

## Gov' greets people on Sajibu Cheiraoba

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Manipur Governor La Ganesan greets the people of Manipur on the occasion of "Sajibu Nongmapanba (Cheiraoba)" - Manipuri New Year's Day, 2022.

In his message the governor wrote, "New Year is an occasion for the people to rejoice and look forward to the future with hope. It is time for making resolutions to usher in a year of peace and harmony in the state. I also look forward to the New Year as the harbinger for a happy and prosperous life for all the people in the state irrespective of caste, creed or religion. I am hopeful that the advent of the New Year will further cement the bond of friendship among the different communities in the state. On the occasion of Sajibu Nongmapanba, I urge all to re-dedicate themselves once again to the promotion of peace and harmony in the state for making a better Manipur".

## Agriculture Minister shocks over seeing under quality building at Rice Research Institution

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Agriculture Minister Th. Biswajit expressed shocked to the condition of the infrastructures of the Rice Research Institution, Wangbal in Thoubal district. While paying inspection visit at the Institution the Minister inspected the hall constructed inside the complex which is yet to be inaugurated. Infuriated on the condition of the Hall, Minister Biswajit immediately called on the Chief Engineer of the PWD and asked him to tell the contractor who constructed the hall to repair the floor as well as some of the left out portion.

The Agriculture Minister further inspected all the offices and also those newly constructed infrastructure and instructed the Director of Agriculture and other officials of the Research Institution to make sure that quality construction as well as need for proper maintenance be followed.

The Minister further dis-



cussed with the officials to develop the Black rice cultivation at the field own by the Institution. He instructed the officials to take up every means to ensure quality production of the black rice (Chakhao). Biswajit further appeal not to waste the cultivation land. He also advice to arrange for water from nearby water source.

Agriculture Minister Th. Biswajit paid the inspection visit at Thoubal district and in stock of the condition of the farmers of the district as well as the Rice Research In-

stitute along with the Director of the Agriculture and other officials. Talking to media persons after inspection of the institutions and others, Biswajit told media persons that he personally visited the district to discuss with the farmers of the area for improvement in the production of crops using better technology.

"I visited the Rice Research Institute to take stock of the condition as well as to discuss with the farmers as I am now in-charge of the Agriculture department", Minister

Biswajit said.

The Minister discussed with the Agriculture department officers including the director to find out places where various cultivation works could be taken up. The Minister also discussed with the expert to take up agricultural activities at the area near Kharung pat and Thuningei village. He appealed the department authority to control the seeds procured from the farmers and to assure that quality products of the black rice.

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## The Editorial:

## On step taken to ease traffic Congestion in Imphal, but will it be the solution

Change of school timing and office timing for all government and private schools as well as the office timing indeed is a good initiative to ease chronic traffic problem in the state. Perhaps this is not the complete solution but it will certainly relief some of the problem as vehicular movement at the same timing will not happen. The school timing as per the government measures had started from 8 am to 2.30 pm. As for the office hour it has been ordered to begin from 9 am. That means collision among the school vehicles and that of the office vehicles which we the people of Imphal had witness jamming the traffic in the city will be somehow solve. However, people are skeptical on whether this will be a solution or not as there are other factors that jam the traffic commotion in Imphal.

Traffic congestion in Imphal city has become a chronic problem. It is common understanding that traffic congestion is a condition on road networks that occurs as use increases and is characterized by slower speeds, longer trip times and increased vehicular queuing. When traffic demand is great enough, the physical use of roads by vehicles slows the speed of the traffic stream, this result in some congestion. As demand approaches the capacity of a road or of the intersection along the road, extreme traffic congestion sets in. When vehicles are fully stopped for period of time, this is colloquially known as traffic jam or traffic snarl-up. The generally considered causes of traffic congestion are the breadth of the road is too narrow to accommodate the demand of vehicles; shortage of off road parking which means people park on the roads and so increase in congestion; people not using public transport-either it is less convenient, too expensive or not available; and more people own and use their personal vehicles (two or four wheelers).

One of the major factors among others of creating traffic congestion in Imphal city is driving behaviors of the vehicles, attitude of the drivers and owners of the vehicles. Most of the drivers/owners of the vehicles in Imphal city want to drive as they wish at the speed they enjoy. Even if traffic control police sign to wait, most of the drivers drive in their vehicles without respecting the traffic control police at all the junctions in Imphal city. People must experience it that most of those who drive costly big cars behaves in such way. Maximum diesel auto rickshaw drivers are also not different from such behavior. The difference is that they think of money from passengers. If the drivers with this mindset cannot push away the vehicles in front of them who are waiting traffic sign for their turn to move, they will take wrong side and drive in violating traffic rules. Traffic control police also cannot enforce traffic rules because sometimes most of the vehicles belong to many influential persons in many ways. Another creator of traffic congestion is the vehicles of "VIP" of all kinds and security forces. Military vehicles hardly obey traffic police. Another major creator of traffic congestion and problem is the teenage riders of costly motorbikes. They drive the vehicles in crowded roads with maximum speed as if there is no speed limit to follow. Almost all the riders of such costly motorbikes are school goers and they are generally below the age of 18 years. How are they issued driving license? Unfortunately, something is seriously wrong with the system. The attitude and behaviors of the persons needs to be seriously considered as part of driving skills. But these are the reflections of changing negative social values of our society. If this driving behavior is not checked in time, it will further adds up not only to the traffic congestion and its related problems in Imphal city but also negative impact on the society at large.

