

BJP leader moves SC against violence in West Bengal; seeks CBI probe; announces nationwide dharna on May 5

Agency
New Delhi, May 04:

BJP leader Gaurav Bhatia Tuesday moved the Supreme Court seeking CBI investigation into "rampant violence" including murder and rapes allegedly by Trinamool Congress party workers across West Bengal "before, during and after the assembly elections". "The instant application is being preferred...to bring to the notice of this court, the brutal murders and commission of serious crimes like rape and molestation, blatant violence and the complete breakdown of law and order machinery in West Bengal before, during and after the recently concluded assembly elections in the state," Bhatia said in his plea. Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee (file photo) has called a meeting today with Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, DGP, and Kolkata CP over post-poll violence in the state. Trinamool Congress Party has swept West Bengal assembly polls by winning over 200 seats in a 294 seats house. On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a nationwide dharna on May 5 against the alleged post-election violence by Trinamool Congress workers in West Bengal. This protest will be held while following all Covid-19

protocols across all organisational mandals of the party. Meanwhile, BJP's national chief JP Nadda will also be visiting the state on May 4 and 5 to meet the families of the party workers. This comes after the Union home ministry sought a report from the West Bengal government in this regard. Several political workers, including those of the BJP, have alleged attacks by Trinamool Congress activists since the declaration of the election results for the 292-member West Bengal assembly on Sunday. They alleged that TMC workers set fire to one of its party offices in Hooghly

district on the counting day. Furthermore, BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari was attacked and his convoy was hurled with stones in Haldia after announcement of result in Nandigram constituency. The BJP also claimed that one of its members was severely beaten up by TMC activists in the city's Belegghata area, a charge denied by the Mamata Banerjee camp. The TMC has, however, denied all these allegations. Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday summoned the DGP seeking a report on the uninterrupted violence across the state ever since the poll results were declared.

YFPHR urges CM N. Biren Singh to review order in connection with oxygen allocation

IT News
Imphal, May 04:

Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) has urged the Chief Minister of Manipur for review of the order dated 01/05/2021 and allow homely treated non-Covid patients who are in need of full time oxygen to buy and refill the Oxygen Cylinder at the earliest from their dealers and suppliers. The Forum also urged the CM to organize meeting with all the suppliers and dealers of Oxygen in the state to suggest the Government on the possible way forward to restore the oxygen crisis in the state of Manipur to develop an action plan for 3 months on how to deal with the Oxygen crisis in the state and make public of the same. President of the YFPHR, Kh. Phajaton in a statement said that as learnt that approximate number of cylinder required in the state is nearly 500 to 600

which includes government hospitals, private hospitals, military hospitals and private home treated patients. However, total numbers of cylinders required after COVID patients surges and the approximate number of cylinder required per day is nearly 800 which is increased by 1/3 of the total demand normally. The oxygen suppliers and dealers in the state has their own private customers upto 50 to 70 treating their ailing patients at home who are in need of oxygen full time. Since the order No. MED-1706/15/2021-HS-HEALTH which was issued dated 1st May, 2021 by the Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Government of India, the access to buy and refill the Oxygen Cylinder for the home treated non-Covid patients are suffering from not able to buy the filled oxygen cylinder which is of serious concern.

AIFUCTO demands closure of all educational institutions of the country

IT News
Imphal, May 04:

General Secretary of All India Federation of University and College Teachers Organisation (AIFUCTO), Prof. Dr Arun Kumar has appealed the Government of India to issue instruction to all educational institutions across the country from KG to PG to be closed at least for the month of May in the interest of life and security of students, teachers and all educational workers. The appealed comes a day after the Supreme Court of India directed both the Center and the state government to consider imposing a lockdown to break the chain of corona

virus spread in the interest of the public welfare. The teaching community's body also appealed to defer all examination works for at least a month. A statement said that the second wave of pandemic COVID-19 has created an unprecedented chaotic situation in our country. A fear psychology and a sense of frustration have gripped the entire nation. The situation has become more alarming due to the tragic failure of our public funded health systems. Lack of beds, medicines in the hospitals with inadequate oxygen facility and intensive care units coupled with the

uncertainty about the mass vaccination program have resulted in mental agony of the people. Large scale casualties, some reported and more unnoticed has added confusion to the existing situation. Central Government failed miserably to respond to the existing situation with a designed collapse of public funded health systems. Reports of casualties and spread of Corona viruses among the educational workers have seriously perturbed us. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Governor of Bihar being human and sensitive to the present dismal situation has ordered for preponing the

summer vacation from June to May. AIFUCTO as the vanguard of educational system of the country cannot be a passive spectators when all its stake holders are facing a life and death question posed by Corona. The Apex Court of the country is not only publicly critical of Government policy of handling the epidemic, but has also declared summer holidays keeping in view of fiery epidemic. In the connection the AIFUCTO already sent SOS letter to MHRD & UGC to take appropriate decision immediately, the statement added.

After Rahul Gandhi's demand for full lockdown, Bupenda voices for complete lockdown in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, May 04:

The increasing trends of covid spread and death due to coronavirus have brought nation into chaotic health crisis at the moment. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted urging for a full lockdown with the protection of NYAY for the vulnerable sections, on his tweet today. Following Rahul Gandhi's step, Ningombam Bupenda Meitei also urged the state government for a total lockdown with the economic

package for the needy. Ningombam Bupenda Meitei tweeted, "I strongly suggest for a total lockdown of Manipur with economic package for the needy to stop the daily rising mortality rate and positivity rate due to covid in the state." Manipur has been witnessing daily deaths of not less than five in the last five days, suggesting the increasing positivity and mortality rates due to covid in the state. Manipur Government has already declared Greater Imphal and municipal areas under Imphal East & Imphal



West Districts as containment zone for a week. So far, the state government has not declared a lockdown in the state after the recent surge in covid spread in the state.

Indian Premier League-2021 Suspended Indefinitely After Multiple COVID-19 Cases

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 04:

In a major development, BCCI Vice-president Rajiv Shukla on Tuesday (May 4) announced that IPL 2021, the 14 edition of cricket matches, that had begun on April 09, has been suspended due to rising COVID-19 cases. The decision comes close on the heels of Monday's IPL

2021 match between the Kolkata Knight Riders and the Royal Challengers Bangalore in Ahmedabad rescheduled after the Knight Riders' spinner Varun Chakravarty and seam bowler Sandeep Warrier tested positive for Covid-19. According to IPL Governing Council members, the decision was taken after Amit Mishra and Wriddhiman Saha too tested positive. After

much deliberation, it was decided that the tournament had to be suspended for now," a BCCI official said. On Monday, two members of the Chennai Super Kings' IPL contingent too - bowling coach L. Balaji, and a bus cleaner - had tested positive for Covid-19. CEO Kasi Viswanathan's second report came negative in the evening. However, Balaji and the team

driver continued to be positive. Many Australian players left the IPL early as the coronavirus crisis worsened, with Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson choosing to follow AJ Tye home. Rajasthan Royals batsman Liam Livingstone opted to return to England citing "bubble fatigue" after spending much of the last 10 months moving in and out of biosecure environments. Meanwhile, India and Delhi Capitals spin spearhead R. Ashwin cut short his IPL season on April 25 to be with family. The BCCI now is in conversation with the authorities to ensure safe travel for the overseas players. "We are in touch with the authorities to figure out how can we send the players back home and we will ensure that everyone is safe," the BCCI official said. Nearly 30 matches out of total 56 matches have been played till now. The Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians were to clash in Delhi on May 04, Tuesday. The finals were to be held on May 30, 2021.

