidation to disperse the gathering strike supporters. The first move show the police team led by the SP Imphal East shouting the strike enforcers to stop violence however, as the supporter pelted stones, the police force fired several round of tear gas shell to disperse the strike supporters. Around 4 persons including 2 women were reported injured in the police action. Later, the police put the situation under control. At Lilong area large number of strike supporters came out on the National Highway blocked the road since early morning today. Police team which rushed the site face hard times in controlling

the situation as the strike supporters went hostile. The police team fired several rounds of tear gas shell and also charged with baton to control the situation. At least 2 persons were reported injured in the police action. Mentioned may be made that the All Manipur Muslim Students Organisation (AMMSO) and Pangal Students Union Dhanamanjuri University (PSUDU) had alleged foul play and irregularities to the selection of students for admission to the four colleges under DM University in Muslim minority quota. Further the students' bodies had also been demanding clarification on the matter to the Education (U) department and also urged the government to implement 4% reservation quotas for OBC (Meitei Pangal) in General Courses (Non-professional) of Higher Education from this Academic Session 2020-21.

COVID-19 cases rose in 5 states, UTs during festival season

IT Correspondent New Delhi, Oct 29:

The Union Health Ministry has pointed out that there has been considerable rise in COVID-19 cases in five states - Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi and has cautioned people to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour during festivals. In a recent press conference Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan stated that 49.4% of the fresh coronavirus cases were reported from Kerala (4,287), West Bengal (3,645), Maharashtra (3,130) and Delhi (2,832). Over all 78 per cent of the total active Covid-19 cases in the country are in ten states and Union Territories (UTs). Besides 58 per cent of the new deaths were reported in five states and UTs -

Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. "The worrying factor is the 8.06% daily cumulative positivity rate and the seven per cent weekly cumulative positivity rate the city is reporting and "these two things have to be seen in tandem". In Delhi, for three successive days, the number of daily coronavirus cases were over 4,000, then it came down and subsequently just 2,800 cases were reported, Bhushan said, adding that the worrying factor is the 8.06% daily cumulative positivity rate and the seven per cent weekly cumulative positivity rate the city is reporting and "these two things have to be seen in tandem". "We are in touch with

these states and have sent our teams to these states. Some of the teams are returning while others are still there in the states. After they submit their reports, we will again speak to the states and tell them what changes, if any, should be brought in the strategy to tackle COVID-19. Responding to a question, he said at the end of the day, "we should not just look at the cumulative figures, but should also look at how these number are changing, as it gives us indications of fine-tuning the strategy required to tackle the pandemic. It is important to wear a mask, wash hands regularly and maintain physical distancing. It is even more important to follow these principles," he said.

Chief Minister flags-off Assam Rifles Mega Jan Andolan covid awareness bike rally from Mantripukhri



IT News Imphal, Oct 29:

The Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, along with Major General Alok Naresh, Inspector General Assam Rifles South, flagged-off a mega COVID awareness Bike Rally organised by Assam Rifles/IGAR SOUTH as part of the Jan Andolan drive initiated by Honorable Prime Minister of India. Assam Rifles has launched a week long focussed Jan Andolan drive in various parts of Imphal East, Imphal West and Thoubat Districts wherein teams of Assam Rifles troops are reaching out to the people and spreading awareness about use of masks in daily routine, personal hygiene and to maintain social distancing protocols. In continuation of the campaign, the mega Bike Rally was organized by Assam Rifles which traversed through Imphal and Thoubat districts. There was an overwhelming response from the local population towards the

outreach campaign. More than 200 bikers including from local bike clubs, the Royal Riders and Royal Motors, participated in the rally in a show of solidarity with Assam Rifles in this noble initiative. The rally covered a distance of over 50 kms passing through prominent places and making halts at population centres to educate and spread the message. The second objective of the rally was also to express their gratitude to the COVID warriors of Manipur especially the health care professionals of RIMS, JNIMS and other designated COVID care centres. The Chief Minister interacted with media and addressed the participants before the flag-off. He reaffirmed the commitment of State and people of Manipur to fight against COVID threat in unison with the Nation. He also thanked Assam Rifles and IGAR SOUTH for proactively working the

awareness about COVID-19 to all parts of State. He also thanked media persons for leading from the front in spreading the awareness about the COVID threat. Major General Alok Naresh, Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) informed the gathering that this rally is the start point for a month long action plan that will be implemented in various parts of Manipur by the units of IGAR (South). Under the concerted action plan to ensure Jan Andolan Drive reaches even the remotest of the locations, troops of Assam Rifles are actively engaged in dissemination of awareness literature throughout the State using platforms like banners and posters at public places, distribution of pamphlets to some extent distribution of masks and sanitisers etc. Audio announcements in local language are also made at public places with high footfall to ensure message reaches maximum audience.