On the other hand, the role of Traffic Regulation and Parking Committee (TRPC) is extremely important. This government body comprising of the Transport department, Traffic Police, State Police, PHED, PWD, IMC is the one that is reviewing the condition of the traffic condition in the state particularly in Imphal city. So far the TRPC have not allotted any traffic space in Imphal city. Some vested interested people working in the IMC have been reportedly engaging some people to collect parking fee from places where there is no allocation of parking space. There is still need for introduction of public transport and to create awareness to the people about the need for travelling in public transport instead of using private own luxurious cars.

If the government is serious about the traffic problem, the Traffic police department should be provided all possible machineries, like vehicle to lift Vehicles Park at wrong place, and other machineries like clamp and speed checkers. Moreover, the traffic police should also be given power to arrest and fine violators. As of now the traffic police though have its own police station there is no lockup to detain the violators. They are not able to file FIR to violators, but have to coordinate with civil police station. The Traffic Police department now have an SP and the departed should be converted into a full fledged police station so that they can take up cases related to violation of traffic regulation.

## Will invite and honour Irom Chanu Sharmila – CM N. Biren Singh

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has credited the people of Manipur and Irom Chanu Sharmila for the lifting of Disturb Area Status from the jurisdiction of 9 police stations by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Talking to reporters at CMO yesterday, the Chief Minister said that he will invite and honour Irom Chanu Sharmila, who had underwent fast unto death protest for repeal of AFSPA.

While thanking the prime minister and the home minister, N. Biren said that the credit goes to the people of Manipur and particularly Irom Chanu



Sharmila. Answering to reporters query the Chief Minister said, "Our government will invite and honour Irom Chanu Sharmila".

"Disturbed Area" status has been lifted from areas under the jurisdiction 9 (nine) Police Stations of the State with effect from today for a period of six months. He made the announcement to the media during a press conference held

today at the Chief Minister's Secretariat yesterday.

N. Biren Singh further said that, his government will also urge the government of India to lift Disturb area status from others area, however, as some of the armed rebel group are presently ensnail in suspension of operation and a political solution is yet to arrive, the government is taking some more time.

The Police Stations from which "Disturbed Area" status had been withdrawn today under Section-3 of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 are Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Lamlai, Iribung, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching and Jinbam.

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## EEVFAM & HRA welcomes revocation of Disturb area status

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Extrajudicial Execution Victim Families' Association, Manipur (EEVFAM) and Human Rights Alert (HRA) has welcome the revocation of the "disturbed area" status under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) from various parts of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur by the Government. This is a step in the right direction, said a statement of the two bodies.

It may be recalled that EEVFAM and HRA petitioned the Supreme Court seeking justice for 1,528 documented victims of extrajudicial execu-

tions carried out from 1979 to 2012 in Manipur under the shadow of AFSPA. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was directed to investigate cases where there is already an earlier prima facie finding. CBI registered 39 FIRs. Out of this, 30 final reports have been submitted to the respective Chief Judicial Magistrates (CJM) in Manipur. When the alleged perpetrators are police personnel, the Government of Manipur has granted prosecution sanction under section 197 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and the trials are going on.

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## A Comprehensive Book on Manipuri Cinema written by Meghachandra Kongbam to be launched

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Legendary theatre director and writer Ratan Thiyam will launch a comprehensive book on Manipuri Cinema written by Meghachandra Kongbam, a member of International Federation of Film Critics, Indian Chapter (FIPRESCI-India) on April 3, 2022 Sunday at 2.30 pm at J.N. Manipur Dance Academy auditorium in Imphal, on the solemn celebration of the Manipuri Cinema 50 years. This book is the product of the author who has encountered multiple layers of stories of Manipuri Cinema in the last five decades.

The book entitled -

Manipuri Cinema in English is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the environment of the cinema before the actual birth of Manipuri Cinema. The second chapter focuses on the works of the pioneers of Manipuri Cinema. In the third chapter, the life and works of the second-generation filmmakers and producers are highlighted. The fourth chapter deals with Manipuri Cinema in the digital era. The last chapter discusses the issues of Manipuri Cinema.

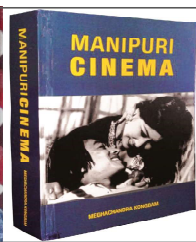
The book contains more than 600 pages with hardbound cover. The book also carries the synopsis, cast and credits of all the Manipuri films certified by the Central Board of Film



Certification from 1972 to the November end of 2021.

The original price of the book is Rs 1200/-. On the launching day, the book shall be available at Rs 900/-.

Professor M.C. Arun of Manipur University will speak about the book. M. Joy



Singh IAS Commissioner (Art and Culture/IPR), Government of Manipur will preside over the function. Those readers and film lovers are welcomed at the event to celebrate the great moment of the Golden Jubilee Year of Manipuri Cinema.

Meghachandra Kongbam received Swarna Kamal for the Best Film Critic in the National Film Awards 2015. He did his post graduate degree in Journalism from the Benaras Hindu University in 1979 and retired as Director in the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur. He is also a member of Film Critics Circle of India. He is currently the President of Film Society of Manipur, the third oldest film society in North-east India. He regularly contributes articles on many cinema books published by the Federation of Film Societies of India and FIPRESCI-India and others edited by film scholars.

# Be it education or jobs, corruption has many layers

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



After the launch of a long-awaited Anti Corruption Helpline number (9501200200) in Punjab on the occasion of the Martyrs Day, more than 1.5 lakh complaints were received within a week at its Mohali headquarters through video and audio mode. Just imagine how much the state has been suffering from corrupt practices. The state is deeply immersed in debt, and this situation has been created by its own people. Way back in 2008, I had heard somewhere that in Punjab, if someone wanted to get a project approved, a certain part of the profit was required to be shared with the political bigwigs. The situation kept worsening even after that period. The new government is expected to change the trend, to bring the state economy on the right track. The decision to allow only one pension to the former MLAs of Punjab is also commendable. Otherwise most of the leaders were leaving no stone unturned to loot the government treasury by claiming multiple pensions.