Addei Chipang elected as new president of UDWJA

IT News
Imphal, May 04:

Senior journalist Addie Chipang has been elected as the Ukhrul District Working Journalists' Association (UDWJA) while Ricky Angkang elected as secretary for the term 2021 to 2024 during its general body meeting held yesterday at Viewland in Ukhrul town. Ningthemgam Shimrah and R Lester Makang have been assigned the positions of finance secretary and Ukhrul Press Club (UPC) secretary respectively, while senior journalist and former UDWJA President Thotshang Shaiza has been appointed as the association's advisor for the same tenure.

Awongbow Newmai chairs COVID 19 review meeting

IT News
Tamenglong, May 04:

In view of the increasing numbers of Covid-19 positive cases being detected from amongst the person entering the district and the possibilities of being spread out within the population of Tamenglong district, Forest and Environment Minister Shri. Awongbow Newmai chaired the Covid-19 review meeting at the conference hall, mini secretariat Tamenglong

headquarter. The then in-charge of Tamenglong and Noney district Awongbow Newmai met with the district administration, police, medical staffs, concerned SDOs and local bodies and took stock of the situation and discussed at length on various plans and strategies to contain the Covid-19 second wave in the review meeting. Forest and environment minister also appealed the general public and the church leaders, village

authority as well as the CSO, to take responsibility for sharing the Covid appropriate behaviours and SOPs and he also encourage the denizens of Tamenglong district to take a vaccine for protection from covid disease. The meeting decided that all person entering through Khongsang road or via short cut will be mandatorily tested for COVID-19, the checking point will be at 5 MR gate and other will be at the Bhalok Junction.

In order to ensure this compliance, all the Taxi/Bus service provider will provide the numbers of passengers to the Tamenglong police arriving in the district. No vehicles will be allowed to enter the district after 6pm and those person from other districts wanting to enter may do so by producing the negative report of Covid-19. The meeting also decided that once on being tested positive he/she may choose either to go for home isolation or stay at the

covid care centre which has a 100 bedded capacity at Tamenglong Higher secondary school. The review meeting was attended by DC Tamenglong, Additional SP and SDPO Tamenglong, 5MR Commandant, ADM, SDO of Tamei, Tousem and Tamenglong, Chief Medical Officer Tamenglong and CEO, ADC Tamenglong and various government departments which is part of the District Task Force committee.

The Issue of Indigeneity: Who are the Indigenous?



By-Janghaolun haokip

The Issue of Indigeneity has been an endless debate, particularly in the state of Manipur settled by three major groups of people viz. the Kukis, the Meiteis, and the Nagas, who firmly believes or so resolutely expresses that they are Indigenous groups. Time to time, these groups are confronted with the questioning of their indigeneity that goes on to spark heated debates that are often communal and disturbing to the peace and harmony, and the integrity of the state. In this article, we shall explore the concept of indigeneity and how to bring about an amicable solution in the context of Manipur and within its major groups of people.

Who are the Indigenous?

According to the United Nations, as accepted by them in 1982, a preliminary definition by Mr. José R. Martínez-Cobo, Special Rapporteur on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations, "Indigenous communities, peoples, and nations are those that, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now

prevailing in those territories, or parts of them."

In a similar effort to identify *Who are the Indigenous*, the World Bank, in its strive to understand poverty, has vividly indicated that, "Indigenous Peoples are distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the lands and natural resources where they live, occupy or from which they have been displaced. The land and natural resources on which they depend are inextricably linked to their identities, cultures, livelihoods, as well as their physical and spiritual well-being. They often subscribe to their customary leaders and organisations for representation that are distinct or separate from those of the mainstream society or culture. Many Indigenous peoples still maintain a language distinct from the official language or languages of the country or region in which they reside."

Who are Indigenous to Manipur?