SSV demands for re-examination of Tamenglong-Halflong Road

IT News Imphal, Oct 29:

While appreciating the government for its effort in developing the interior part of the state, the Chramram (Saramba) Segment Voice, has appealed to the concern authorities to review the reported new alignment of Tamenglong-Halflong road by the office of Deputy Commissioner, Tamenglong. The Chramram (Saramba) Segment Voice on behalf of the people of 11 (eleven) villages including Tousem and Mandui villages has appealed the Chief Minister and all the concern authorities to re-examine the decision taken by the office of district administration of Tamenglong. It is our earnest request to re-survey the process of road alignment to connect the Tamenglong-Halflong road through Achintiang, old NEC road. "It is a fact that the existing old NEC road (i.e. Barak bridge to Achintiang)

popularly known as the "Gupta Alignment" started its construction in 1960s-70s and is the only road in the area with good gradient connecting to Tousem areas", a statement of the Chramram (Saramba) Segment Voice said. It added that the Segment villages want the Tamenglong-Halflong road to be constructed and pass through "Achintiang" (border between Thiulon and Chramram Village), a strategic location on old NEC road where people of the area can be easily connected in the surrounding 11 (eleven) villages and beyond. However, the Deputy Commissioner of Tamenglong have ignored the request made by the area people and re-routed to Phelung-Jeichiktiang which has already been rejected and abandoned by the BRFIT in 1990s. The statement further stated that for many generations have been waiting for this road to

pass through it. With compassion the villagers have given NOC for the zero-land compensation but it seems that the district administration is just manipulating the innocent people without considering the value of land in this era. Despite the request being made by the villagers the Deputy Commissioner sought to re-route to a new alignment of Phelung-Jeichiktiang, a new alignment and new cutting which is not better than the NEC alignment. There are high suspicions that the Deputy Magistrate has convinced the young engineers of National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) who came for the road survey and inspections. We appeal and request the engineers of NHIDCL to take a better look of how good the grade is in old NEC alignment (from Barak bridge point to Achintiang-Makhu river) and compare it with the new proposed alignment.

"In a participatory democracy, ignoring the people's mandate and going against the wishes of the people is like genocide. The DC has even by-passed the appeal put forward by the elected representative of the Chramram ADC Segment. Accountability and transparency are the core of good governance. We expect the office of deputy commissioner to be more transparent. The Chramram ADC segment is the only Rongmei speaking area in the whole Tousem-Tamei constituency. And none of the Rongmei speaking villages will be connected in the proposed new alignment. If the Highway is re-routed, then it is a great injustice done to the Rongmeis living in Tousem sub-division. The Tamenglong-Halflong road will eventually become a Trans Asian Highway, therefore public opinion and mutual consensus should be taken as the utmost important", the statement said.

★ Editorial

Revisiting the Free Speech

As according to Vincent Blasi, the noted law scholar, the most important role of free speech is to "check" government abuses and reveal to the public information that government wants to keep secret from them. If we follow this theory - which is a specific application of the democracy-centred theory of free speech - the press and all form of media including the social networking sites become the most important organs of a system of free expression.

In addition to the checking value of free speech, there is another consideration that is now acknowledged by Courts in most jurisdictions, including our Supreme Court. When we speak about the "right" to free speech, we do not just mean - as might seem at first glance - the right of speakers to speak unhindered. We also mean the rights of listeners and hearers to receive information.

A classic example is the Indian Supreme Court's opinion in *LIC v. Manubhai D. Shah*, which used Article 19(1)(a) to vest a right-of-reply in a person who had been criticised in a newspaper editorial, on the ground of providing a balanced account to readers. Furthermore, instruments like the ICCPR and the ECHR make this clear in the text of the free speech right as well. For instance, Article 19 of the ICCPR states that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds."