The Punjab government is also being hailed for pulling strings on arbitrarily fee hikes by private schools. No school will be allowed to force the parents to buy children's books and uniforms from a particular shop. The government has set a good example, which should be followed by other states as well. There was no check on corruption in the field of education, which made guardians helpless and no one was listening to their plight. Now the people of Punjab will be able to buy their children's books and uniforms from any store of their choice. It is another matter that the school may find some other way to cheat. Haryana is also suffering from the terrors of corruption. Ashok Khemka, a senior IAS officer known for his strict decisions, has pointed to bribery of more than Rs 300 crore value, in his letter to the Haryana CM. The letter hints about an alleged bribe of Rs 200 to 500 per square yard. Irregularities have been found in more than 64 thousand registries. More than 50% of these cases are reported from Karnal, Gurgaon and Faridabad districts. If the size of the plot is assumed to be an average of 250 square yards and the bribe amount is at least Rs 200 per square yard, then this amount becomes Rs 300 crore.

According to a research by Dr. Kulwinder Singh of University Business School (UBS) of Panjab University, 71% of those going abroad from Punjab are those who take the illegal route. Less educated or semi-skilled Punjabi youth, when not able to migrate in a legal manner, i.e. whose application is rejected, mostly opt for illegal or irregular migration. Of these, 57% migrate to European countries in search of jobs. About 18% go to Arab countries and 11% to South-east Asian countries like Singapore or Malaysia. Most of them are below 40 years of age and 95% are educated till 12th standard or below. Meanwhile, the US Embassy in New Delhi released its open dose report and revealed that in the 2020-21 session, 9.14 lakh foreign students from 200 countries were studying in the US, of which 20% or about 1.67 lakh students were from India alone.

# Regional languages will reflect cultural roots in young mind



By: Vijay GarG

Proficiency in regional languages will bring students will strengthen their cultural roots

## Young minds can learn better

As long as there is built-in flexibility for schools to decide on introducing regional languages without pressure, this can be done to have a new flavour of learning. Our brains have a great ability to learn a new language in the early years, but we need to look at the larger intent. Nurturing one's inner resources in the early years helps better. In a language diverse India, it is a difficult task, but can be helped by inter-linguistic cultural marriages, multilingual parents, intra-country migrations on one hand while on the other hand adept educators, understanding parents, convincing leaders and many more factors need synergy. If we decode, we will be able to help our future generation celebrate and take accountability for our rich cultural and multi-linguistic inheritance. Protecting the fast-paced extinction of languages and with it, knitting the rich cultural fabric of ours is a need of the hour.

## Teaching regional languages is needed

Learning native language helps in building confidence and connecting with a new culture. It also helps in interacting with local people and in maintaining harmony within the community. Research suggests that local language helps improve learning, increases class participation and encourages learning other new languages too. Some parents in transferable jobs may find it difficult to make their children learn regional languages. Hence, it is the responsibility of the schools and parents to generate interest in learning different regional languages apart from their mother tongue. Instead of forcing a particular language on students, schools should introduce literacy clubs as a part of extracurricular activities in creating interest in other languages. Interested students should be enrolled in such clubs and be encouraged to learn different Indian languages without having to stress about marks.

## Better than learning foreign languages

Students should learn regional languages in schools as it helps one connect with diverse cultures. CBSE schools these days offer many foreign languages. Schools in Maharashtra have Marathi as a compulsory language. Foreign languages are not much useful these days as translation in any languages can be done easily through Google. Maharashtra state board makes it compulsory for students to study Marathi till class VIII. However, if a transferred case comes then the board allows opting for other languages.

## It reflects cultural roots

It is not about forcing the students to learn regional language in schools, but it is everybody's duty to encourage the students to learn their own language thoroughly. Our language is the reflection of our culture. All students should understand their culture, otherwise they would feel alienated in their native place. If we intend to enrich our own language, books containing latest scientific and technological theories and discoveries should be published in regional languages.

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# Kumkumadi Oil for Beauty



By: Shahnaz Husain

Kumkumadi oil, loosely translated as saffron oil, is a combination of 21 herbal ingredients that consists of 100% natural herbs, essential oils, and cold-pressed vegetable oils that is lightweight, non-greasy and a treat to use in everyday routine.

This beauty oil is excellent as a facial skincare product which not only maintains skin health, but also treats skin issues.

The age-old traditional recipe of the oil is a blend of several ayurvedic herbs and pure essential oils such as Saffron, Sandalwood, Vetiver, Sesame oil, Turmeric extracts, Rose oil, Manjistha, Almond oil. Kumkumadi oil is a herbal oil that works like a miracle for the skin and is considered to be one of the most renowned and age-old ayurvedic beauty secrets. It offers a complete skincare solution, from nourishing the skin, to effectively working as a facial toner, cleanser, and moisturizer.

Besides, it also keeps your skin supple by keeping it hydrated and improving its elasticity.

Broadly speaking it is said to reduce signs of aging like wrinkles, fine lines, dark spots, blemishes, and pimples. It is also said to help in reducing hyper-pigmentation, a common issue with Indian skin and also help fight against common allergies and infections.

Kumkumadi Oil may be used by all skin types and should be used at night. It is known as a miraculous treatment for the skin and is said to help and even cure several skin problems. It is said to have healing and soothing benefits, since it has anti-septic, anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. It is said that this unique combination of herbs has

been used to treat infections and wounds. The oil can be mixed with Tea Tree Oil and used for skin conditions like acne, pimples, rash, itching and burning in the skin. In fact, according to an expert, The oil also works like a cleanser that helps clean the skin pores by scooping out excessive oil, dirt and grime and sheds off dead skin cells.