To study the indigeneity of people, it is to be specifically noted that at a certain time, we were all migrants, nomadic people in search of food and shelter. Studies show that the pre-modern migration of human populations begins as early as about 1.75 million years ago with the movement of *Homo erectus* out of Africa across Eurasia. Then came the *Homo sapiens* 150,000 years ago in Africa, who then moved out to different parts of the world about 70,000 years ago. This simply asserts and evinces that we were all migrants at one point of time, and the question of indigeneity, in its entirety, arose only very late in time, perhaps only in the post-colonial world.

However, apropos to the post-

colonial indigeneity, the three major groups of people in Manipur have all claimed to be indigenous to Manipur. In fact, they have their own myths and traditions to substantiate their claims. The Meiteis of the valleys claims to have a long tradition of a Manipuri Kingdom in existence since the early years of the first century. The Nagas likewise have their own beliefs and traditions of indigeneity, while the Kukis too have traditions of originality to the land, supported by the connections of their Chiefs identified as *Kuki Achouba* and *Kuki Ahongba* to the earliest known Manipuri King and creator of Manipur King *Pakhangba*, according to *Cheitharol Kumbaba*, the royal chronicle of Manipur.

Correspondingly, "A glimpse of Indigenous Tribes of Manipur", an article published in mygov.in, Government of India, there are 33 tribes that either belong to Kuki or Naga who are recognised as Indigenous groups. While it is not known on what grounds these tribes are recognised as indigenous, it must at the same time be noted that they are considered indigenous by the government of India.

The Kukis and Indigeneity

Haoginlen Chongloi, a research scholar and the author of the book *History, Identity, and Polity of the Kukis*, in his article "The Kukis and Koubru: the Epitome of Unity" writes that History is the witness that the Kukis are indigenous to Manipur and that Meitei Kings and Kuki Chiefs share close relations. Besides, he also mentioned that there are numerous instances of successful expeditions carried out by Kings of Manipur

with the assistance of the Kukis, and we cannot also deny the fact that there were numerous instances of Meitei Kings who were saved by the Kukis. In 1857, when Maharaja Chandrakriti lost the battle against the Suktes and all of his army fled in confusion, it was the Kuki chief who took pity on the weeping king. William Shaw (1929) wrote that a Kuki chief called Chongia Kuki fired his round and declared, "The Rajah shall not die until I, Chongia, am first killed by the Rajah's enemy" and later took the king to safety.

Moreover, Phanjoubam Chingkeingnaba, a correspondent of Assam-based *Asomiya Pratidin* newspaper, similarly wrote that during the period when Maharaj Bodhchandra was under intense pressure by both the newly formed democratic India and the Hindu Meiteis, Kuki chiefs sent more than 150 men to aid Bodhchandra to resist the signing of the merger agreement and protect the king from her Hindu subjects. This could not have been possible if the Kukis were migrants as few vested interest asserts today.

It is also to be noted that in the pre-colonial era, the Kukis enjoyed their own independence under the able administration of their chiefs. The accusations that the Kukis are but migrants is simply because of this simple reason that prior to the post-colonial period, the Kukis have occupied extensive regions that includes parts of Modern day Bangladesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and extending into Modern day Myanmar. It is therefore an invalid rationale to term the Kukis as migrants in Manipur because of their presence in other regions. In fact, if that rationale has

to be employed, there are also a reasonable number of the Meiteis and Nagas who are settling in present day Myanmar.

The Issue of Indigeneity and the way forward

It is implicit then that the Kukis, the Meiteis, and the Nagas can all otherwise be called as migrants if they do not respect the traditions and beliefs of one another. It is very unfortunate that few vested interests are often calling out a community or either communities are conspiring against another community to gain certain benefits by demeaning another and questioning their dignity.