If free speech is about the right to receive information, and about the public good of a society in which information circulates freely and widely, then the vehicles of information occupy a central position in any theory or doctrine about the scope of the constitutional right. Every law makers, bureaucrats or the guardian of the law should understand that the press newly invented social media like the facebook, twitter etc. is perhaps the most important of those vehicles.

Establishing the crucial role of the free press in free speech theory is important to understand a crucial issue that has largely gone unaddressed in Indian constitutional and statutory law: that of source-protection laws for journalists. A source-protection law exempts journalists from having to compulsorily reveal their sources when ordered to do so by government. The Court too have its own limitation of extracting the source.

This write up is being addressed to our so call Police officers, intelligent agency and others in the government. There is no logical meaning on why a journalist which is serving the society by publishing news which the government will never able to do so has been often harassed. Last year the NIA called on editors of some few media houses and forced them to produce all related documents sent by a particular outfit. This year intimidation looms large with government machineries targeting those who ever criticizing the act of the government. Kishorechandra's case is perhaps one among them but the way that the government is handling the matter is some kind of example on how the free speech is under threat in the present day.

Well, the idea of intimidation perhaps may be considered as a tool to protect the ruling regime from being attack, but as people across the globe has easy access with those living in any part of the globe with the advancement in communication technology, the intimidation theory will not work. People know whether it is good or bad that the government is doing. An act without taking a look before lifting will be no different from digging the own graveyard. Let's give freedom of speech a chance.

Students' body continue hunger strike demanding effective policy to contain COVID 19

IT News
Imphal, Oct. 29:

Six student bodies of the state AMSU (All Manipur Students' Union), MSF (Manipuri Students' Federation), DESAM (Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur), KSA (Kangleipak Students' Association), SUK (Students' Union of Kangleipak) and AIMS (Apunba Ireipakki Maheiroi Sinpanglu) continue the relay hunger strike highlighting their grievances on COVID-19 issue and demanding

12 point policy . The student bodies began the relay hunger strike from October 21 at Kwakeithal Thokchom leikai community hall.

Oinam Surjakanta added that politicians including elected leaders, MLAs, Ministers and even Chief Minister have been taking bi election more than the COVID-19 pandemic. The government while neglecting the COVID -19 issue are not giving proper treatment to the COVID patient.

By- Themneivah Sithou

We are living in a global village of this modern world. Everything is modernised along with our living style. What makes the whole world a global village is because of the advancement in technology. Message, information and news can be passed on to anyone anywhere at any time. At least one of any technological equipment such as computer, laptop, mobile phone etc. is found in every household. This is how relevant modern technology is. Most of the people can now access to internet. Social media is the computer based technology which help us in communication, sharing information and also help us in learning to great extent. The growing importance of modern technology is explicit. The birth of the advancement in technology can be welcome as a blessing or a boom but we cannot deny the fact that it has become our modern day tradition. It influence us a lot that we feel awkward if we don't use them. This becomes a burden to a poor family.

Our minds are lingering around the social media and our hands are cuffed with our smartphone. Some of the top trending social media apps are facebook, WhatsApp, instagram etc. Most of the internet users have used them. We enter to a completely different world when we use them. We meet new friends from all around the world. New are updated timely and it can reach to any internet user at any instant. Online apps such as facebook becomes a useful platform for people to raise their voice against any injustice things in a society. It also become a political platforms where people share their ideas and opinions about the politics in their regions. There are also a lot of entertainment and inspirational pages which help us to boost ourselves. Internet also assist us in our work in many ways and it helps us in our study as well. They let us live our life much more easier ever than before they existed. This is only one side of the story.

"13th Jadonang Memorial Football Tournament 2020"

IT News
Imphal, Oct. 29:

The Zeliangrong Football Association (ZFA) after taking a concrete decision among the executive members have decided to re-scheduled the "13th Jadonang Memorial Football Tournament 2020" indefinitely, which was earlier scheduled this year, due to the present prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. The date and month for the next tournament shall be informed later on.

The ZFA appeal all the Zeliangrong villages youth club/organization to kindly co-operate and support the organizer for successful organizing of the Jadonang Memorial Football Tournament in future.