This oil has moisturising properties which is a great way to also deal with dry skin, thereby giving you a natural glow. With regular use, this oil will help soften even the driest skin and make it plump and supple.

Regular massage with this miraculous oil is said to have many benefits for the skin. It nourishes the skin and protects its youthful properties. It can also help the regeneration of new skin cells, delaying the visible signs of ageing, like lines and wrinkles. It also helps to brighten the complexion and give an instant glow to the skin. In fact, it has many other benefits that help the skin, like reducing dark spots and patches, as well as producing an even colour tone. Ingredients like saffron, sandalwood and turmeric in the oil have antioxidant properties and help in achieving a clear and radiant skin. The ingredients also protect the skin from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. The oil is, in fact, a remedy for blemishes, pigmentation, dark patches and spots, helping to brighten the skin and clear blemishes.

Saffron itself is known to provide a radiant and clear skin.

Nowadays people are much more aware of good health, as well as organic and natural ingredients, not only for health, but also for beauty. That is why people are looking for the natural and healthy route to

beauty and fitness. That is why Ayurvedic remedies like Kumkumadi Tailam are attracting so much attention. In fact, such remedies have led to extensive research in India and several other countries. The wealth of knowledge and the empirical value of Ayurvedic remedies are becoming the choice of many.

In my search for natural beauty care without risks, I came across Ayurvedic prescriptions and remedies that are ideal for the good health and beauty of the skin and hair. That is why I have been propagating Ayurvedic beauty care all over the world so that people can turn away from cosmetics that contain chemicals. India's ancient science of Ayurveda offers products for beauty and wellness that are safe and beneficial. Kumkumadi Tailam or Oil is one such product for the skin that is made from herbs known for both beauty and wellness. This oil is prepared following an ancient prescription that was written centuries ago and has been practised for centuries too.

One of the main benefits of this miraculous oil is that it can be used

for all skin types. It is said to regulate the oil secretion function in oily skin. However, it is best to use only two drops on the skin at night, spreading it all over the face. Leave it on for 20 minutes and rinse off with plenty of plain water. People with dry skin may use about 4 to 5 drops of the oil.

Kumkumadi Tailam is a potent Ayurvedic herbal solution that helps manage skin discoloration and pigmentation in the most gentle and effective way. It has the Licorice root extract (Madhuayashitika) that helps reduce the enzyme that causes pigmentation from sun exposure. It also eliminates the dark pigmentation resulting from scars. Kumkumadi oil benefits include improving skin radiance, and the Indian Barberry (Kaliyaka) extract reduces the production of skin lipids that helps unclog pores and helps in achieving naturally beautiful skin. For oily skin, only a couple of drops is sufficient to get the desired results.

It is important to remember that Kumkumadi Oil should be used at night. This is because some of the ingredients may cause the skin to be tanned in the sun. For sensitive skin, a patch test may be done, before use.

If you have really oily skin, it is inadvisable to keep a thick layer of this oil on at night. For you, this oil should be massaged in after cleansing, and left on the face for 20 minutes. After that, the excess oil should be wiped off with a steaming wet cotton towel, leaving only a thin layer of the oil on. Either that, or you should apply the product very sparingly.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

# "Jal Shakti Abhiyan : Catch The Rain Campaign Makeswater Everybody's Business"

Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Catch the Rain Campaign-2022 was launched by the President of India on 29th March, 2022. This is the 3rd year that the country is, in mission mode, organizing a Jan Andolan to conserve rain water and recharge ground water.

Led and inspired by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched for the first time in the year 2019 with the vision to involve everybody in preparing for the rains, so that we can store and use as much of the rain water as possible and replenish our ground water reserves.

Ground water is sometimes called the invisible resource. Everybody uses it. It is mostly free, available to those with access and the means to extract it. It sustains critical ecosystems, such as lakes, wetlands and woods.

India is the largest user of groundwater in the world, using more than a quarter of the available global resources. Ground water has played an important role in ensuring the food security of the country for several decades. It was a major driver in ensuring the success of the 'Green Revolution' through millions of energized tube wells. This finite resource currently caters to more than 60 percent of irrigated agriculture, 85 percent of rural drinking water supplies and more than 50% of the urban water supplies.

Increasing and unsustainable extraction of ground water has resulted in significant depletion of this valuable resource. From large-scale loss of livelihoods to health issues related to lack of availability of safe drinking water to people migrating, the impact of water scarcity is severe. This is compounded by climate change, which makes precipitation patterns erratic and therefore affects the predictability of ground water recharge. At present, ground water resources in nearly one-third of the country are under different levels of stress. Small and marginal farmers, women and

weaker sections of the society, disproportionately bear the brunt of ground water depletion and contamination.

To address this problem, the Government of India, inspired by the Prime Minister, launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019. The Prime Minister himself wrote to all the Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories and also all the Panchayat leaders, to give leadership to the campaign in their respective jurisdictions.

This was a time-bound, mission mode water conservation campaign, implemented in the July - November 2019 period in 1,592 blocks of 256 water-stressed districts of the country. These blocks fell under the critical or over-exploited ground water category, where ground water was being extracted faster than it could be replenished.

JSA was a collaborative effort of various ministries of the Government of India and State Governments, co-ordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. During the campaign, officers, groundwater experts and scientists from the Government of India worked together with the States and district officials in India's most water-stressed districts for water conservation and water resource management by focusing on accelerated implementation of five targeted interventions. The JSA aimed at making water conservation a Jan-andolan through extensive communication and involvement of communities.