Dr. Lamtinthang, an anthropologist and renowned social activist of Manipur, in an interview for the *Hills Journal*, noted that, "There is no point to draw that is indigenous or non-indigenous in the Indian context. Once you are recorded in the government registry through bonafide certification or identification, or through any constitutional schedule, you are treated as citizens of Independent India. In other words, the question of indigeneity does not arise since all groups of people known by different names were once migrants, migrating from one place to another." This corroborates the vanity of the issue of indigeneity as it only is an unseemly call for communal misunderstanding and unnecessary conflict that may but greatly hinder the development and obstructs the future prospects of the state.

The way forward has to be a comprehensive model that will be practical in nature, and will promote, than question, the distinct identity that each of these groups takes

pride in. The words of Dr. Jangkhoham Haokip, proprietor of *Bethesda Khankho Institute: Centre for Integrated Studies* have to be similarly noted with much reverence. He stated that, "For Indigenous people, land is not a commodity to be exploited for profits. Land is a being, essential for our knowledge, healing and well-being. We are a part of the land and are connected to everything that is within that land. In other words, Land is the source of our identity, culture, wisdom and theology and theological expressions. So, if you take away our land from us, you are taking away not only everything that makes us what we are (our identity) but also the very basic foundation of the earth community, that is, interconnectedness and interdependence."

Conclusion

The issue of Indigeneity demands a deliberate discourse. Particularly in a communally sensitive state like Manipur, the question must lay buried than to allow it to surface time and again. The danger has to be realised as it has the potential to thwart communal harmony, as it challenges one to go to the extremes simply to defend something that holds little relevance to the common people but at the same time can flare up to a devastating event. The State government on its part must discourage this obscene terming so as to best avoid any conflicts and violence. Individuals, and organisations, whether civil or armed undergrounds, must likewise refrain from questioning the tradition and beliefs of people. Only this can bring lasting peace and harmony in the state.

CCM urges GOM and GOI to respect the HC judgment regarding Myanmar refugees

IT News
Imphal, May 04:

Manipur High Court has upheld the human Rights of seven Myanmar Nationals, who entered India secretly, to travel to New Delhi to seek protection from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The ruling by the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court has been welcome by the Citizens Committee Manipur (CCM).

Mr. Pau Khan Thawn (journalist), Ms. Cing San Lun (journalist), Mr. Si Thu Aung (Journalist), Ms. Niang Go Man, Master Nang Sian Mung (10 years), Master Nangkhan Hao (9 years) and Ms. Dim Sian Hual Nuam (5 years) fled Myanmar following the Military Coup in February 2021 and consequently upon their media and news service Mizzima being banned. They had been hiding at Moreh until they were brought to Imphal as per an order of the High Court on April 20, 2021.

Convener of the CCM, Babloo Loitongbam, in a statement said that Even though India is not a party to the UN Refugee Conventions, the judgment insisted India is a party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1966) and pronounced "The far-reaching and myriad protection afforded by article 21 of our constitution, as interpreted and adumbrated by our Supreme Court time and again would indubitably encompass the right of non-refoulement."

The CCM also applauded the courage and determination of human rights advocate, Nandita haksar and her husband Sebastian Hongray who have selflessly invested time, financial resources and energy to defend the rights of these asylum seekers.

In the meantime, CCM continues to be deeply concerned about the plight of the other thousands Myanmar nationals taking shelter in the boarding villages of Manipur without any support and protection other than the hospitality and warmth of the poor villagers. In the last two weeks, the generous citizens of Manipur responded with utmost magnanimity to the appeal of the Humanitarian Sub Committee of CCM, and this has made it possible to reach some basic needs such as food, clothing, medicine and utensils in four villages in Kamjong district, three villages in Tengnoupal district and three villages in Churachandpur district covering more than five hundred refugees. But this local private humanitarian effort is grossly inadequate to meet the growing needs on the ground.

The CCM urged the Government of Manipur and the Union Government of India to take the constitutional and human rights obligations to protect these hapless persons more seriously in line with the judgement pronounced by the Manipur High Court.

