

# Editorial

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

## Conversion of diesel engine with electrified engine: a good indication but there are issues still not solved

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh nodes to convert all noisy diesel auto into the electrified engine during his speech in the ongoing State Assembly budget session is an indication of his enthusiasm to make Imphal city a noise-free city. Diesel Auto which is the most convenient public transport in Imphal city is also a vehicle that irritated almost all common people not because of its unbearable engine noise but also because of the way that rode and parked in an unorganized manner. Saying so the traffic regulations say nothing about how diesel auto or any other vehicle should be on the road except mentioning some allotted parking area. It is no violation of traffic regulation if a vehicle takes up another riding ahead but a parallel ride disturbing the smooth flow of traffic is common in the street of Imphal. Moreover, the concern government department had made no separate lane for heavy or medium vehicle and neither there is no commercial lane allotted for a small-medium passenger vehicle. Cycle lovers which are good for health and serve the environment, as well as road traffic, were discouraged in Imphal city as the risk for hitting by costly and luxurious vehicles leaving aside the passenger vehicles where the number is unbearable by the present streets in Imphal.

Overbridge has been constructed in the middle of Imphal city to reduced the traffic volume, recently four-foot bridges had been constructed for conveniences of the predestined, but still, the traffic in Imphal is not improving.

Should we blame the traffic police or should it be the regulations that are responsible for the traffic chaos in Imphal city? Without taking in-depth to the regulations or to the functioning of the traffic police common men observe something seriously wrong with the people riding vehicles in the street of Imphal. The traffic problem is being left only with those in the traffic police and no law enforcers of either the state government or the center had ever extended assistant to the traffic police. Many a time policemen on duty simply stood and watch the traffic police running here and there to make the road clear. These traffic police sometimes face humiliation if the traffic violators happened to be some people holding superior posts or sons or daughters or say relatives of persons holding high profile government jobs.

The Chief Minister, who is also in charge of the Home department, should definitely prepare a mechanism to make sure that control for traffic flow should also be supported by every law enforcers by assisting the traffic police anywhere and at any place. Let the traffic police who is controlling the movement of the vehicle be a constable at rank, the Assistant Sub Inspector or sub-Inspector provide all possible help taking his command when on duty. For example, the parking lot at Wahengbam Leikai area in Imphal is always seen controlled by one or two traffic police when civil police were also seen on duty near the site. If the civil police in consultation with the traffic police on duty, the congestion could have been reduced.

Violation of traffic violations is also a crime and every police personnel should co-ordinate control such violation by empowering the traffic police.

Saying so the conversion of diesel auto with the electrified engine is indeed a good idea, however, it should not hurt the sentiment of those living on Diesel Auto by putting them financial burdens.

## Government of Manipur Office of the Deputy Conservation of Forests, Tengenoual forests Division Tengenoual : Manipur

### AUCTION NOTICE

Dated, the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

No. 19/01/2018-19/TPL :- It is hereby notified for information to the general public that there will be an auction sale of 259 (two hundred fifty nine) ton of firewood on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 11:30 am. in the following different Lot at the office premises of the Range Forests Officer, Tengenoual Range under Deputy Conservation of Forests, Tengenoual Forests Division as per order No. 19/01/2018-19/TPL dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 of the Deputy Conservation of Forests, Tengenoual. The terms and conditions of the auction sale along with the auction participation form can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hour.

Sl. No.	Lot No.	Quantity	Remark
1.	A	12cu.m.	
2.	B	60cu.m.	
3.	C	60cu.m.	
4.	D	10 cu.m.	
5.	E	9cu.m.	

Sd/-  
(A Ranabir Singh)  
Member Secretary  
Public Auction Committee  
Tengenoual Forests Division

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact : - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

## World Wetlands Day 2020 & Wetlands in Manipur.



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwar Singh

World Wetland Day is organized every year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to mark the day that small group of Environmentalists signed an International Agreement on this day at RAMSAR Convention in Iran on the shore of Caspian Sea in 1971. Established to raise awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet, WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and has grown since then. Each year government agencies and non-government organizations and group of citizens at all levels of the community have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of the wetland values and benefits such as and benefits conservation. Some of these benefits includes biologically diverse ecosystem that provide habitat for many species serve as buffer on the coast against storms and flooding and naturally filter water by breaking down on transforming harmful pollutants. The theme of this year World Wetland Day is "WETLAND and BIODIVERSITY".