JSA focused on five aspects-water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed



By: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

development, and intensive afforestation. Besides, special interventions included development of Block Water Conservation Plans and District Water Conservation Plans, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Melas, Urban Wastewater Reuse and 3D contour mapping of all

villages.

States used resources from multiple sources. It was stipulated that at least 60 percent of MGNREGA funds should be spent on natural resource management activities, mainly water conservation. Fifteenth finance Commission Grants, CAMPA funds, CSR resources were all utilized to fund these activities.

The combined efforts of all the stakeholders in 2019, achieved the creation of 2.73 lakh water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures, renovation of 45,000 water bodies/tanks, creation of 1.43 lakh reuse and recharge structures, 1.59 lakh watershed development related works, 12.36 crore trees planted and preparation of 1372 block water conservation plans.

Beyond these numbers, the campaign created a strong environment for bringing together all stakeholders working on water recharge and management. Many States did more than was originally planned. Some States extended the campaign to all their districts, going beyond the water stressed districts that were selected initially.

The year 2020 was the first year that the country was responding to the COVID pandemic. It was, therefore, not possible to implement a full scale Jan-andolan that year. The Ministry of Jal Shakti, therefore, worked with large landowners like educational institutions, Defence establishments to increase rain water harvesting.

In the year 2021, encouraged by the response in 2019, the scope of JSA 2019 was expanded and the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain' (JSA: CTR) campaign was launched in all districts (rural as well as urban) in the country. JSA:CTR was implemented from 22nd March 2021 to 30th November 2021 with the theme "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls".

During the JSA:CTR campaign from 22 March 2021 to 30 November 2021, about 42 lakh water related works were taken up, in addition to 36 crore trees planted. This includes creation/maintenance of 14.76 lakhs water conservation and RWH structures, renovation of 2.78 lakh traditional water bodies, creation/maintenance of 7.34 lakh reuse & recharge structures and 17.02 lakh watershed development related works. The expenditure under MGNREGA alone is more than Rs. 65000 crore.

In view of the importance of water for lives and livelihoods in the country, preparing for the rains to optimize water conservation must be an annual feature. This year too, therefore, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the rain campaign is being organized through the length and breadth of the country. The campaign will be implemented from 22 March, 2022 to 30 November, 2022 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.

Like last year, water conservation and recharge activities will include roof-top RWHs on all buildings - with priority for government buildings, water harvesting pits in all compounds, maintenance of old/ building of new check dams/ponds; removal of encroachments of tanks/lakes, desilting of tanks to increase their storage capacity, removal of obstructions in their channels, repairs to traditional step-wells and other RWHs, use of defunct bores/unused wells to recharge aquifers, rejuvenation of small rivers and rivulets, revival of wetlands and protection of flood-banks.

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# India logs 1,335 fresh covid cases, 52 deaths in 24 hours

Agency  
New Delhi, April 1:

India on Friday reported 1,335 fresh coronavirus cases, a minor rise in the daily cases as compared to Thursday, taking the total tally to 4,30,25,775 covid cases. The country also recorded 52 deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing the total death toll due to the virus to 5,21,181.

According to the health ministry, the active cases currently stand at 13,672 - comprising 0.03% of the total covid infections.

A total of 1,918 people recovered in the last 24 hours, taking the recovery rate to 98.76 in the country, while the

daily positivity rate stood at 0.22%.

India has administered 1,84,31,89,377 vaccine doses in the country so far, according to the CoWin portal. 23,57,917 vaccine doses were administered in the past 24-hours. On Thursday, Uttar Pradesh became the first state in India to administer 30 crore covid-19 vaccine doses.

As the country is witnessing a downward trend in the covid cases, Delhi and Maharashtra - two of the worst-hit states due to the coronavirus, have decided to lift all covid curbs.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Thursday decided to do

away with a fine for not wearing face masks in public places. Until now, a fine of ₹ 500 was imposed for not wearing masks in public places across the national capital. Delhi's covid cases tally currently stands below the 1500 mark.

The Maharashtra government on Thursday withdrew all restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The government also revoked the Epidemic Diseases Act and Disaster Management Act that had been in force for the last two years. The active cases in Maharashtra currently stand at 902.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on Septem-

ber 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 52 new fatalities include 48 from Kerala.

A total of 5,21,181 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,783 from Maharashtra, 67,913 from Kerala, 40,054 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,152 from Delhi, 23,495 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,197 from West Bengal.

# Assam Rifles apprehends UGs



IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

In two separate operations, Mantripukhri Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) along with Manipur Police apprehended two insurgents of Manipur Tribal Revolutionary Army (MTRA) from Pomei Colony

in Imphal East district and UNLF from Iroishemba in Imphal West on 30 March 22.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation and apprehended an active cadre of Manipur Tribal Revolutionary Army (MTRA) from Pomei Colony, Imphal East. While at the other

hand, in Iroishemba area of Imphal West, in another joint operation with Manipur Police, Assam Rifles troops apprehended an active cadre of proscribed group UNLF.

Both apprehended insurgents were handed over to Heingang and Lamphel Police Station for further investigation.

# 20th Edition of India France Naval Exercise-Varuna-2022

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, April 1:

The 20th edition of the bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies - 'Varuna-2022', with high tempo naval operations at sea, is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03.

The bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies were initiated in 1993. The exercise was named 'Varuna' in 2001. It has become a vital part of the India - France strategic bilateral relationship. These interactions further underscore the shared values as partner navies, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

Various units including ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters of the two



The vessels which participated in Naval Exercise - "Varuna 2021" (File Photo)

navies are participating in the exercise. These units will endeavour to enhance and hone their operational skills in maritime theatre, augment interoperability to undertake maritime security operations, and demonstrate their commitment to promote peace, security, and stability in the region as an integrated force in the maritime domain.

The exercise will witness advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, intense fixed and rotary wing flying operations, tactical manoeuvres, surface, and anti-air weapon firings, underway replenishment, and other maritime security operations.

Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, the Varuna series of exercises

continue to provide both the navies opportunities to learn from each other's best practices. The exercise has been a principal driver for operational-level interactions between the two navies and has underscored the shared commitment of both nations to security, safety, and freedom of the global maritime commons.

Exercise Varuna has been a key enabler in strengthening the coordination between the two navies. This exercise has matured over the years with an increase in scope, complexity of operations, and level of participation.

The Desert Knight-21 and Garuda (Air exercise) and Shakti (Army exercise) are other Indo-French Joint Exercises. Last year, the Indian Navy had taken part in the France-led naval exercise "La P'rouse" with the navies of the US, Australia, and Japan.

# AR organised Solo Marathon

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(South) organised a Solo Marathon by Anish Ahmad for Promotion of "Green Manipur" at Singamei and Chingmeirong Company

Operating Base in Imphal West yesterday.

The "Solo Marathon of Anish Ahmad" event commenced with the flagging-off at Kangla Fort and proceeded via Singamei and Chingmeirong Company Operating Base till its final destination at Porompat.

This initiative of Assam Rifles was in continuation of its public outreach efforts to strengthen the bond between the security forces and the local populace as well as to promote the idea of "Green Manipur". This noble gesture was welcomed whole heartedly by the locals.

# 3rd Gurjeet Singh Memorial National Moot Court Competition, 2022

IT News  
Guwahati, April 1:

After two years of uncertainty at the behest of the mortal pandemic, the Moot Court Committee of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam ensued with the 3rd edition of its flagship moot Gurjeet Singh Memorial National Moot Court Competition in the virtual mode scheduled from the 25th to the 27th of March, 2022.

The preparations for the event began long back where the entire Organizing Committee invested themselves in the process of executing the blueprint of the much anticipated competition under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) VK Ahuja. The entire student fraternity along with faculty heads and the administrative officials poured

their hearts and souls to make this event a reality. The Moot problem revolved around the nuances of Constitutional Law clubbed with the much contended provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

The event started with an enthusiastic opening ceremony where Vice Chancellor of the host university Professor Dr. VK Ahuja and Registrar Dr. Indranosh Das, boosted the moral of all the participating teams. With a head start of 22 strong teams, the participants had the golden opportunity to argue before some of the most learned legal minds which definitely taught them imperative skills needed in the spectrum of this profession. The finale rounds of the competition was fiercely

fought between Maharashtra National Law University Nagpur and University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University where the former emerged victorious.

The rounds were presided over by the very renowned judges of the Guwahati High Court namely, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Justice Rumi Kumari Phukan and Justice Manish Choudhury who with their legal knowledge posed series of questions to the finalists who in turn maintained their calmness while answering the same. The competition ended with a promising valedictory ceremony congratulating the winners and all the participants for their efforts where the occasion was graced by the Hon'ble Judges, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) VK Ahuja and other members of the NLUJAA fraternity.

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# Jal Shakti Abhiyan : Catch The Rain...

Based on feedback from the hill states, there will be special focus, this year, on identification of springs, mapping and management of springsheds.

Every district has been requested to enumerate, with the help of old revenue records and using remote sensing images from NRSA and GIS mapping technology all existing water-bodies/ Water Harvesting Structures (WHS) and use the data for scientifically planning future WHS. National Water Mission has prepared guidelines for the preparation of GIS based water conservation plans and inventory of water bodies of districts and forwarded it to all the districts for its implementation. A number of districts have prepared these plans and are implementing them. All districts will be encouraged to complete this exercise this year.

As a part of 'JSA: CTR' campaign 2021, the state governments were requested to set up 'Jal Shakti Kendras' (JSKs) in all district headquarters. These JSKs are "knowledge centres" for disseminating information related to water, techniques for water conservation and water saving. The main motive behind setting

up of the JSKs was to provide technical guidance to local people as well as to the district administration. So far, 336 JSKs have been set up all over the country. During the implementation of the campaign in the current year, the work related to setting up of JSK in each district of the country will be expedited and completed.

Civil Society organizations active in the field of water management are part of this exercise, working with Central Government, State Governments district administrations and local communities.

People and communities are at the centre of all our programmes. Whether it be our effort to rejuvenate our rivers, improve water recharge and water use efficiency, use ground water sustainably, to achieve open defecation free communities, involving people in their own water security forms the bedrock of sustainable change. This is particularly true of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. It is therefore imperative that everybody, individuals, groups, resident welfare organizations, self-help groups, corporates, media houses, educational institutions all come together to make

this campaign successful.

We owe a water secure India to ourselves and our coming generations.

Jai Hind.  
(The writer is a Union Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti)

# PEACE Crafts Bazar

Venue : Khoyol Keithel Moirang Lamkhai  
Bishnupur District, Manipur

Date : 26th March to 4th April 2022  
Time : 10:30 a.m.