Benefits Of Virtual Learning For Disabled Students



By- Vijay GarG

There are 8 categories in which disabled students are classified according to their disabilities - medical impairment, mental illness, mobility impairment, hearing impairment, learning disability, vision impairment, acquired brain impairment, and intellectual disability. Because certain individuals are physically and mentally challenged, it does not mean that they cannot perform well in the academics or professional life. With the advent of eLearning, education is no longer a laborious work for disabled students.

In fact, disabled students studying online find it more fulfilling and less difficult to get knowledge. While it is difficult for the disabled students to get admission in a conventional education institution, this is not a case when they turn to online learning platforms.

As a matter of fact, many colleges and universities have started conducting online learning platforms. Today, the concept of virtual campuses is evolving rapidly and more disabled students are getting enrolled. Technology is also playing a pivotal role in providing the perfect learning solutions to the disabled

students. Nowadays, students choose their own location for schoolwork and study.

Besides, disabled students find it more comforting to study in the online environment as it gives them more time to complete assignments as well as allow them to sit, rest or walk whenever there is a necessity.

There are certain benefits of e Learning for disabled students that they can avail without having any trouble. Some of them deserve a mention here: 1. For Learning Disabilities Studying online provides the disabled students time and space to work. With e-Learning, they can review materials and watch videos lectures as many times as they need. Through the IT systems and softwares, students who have dyslexia or visual processing disorder can manipulate digital text by changing their font style or size which help them in processing the information effectively. 2. For Physical Disabilities The most obvious benefit for the physically-disabled students is that they stay in their comfort zone without rushing to a campus or commuting between classes to classes. There are integrated technologies for the students who cannot type such as voice-to-text and voice-activated programs. 3. For Visual Impairments It is easier for visually-impaired students to access their computer to attend the lecture rather than traveling to the campus. The adaptive technologies like braille keyboards or voice-to-text software and audio recordings are provided for their learning.

4. For Hearing Impairments Students with hearing impairment can use technology to make their life easier. Through e-Learning, they can view video lectures with subtitles, which they cannot experience in the classroom. Text being the primary mode of communication with the teachers and other fellow students can be an easier way of interacting through forums and emails.

5. For Psychiatric Disabilities Such disabled students can work and study in their own comfort zone. As it gets difficult for them to cope up with the situation and anxiety, hence their known surrounding will help them better to learn through e-Learning. For the disabled students, two main factors are beneficial at every level: convince and flexibility. Online learning provides convenient access for the distant learners and it is more flexible than traditional schooling methods.

There is no hassle of traveling because classes can be attended from home, disabled students can easily set up their home office area according to their personal preferences. Being in their own comfort zone, it will make easier for them to progress more.

Apart from convenience, e-Learning provides students some flexibility that is not available in the F2F delivery format. Online courses are developed with Universal Designed Learning (UDL) standards. By this, information of the course is presented in multiple ways.

For example, a reading assignment available in regular text is also available as a audio

file. This will automatically give students the flexibility to read or head the information and to review it often as they need.

Online courses depend more on interactive studies like visuals, graphics, and closed-captioned videos. They are known as a great leveler. Such studies allow students to choose and share what they want to show. Such programs and studies maintain the anonymity about their disability as well. This way all the learners work together towards a common goal of learning and pursuing careers in different fields. Wrapping Up...

As technology is in everyone's hand in the form of computers, laptop, phone or tablet, attending classes online is far better than commuting to college or universities. The technology that is used for e+Learning allows auditory and visual aspects to be accessible to all learners.

It is also noted that adult disabled students prefer online environment better than the traditional format. Being convenient, flexible and accessible to all the disabled students, e-Learning is the most appealing way of encouraging and persuading such students to develop and polish their skills.

In the 21st century, the acceptance of disabilities needs to be promoted among teaching and professional staff and accessibility guidelines need to be developed according to the needs of students, based upon their real-life experiences. Disability is no more a problem as there are many tools, teaching methods and design standards that make every thing accessible to the disabled

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