Too Close Too Apart

However, we have the darker side of the story as well. Social media is also a cumbersome in our daily life which can abuse us mentally. We know that it has no bound to any community. They bring us together and we mingle among ourselves when we cannot perform physically. The worst time comes when we have communicational riots in a society. Social media becomes a means to spread hatred to one another. The online platform which brings us all together itself create a rift of feeling between the two community or more. Cyber bullying is also a serious threat to humanity and it has become a serious sickness of our society. They invade someone's privacy and expose them using social media. This causes a mental disturbance to the victim and when a person went through alot of psychological trauma they become ill . The advancement of technology comes along with a flock of feathers with degradation of moral and discipline. With no exception of youth and adults, we misused our freedom of life and expression over social media. There is a blur of respect between the Youngs and the elders. Our moral ethics which govern our conduct of our life ebbed away. Using of cheap words and posting and sharing of inappropriate things flooded social media. If we don't give a proper guidance to the young ones, these might hinders their moral development.

Just as social media brings us closer to each other from all angels of the world , it can also create a big chasm of distance and feelings among the family members. Family means sharing of love and feeling. Electrical equipments such as mobile phone is like a drug. We can be addicted to it. This usually happen to the young ones who are fond of gaming. This can harm their social life as well. They alienate themselves from the family members. Without moving out from their room they can spend the long whole day all alone as long as they are accompanied by phones. This creates disturbance in their time management which in turn affect their studies. There is no peace of mind in a family where there is one of this kind.

This modern world also blind us from seeing the beauty of nature and restrain us from enjoying the peace of nature. It drives us to the very edges of busy life that we don't have time for enjoying the nature. Engaging too much with mobile phones also restrict us from enjoying the reality of the event. This happens everywhere. We don't really heed our mind and affection to any event that we joined. All we do is a mere presence and busy in taking photos. We missed the beauty of the right moment. In our present world we can't really differentiate the true value of character from that of mere ones. We disguised hypocrisy to humanity. We are crazy over our own fame in a society than that of our true

self and true intention. We tend to help others just for the sake of names good position in a society.

Whatever it is, we can't imagine of our life without internet and social media. Technology development becomes a milestone in human history. Also we can't really estimate how hard our life would be without modern technology. Infact they brought us to this modern era. However we should also be very cautious so that we are not carried away by them. No doubt, our advancement in technology is a blessing to us. We should utilised them for our own betterment and to bring good in the society. We are really indebted to this blessing. We should pay up our debts by using them in the right way. This is what a responsible citizen does. Lets us use them to explore the world from a positive viewpoint. We should also prioritized our values of character in our life. Let us also spare our time for self introspection. We are the one who develop the modern technology. We owned them. We shouldn't be enslaved by them but we should put them in the right form at the right time. Above all, let's not be too greedy to spare our time for nurturing nature. Because there is true peace in nature which will help us relief our ourselves from all kinds of threats. We should adore them and protect them and in turn we will earn happiness. Last but not the least, let us never give a chance for human technologies to apart us mentally.

RBI imposes Rs. one crore penalty on Jio Payments Bank

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Oct. 29:

Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.1 crore on Reliance Jio Payments Bank Limited for non-compliance with RBI directions on timely submission of application in the case of re-appointment of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI said in statement.

"This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47A (1)(c) read with section 46(4)(i) of the Act. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers", RBI further stated. As per RBI guidelines, Jio Payments Bank was required to submit an application under Section 35B of the Act in the case of reappointment of MD & CEO of the bank four months prior to the date on which the term of the current position holders was to expire. However, as RBI states, the bank submitted the said application less than a month prior to that date. In furtherance to the same, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be



imposed for its failure to comply with the directions issued by RBI. "After considering the bank's reply to the notice, oral submissions made during the personal hearing and examination of additional submissions, RBI concluded that the aforesaid charge of non-compliance with RBI directions was established and warranted imposition of monetary penalty," the RBI said in a statement. H. Srikrishnan is the MD & CEO of the Jio Payments Bank. In another development, RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 22 lakh on DCB Bank Ltd. for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI contained in the circular on "Marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc, products by banks dated November 16,2009. The penalty was imposed in exercise of powers vested in

RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. An off-site examination of the records pertaining to the para-banking activity of the bank was conducted by RBI in a matter related to default on the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL). The off-site examination and the related correspondence revealed non-compliance with above-mentioned directions issued by RBI. In furtherance to the same, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for non-compliance with the directions.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail - imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.