The 2020 theme for World wetland Day is an opportunity, its status, why it matters and promote actions to reverse its loss. According to "The Ramsar Convention" wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary with water that is static or flowing, fresh brackish or salt, including areas of

marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters. Fish ponds, rice paddies, and depollution's and stabilization ponds and salt ponds are human-made wetlands are vital for human for other ecosystem and for our climate providing essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, including flood control and water purification. Wetland- Biodiversity matters for our health, our food supply, for tourism and jobs. Wetlands also absorb carbon dioxide, so help slow global heating and reduce pollution, hence have often been referred to as the "KIDNEYS OF THE EARTH". Though, wetland covers only around 6% of the earth's land surface, 40% of all plants and animals species live or breed in wetlands. The worrying thing is that they are disappearing three times faster than forests, due to human activities and global heating.

Wetlands are fantastically valuable multifunctional habitats- they nurture a great diversity of life, provide water and other resources, protect us from flooding and act as great filters easing pollution. The loss of wetlands due to development pressure has been enormous but these ecosystem can be restored to generate benefits for people and natural- wetland form an important part of nature. But, nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history—and the rate of species extinction is accelerating with grave impacts on people around the world now, likely according to a landmark report by "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform "on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services.

The Manipur valley is located as an in tramontane basin filled with alluvium of fluvial-lacustrine origin of Quaternary age in the Indo-Myanmar range of North-east India. The valley is confined between 24 degree 16 minutes and 25 degree 2

minutes North latitudes and 93 degree 41 minutes and 94 degree 9 minute East longitudes, covering an area of approximately 1920 Sq.km with a population of more than 2 million people. This valley is mainly occupied by wetlands like ponds, swamps, pale channels, lake, agricultural fields and flood plains. Historically these wetlands have been emotionally relating to cultural and ritual activities, fortification and recreational activities since the beginning of the Manipuri culture. Presently the wetlands are used for water supplies for domestic consumption, irrigation, industrial purposes and fish production. The rapid urbanization, massive increase in population, local climate change cause significant diminishing and shrinkage of these wetlands and thus creating a cultural gap as the ritual activities around these surface water bodies are no more practiced. Further mismanagement and negligence on the treatment of domestic solid waste deteriorates the quality of our water bodies. Artificial eutrophication coupled with climate changes, it reduces oxygen level and increases acidic level in the wetlands waters further worsen the quality leading to the extinction of some fish species from these waters. Therefore, it is high time to avoid demolishing these wetlands and rejuvenate them to maintain the age old socio-cultural relationship it bears.

According to the recent survey conducted by the Remote Sensing Application Centers Government of Manipur, there are 17 lakes and 2-ox-bow lakes in the state of Manipur. Largest number of lakes are in Imphal and Thoubal Districts. However there are also a number of smaller lakes which are termed as Kom(pits). About 134 water logged marshy and swampy wetlands are in different districts. These areas are low lying situated either in the

peripheral area or vicinity of the lakes. Highest number of water logged areas are recorded in Imphal valley (69), followed by Thoubal (40) and Bishnupur districts (21). There are 2 man-made reservoirs, one each in Senapati and Tamenglong districts. The lakes in the state are comparatively old with their own distinct characteristic life-span, topographical, physiological as well as hydrologic features. These features have been closely related to the evolving geo-physical features of the state. In the state, there were about 500 lakes in the valley in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They have been reduced fast in the past few years and as a result hardly 55 lakes were found existing in the state by 1950s. Loktak Lake is the most important fresh water lake not only in the state but also in the entire North-East India. But its fate is uncertain now as it is the apple of thesaurus for political leaders and for those who are pretend to save it. Other important existing lakes which are in the state of extreme danger are IKOP, WAITHOU, NGAKRAPAT and LOUSHIPAT. These lakes remain threatened due to artificial eutrophication and encroachment for cultivation and fish farming. Highly degraded lakers in the state

are Kharungpat, Khoidumpat, Pumenpat, Sanapat, Yarpalat and Poirapat for getting about Lamphelpat, Porompat and Akampat which are no more a lake but still Skelton of being one time a lake is seen. So simply shouting at the public platform on this day with print and electronic media coverage will not do anything to save from this fiasco until those who shouts are sincere and honest enough else your shouting may not rule out the outbreak of another epidemic like CORONA Virus in this little Paradise. **Writer can be reached to: [jugeshwar7@gmail.com](mailto:jugeshwar7@gmail.com).**