# Item Display of Sales

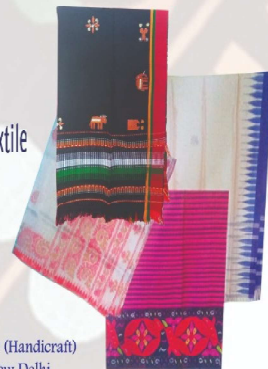
\*Cane & Bamboo \*Kouna Crafts \* Hand Embroidery \* Artistic Textile  
\* Woolen Shoe \* Doll & Toys \* Other Decorative Items



Organised by:  
People's Education for Awareness & Community Empowerment Organisation (PEACE)  
Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai, Imphal - 795001  
Manipur, India



Sponsored by:  
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicraft)  
Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India, New Delhi  
R.K. Puram - 66



# A fortnight observance of Swachhta Pakhwada held in RIMS

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal kick-started the campaign for Swachhta Pakhwada from today i.e., 1st April, 2022. The fortnight observance of Swachhta Pakhwada will continue till 15th April, 2022. The Head of Dermatology Department and in-charge Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital Prof. Th. Nandakishore Singh administered the "Swachhta Pledge" to the faculty members, officers and staffs of the RIMS, Imphal and also staff of the CRED and Manipur Security Service in front of the OPD Block, RIMS

Hospital. The Medical Superintendent-in-charge urged the faculty members, officials and staffs to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Clean India which was started as a massive mass movement. A massive cleanliness programs also held and participated by the staff of CRED and Manipur Security Service.

During the observance of Swachhta Pakhwada, the institute is organizing various programs and activities some of the activities/programs are Street play, Swachhta Health Camps, Poster Campaign, Sanitization drives, World Health Day, Painting Competition, Tree Plantation, Cyclothon etc.

# Lamsang Bazar residents stage sit-in against constructions on public ground

IT News  
Imphal, April 1:

Residents of Lamsang Bazar staged a sit-in, protesting against the government's move to construct different establishments on the area's lone public ground.

Highlighting that the place requires a recreational park to enhance the area's overall development, Sorokhaibam Surbala, an executive member of Lamsang Keithel Meira Paibi Lup, said: "If the construction continues, there will be no place left in the Lamsang Keithel area the organization or any individual can organize any sports or cultural events in the future. Moreover, it will jeopardize the well-being of present and future generations."

Kshetrimayum Binand, the Publicity Secretary of the local club, Progressive Youth Association, said: "Lamsang Bazar already has two community halls. Therefore, there is no requirement for another. Moreover, a market shed was recently inaugurated at the bazaar, so construction of a market shed is not required."

"Not only will the park provide beautiful green spaces, but it will also improve the well-being of the area by providing a gathering place for youths and elders," Binand added.

The local club had recently canceled the Yaoshang Sports Meet 2022 - an annual event that the organization, protesting against the construction.

Contd. from Page 1

# Agriculture Minister shocks over seeing ....

He said that the aim of the department should be to ensure double cropping to the farmers by providing all facilities. He also appreciated the work being taken up by the

KVK Thoubal for promotion of the farmers.

The Agriculture Minister said that he will discuss with the Chief Minister to increase the manpower of the Rice Research

Institution as well Agriculture department. Further he told that the government of Manipur under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh will make sure that the

dream of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi happen.

The Minister also stated that the government is preparing to establish a proper market place for the farmers.

# Will invite and honour Irom Chanu Sharmila ....

As of now, the Disturbed Area had been withdrawn from 15 Police stations including 6 Police Stations withdrawn earlier i.e. Imphal, Lamphel, City, Singjamei, Porompat and Heingang.

The Chief Minister stated withdrawal of Disturbed Area had been a long standing demand for the people of the State. The State Government had been informing the Central leader about the necessity of lifting the Armed Forces Special Powers

Act, 1958 from the State, he added. He continued that the State Government, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and support of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, had been working tirelessly to improve the law and order situation in the State. With the financial assistance of the Central Government, the State had been able to persuade many underground organisations/insurgent groups to surrender and join the mainstream.

N. Biren continued that withdrawal of Disturbed Area status had shown that the law and order situation of the State had considerably improved. He appealed to the public to support the Government's efforts for improving the law and order further across the State so that the Disturbed Area status could be lifted from remaining areas of the State.

It may be mentioned that along with Manipur, the Government of India has reduced dis-

turbed areas under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, Assam.

Power Minister Thongam Biswajit, Education Minister Yumnam Khemchand, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Govindas Konhoujam, Cooperation Minister Nemcha Kipgen, Water Resources Minister Awangbow Newmai and Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar were also present during the press conference among others.

# EEVFAM & HRA welcomes revocation....

However, when the perpetrators are personnel of the armed forces of the Union, the Union Home Ministry has passed orders denying prosecution sanctions under section 6 of AFSPA. Six such cases have been submitted to the CJM so far.

When sufficient evidence of the extrajudicial killing is laid out before the CJMs by none other than the premier investigating agency of the country, and that too under the direction of the apex court, the Union of India is insisting to halt all further legal

proceedings. CJM of Imphal West has referred the matter to the High Court of Manipur in February 2021 to ascertain on how to proceed with the cases. But with little progress in the High Court, the victims seeking justice are left high and dry.

EEVFAM and HRA would like to, therefore, suggest to the Government of India that the next logical step would be to grant prosecution sanction of the security personnel found to be involved in the extrajudicial killing of civilians.

# Sports Corner

# Veteran Sushila Chanu backs India to win gold in Jr Women's Hockey World Cup

Agency  
Wales, April 1:

She captained India to a bronze medal finish in the 2013 Women's Junior Hockey World Cup and veteran Sushila Chanu feels the Salima Tete-led side has the potential to go two steps further and claim a maiden gold in the edition that begins on Friday.

The Indian team will begin its campaign in Pool D against Wales on Saturday in Potchefstroom, South Africa before taking on formidable Germany on Sunday.