## Pune based institute develops vaccine against coronavirus Government to ban export of 12 essential medicines in view of the probable drug shortage

By Raju Vernekar  
Pune Feb 19

A Pune (Maharashtra) based Serum Institute of India (SII) has developed a preventive vaccine against coronavirus (COVID-19), expected to be available within next two years, in partnership with American biotechnology company "Codagenix".

"The vaccine designed by SII and "Codagenix" is ready for the pre-clinical test and will progress to human trials in the next six months. The SSI-Codagenix candidate vaccine has been developed using a laboratory-made synthetic virus. This is an important breakthrough since it could significantly reduce the time taken to build against the virus at the heart of the current outbreak emanating from China". Owner and CEO, SII, Adar Poonawalla, proprietor and CEO, SII said, "It usually takes eight years to fully develop a vaccine for use. We have already marched ahead by generating a candidate vaccine in the "Codagenix" laboratory in the US. Our vaccine-virus strain is identical to the original virus and can generate a robust immune response". Adar said that the vaccine will be ready for human trials within six months, that makes it the fastest 'Make in India' vaccine to enter this phase.

The newly identified coronavirus causes mild to severe respiratory illness, with symptoms including cough and fever. Until an effective vaccine becomes available, transmission of the virus can be prevented by frequent hand washing and avoiding close



contact with people who are sick. SII, a vaccine manufacturer and distributor with a global footprint, will scale-up the manufacture of the vaccine to ensure its availability to meet a critical public health need. "Codagenix" and SII are pursuing an accelerated development pathway with built-in redundancies to increase speed and likelihood of success.

SII inaugurated its new plant built up with an investment of Rs 4000 crore in Pune in September last year. It is designed to produce up to 500 million doses of vaccines in a year over the next three years. SII is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer selling over 1.5 billion doses, including Polio vaccine as well as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hib, BCG, r-Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccines. It is estimated that about 65% of the children in the world receive at least one vaccine manufactured by SII, which was founded in 1966. Similarly SII supplied 30,000 doses

of Measles/Rubella vaccine to the Government of Maldives in response to its emergency requirement last month. After Maldives approached the Government of Denmark and UNICEF with a request to supply vaccines, it approached Indian Embassy in Maldives on 20 January. Then Union Ministry of External Affairs procured 30,000 doses of Measles/Rubella vaccine from the SII and delivered the consignment on 23rd January. By now Measles has been eliminated from the Maldives.

In the meanwhile the Union Government is planning to impose export ban on 12 essential medicines- mainly antibiotics, vitamins and hormones, to ensure that there is no shortage of essential drugs in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak in Hubei province in China. The Chinese government continues to impose a lockdown in Hubei as it is the epicentre of the coronavirus epidemic.

An eight member panel set up by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has suggested a temporary ban on drugs such as chloramphenicol, neomycin, metronidazole, azithromycin, vitamins B1, B2 and B6 and hormones such as progesterone, which are essential during pregnancy and menstruation. The panel is stated to have in its report that the states need to ensure that the traders don't exploit this situation and increase the prices of either API or medicine formulations.

India gets around 80-85 per cent of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) APIs used for making medical formulations from China. India imports 57 types of molecules and 90 per cent medical devices and apparatus from China. This is largely for drugs like antibiotics - crucial among them being penicillin G (and other products based on it such as amoxicillin and ampicillin), tetracycline - and for vitamins such as vitamin C and D. All of these are based on drug ingredients made using the fermentation-based process, an area where China has achieved global dominance.

Indian pharma majors such as Lupin, Sun Pharma and Dr. Reddy's do manufacture APIs but it is for captive use or used by pharmaceutical companies for in-house production of finished dosage forms. Even as India stares at probable drug shortage Indian pharma industry has assured the Government that there will be sufficient supply of medicines and an emergent situation will not arise.