The Indians will then take on Malaysia in their final pool match before the quarterfinal round which starts on April 8.

"This is a really tight-knit group with excellent understanding between each other on the field, and off field as well. They have trained together as a group for a long time, and even played practice matches against the senior



women's team in the national camp at SAI Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar in which they have contested well," Sushila said.

"The group also consists of players who have represented the senior team on the big stage like the Olympics. These reasons lead me to believe that the Indian junior team is a strong contender for the gold medal," Sushila was re-

ferring to the trio of skipper Tete, midfielder Shamila Devi and striker Lalremliami, who were part of the senior team that finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics.

Halfback Sushila, one of the core group players in the Indian women's team, rose to prominence within the national setup following the bronze medal finish in 2013 in Monchengladbach, Germany.

"We had the time of our lives during that Junior World Cup campaign. We were so young and carefree at the time, but each one of us was completely focussed on using that competition as a platform to improve on our skills individually, and as a team," she recalled in Hockey India's podcast 'HockeyTe Charcha'.

"Our communication within the team was so strong at the time. It was one of the key reasons behind our success in the Junior World Cup.

"Winning that medal was the biggest achievement of my life. I will never forget that game and that moment when we secured victory.

The penalty shootouts were going on, and everyone in the team was huddled together in the centre of the pitch and we were all praying together. After winning the match that day, we were all overjoyed. That campaign was truly unforgettable."



MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Regd. Office : 3rd Floor, New Directorate Building, near 2nd MR Gate  
Imphal - Dimapur Road, Imphal, Manipur)

CIN: U40101MN2013SGC008343

Summary of Tariff Schedule approved by Commission for FY 2022-23 for Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd (MSPDCL) and to be effective from 01.04.2022 :

## A) Approved Subsidised Tariff for FY 2022-23

Table 8.2: Category wise Subsidised Tariffs approved by the Commission for FY 2022-23

Sl. No	Consumer Category (FY 2019-20)	Existing Tariff		Approved Subsidised Tariff	
		Fixed Charges (P.M)	Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)	Fixed Charges (P.M)	Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)
	IT SUPPLY				(Rs./kWh)
1	Kutir Jyoti		Rs./Connection		
	All Units (Upto 45 kWh/ 3 Month)	25 (Connection)	2.10	25.00	2.10
2	Domestic		Rs./KW		Rs./KWh
	First - 100 kwh/Month	65.00	5.10	65.00	5.10
	Next 100 kwh/Month	65.00	5.95	65.00	5.95
	Above 200 kwh/Month	65.00	6.75	65.00	6.75
3	Non-Domestic/Commercial		Rs./KW		Rs./KWh
	First - 100 kwh/Month	85.00	6.55	85.00	6.55
	Next 100 kwh/Month	85.00	7.25	85.00	7.25
	Above 200 kwh/Month	85.00	7.65	85.00	7.65
4	Public Lighting	70.00	9.55	70.00	9.60
5	Public Water Works	105.00	9.80	105.00	9.80
6	a) Agriculture (Individual)	65.00	4.55	65.00	4.55
	b) Irrigation (others)	65.00	4.55	65.00	4.55
7	Small Industry	70.00	4.85	70.00	5.60
	HT SUPPLY	Rs/kVA	Rs/kVAh	Rs/kVA/PM	Rs/kVAh
1	Commercial	105.00	8.75	105.00	8.90
2	Public Water Works	105.00	9.50	105.00	9.60
3	a) Agriculture (Individual)	105.00	4.75	105.00	5.15
	b) Irrigation (others)	105.00	4.75	105.00	5.15
4	Medium Industry	105.00	7.20	105.00	8.00
5	Large Industry	105.00	8.80	105.00	9.10
6	Bulk Supply	105.00	8.80	105.00	9.25

## B) Approved Full Cost Tariff (FCT)

Table 8.3: Category wise Full Cost Tariff (without subsidy) for FY 2022-23 as approved by the Commission

Sl. No.	Category & Consumption Slab	Full Cost Tariff	
		Fixed Charges (Rs./pm)	Energy Charges (Rs./KWh or KV/h)
1	Kutir Jyothi (FCT)	Rs./Connection	Rs.KWh
	All Units (upto 45 kWh/3 Months)	25 per Connection	9.01
2	Domestic	Rs./KW	Rs./KWh
i)	First 100 kWh	65	9.73
ii)	Next 100 kWh	65	9.57
iii)	Balance > 200 kWh	65	11.76
3	Non-Domestic/Commercial	Rs./KW	Rs./KWh
i)	First 100 kWh	85	11.04
ii)	Next 100 kWh	85	12.59
iii)	Balance > 200 kWh	85	13.47
4	Public Lighting	70	13.39
5	Public Water Works	105	13.16
6	a) Agriculture (individual)	65	0.00
	b) Irrigation (others)	65	0.00
7	Small Industry	70	11.28
	HT Supply (FCT)	Rs./KVA	Rs.KVAh
1	Commercial	105	10.78
2	Public Water Works	105	11.57
3	a) Agriculture (Individual)	105	9.27
	b) Irrigation (others)	105	9.27
4	Medium Industry	105	10.48
5	Large Industry	105	11.00
6	Bulk Supply	105	11.65

Note: 1) "Fixed charge is per KW of contracted load for LT supply except KJ while in case of HT Supply, it is per KVA of Billing Demand. Energy charge is as per KWh for LT supply and per KVAh for HT supply and LT high value services provided with MDI meters. The above table depicts fixed and energy charge only. Tariff Charges description in detail are given under the Tariff Schedule chapter."

( Ng. Subhachandra Singh)  
Managing Director  
MSPDCL

IT(B)-30x5 days