

AMSU observes 42nd Realization Day

'Influx of outsiders continues as state fails to implement effective ILPS' – Chalamba

IT News

Imphal, April 17:

Honouring late Huidrom Loken and Potshangbam Premananda @ Lukhoh, who had sacrificed their lives during students agitation for anti-foreigners movement on April 17, 1980, the All Manipur Students Union (AMSU) today observed 42nd Realization Day by paying fitting tribute at the memorials of both the student leaders at Pishum Chinga Hill.

Both Huidrom Loken and Potshangbam Premananda died in police firing during the agitation.

Large number of students from across the states and family members, relatives and admirers of the leaders paid floral tribute at the memorial site. Later, a rally was also staged under the aegis of AMSU as a mark of respect to both the leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, president of AMSU, Haobijam Chalamba said that the AMSU had been spearheading all form of movement



for the protection of the indigenous population of the state. He said that the AMSU will continue to go ahead with movements for protection of the Indigenous people of the state.

"As the govt. of Manipur has not implemented effective Inner Line Permit system, outsiders continue to enter the state endangering the protection of the indigenous people of the region",

Chalamba said. He added that fate of the indigenous people cannot be certain after the coming of the railways in the state.

The All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU), District Committee, Jiribam district also observed the 42nd Realisation Day (Meekap Thokpa) at the office hall of AMSU, Jiribam today commemorating the 1980 uprising of students and the public

against the influx of outsiders into the State.

The observance started with the paying of floral tributes and two minutes silence in commemoration to Potshangbam Premananda and Huidrom Lokendro who perished in the 'Go Back Foreigners' movement of AMSU on April 17, 1980.

Speaking on the occasion, L. Romen Singh, Ex-president, AMSU highlighted

the aim and objective for the observation of realisation day in commemoration of the 1980 uprising of students and the public against the influx of outsiders into the State. He added, today the outsiders becomes the deciding factors in the electoral competition in some of Assembly constituency of Manipur.

Looking the threats of such huge influx of outsiders the AMSU begun the "Go Back" foreigners movements in 1980, He added.

Today, the Inner Line Permit system has imposed in Manipur to protect the identity of indigenous people of Manipur, we need to stand unitedly for the protection of our future generations.

The observance was attended by A. Ashangbi Devi, President, Jiri Ima Meira Paibi Apunba Lup; Thanil Thokchom, President, AMSU District Committee, Jiribam and N. Sadananda Meitei, President, Jiri Development Organization as a chief guest, president and guests of honour respectively.

Central emissary to visit Nagaland for peace talks

Central Government representative AK Mishra, who held the first round of talks with the major Naga groups including the NSCN-IM

Agency
Kohima, April 17:

Central Government representative AK Mishra, who held the first round of talks with the major Naga groups including the NSCN-IM and other stakeholders in September last year in Nagaland, will visit the North-eastern State on Monday to take forward the peace talks, officials said.

A senior Nagaland Government official said that Mishra, a former Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), during his week-long stay in Nagaland, would meet Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio other Naga leaders and the leaders of Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM) and Naga National Political Groups (NNPG).

Mishra was entrusted with the Naga peace talks by the Central Government after it transferred Nagaland Governor Ravindra Narayan Ravi to Tamil Nadu. Ravi was the Centre's interlocutor in the Naga peace talks for many years.

During his last visit in Nagaland in September last year, Mishra also discussed the Naga peace talks issue with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also the Convener of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA).

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Rio, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Chairman TR Zeliang and newly-elected Rajya Sabha Member S Phangnon Konyak met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday in New Delhi and discussed the Naga peace talks issue.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Rio, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Chairman TR Zeliang and newly-elected Rajya Sabha Member S Phangnon Konyak met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday in New Delhi and discussed the Naga peace talks issue.

However, the Nagaland leaders remained tight-lipped about the crucial discussions.

During the Assembly session last month, all member, cutting across party lines, strongly demanded settlement of the Naga peace process at the earliest.

Rio had urged the negotiating parties to settle the issue, and that if a settlement cannot be reached, there should be fresh mandate by the people as to how to pursue the Naga political issue. Noting that 17 resolutions on the Naga political issue have been passed in the Assembly since 1964, he said: "But if a solution is not arrived at, and insurgency activities continue, the future of the younger generation remains at stake."

The Centre has been separately holding peace talks with the NSCN-IM and eight other Naga groups, which came together a few years ago under the banner of NNPGs.

The NSCN-IM and other outfits entered into a ceasefire agreement with the Centre in 1997 and since then, both sides held more than 85 rounds of negotiations. A Framework Agreement between the Centre and NSCN-IM was signed on August 3, 2015 and the agreed position between the Government and the NNPG was finalized on November 17, 2017.

Consultation on rethinking the future of Manipur held

IT News

Imphal, April 17:

A one day consultation on rethinking the future of Manipur was held yesterday at Classic Hotel here in Imphal.

The consultation programme discussed the current struggle of the people of Manipur with regard to the fight against various anti social activities such as Drug issues, ethnic cleansing, poll related violence, violence against women and children, political instability, murder and assassination, intimidation and an increase of gun culture, etc.

Advocate Rabi Khan, who attended the consultation meet as resource persons stressed on the need for issuing of various gun licenses to various individuals without proper veri-



fication. He said that gun related violence has now become a way life in Manipur. Even after the order of the district magistrate during election days, people, mostly political workers of some specific candidates were reported using license guns. On the other hand

Rabi Khan also highlighted on various malpractice by many candidates for winning the election. He added that the laws of the land need to be properly understood by the people so that people can act according to the law for justice.

Human Rights activist U.

Nobokumar, who is also the President of UNNM highlighted the insecure life of the common people due to intimidation and threats from certain violent people. Even after complaining to take action against those people by lodging a complaint to the police, the author-

ity that is the police simply remains quiet and takes no action. He said he himself and his family members were threatened by gunmen, and even after complaining the matter to the police no action has been taken up.

Imphal Times Editor, Rinku Khumukcham, while speaking on the occasion highlighted the present state of our state where all forms of crime are committed under the nose of the government. He said that politicians' influence to the duty of the law enforcement agency has made insecurity to the common people.

Many of the victims of violence also gave testimony during the consultation meeting. They decry the inaction of the government agency as well as the law enforcing agency in punishing the culprits.

Condolence

IT News

Imphal, April 17:

The Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association, Manipur Equestrian Association and Manipur Pony Society have condoned the demise of Kumari Surangini Soram, who breathed her last on April 11, 2022. The three organization held a condolence meeting at the Manipur Pony Breeding Farm, Lamphelpat with the president of the MHRPA, H Deleep Singh in the chair.

Late Kumari Surangini Soram was the life member of Manipur Horse Riding & Polo Association and Manipur Equestrian Association. She had made valuable and irreplaceable contributions to the growth and development of the Associations and for the revival of the Game of Polo and encouraged formation of Women's Polo Teams in Manipur.

A new species of Cherry Blossom, popularly known as Sakura in Japanese have been found in Manipur by two scientists

IT News

Imphal, April 17:

The scientists are from Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal.

They named the new species as *Prunus dinabandhuana* (Family Rosaceae) after Dinabandhu Sahoo, a botanist, considering his outstanding contributions in large scale cherry plantations in different states of North East and organising India's first cherry blossom festival in Shillong in 2016, when he was the Director of IBSD.

Currently, Sahoo is director of Centre for Himalayan Studies and Cluster Innovation Centre and senior pro-



fessor at Department of Botany, University of Delhi.

He was also former Vice Chancellor, FM University

Odisha. The new plants grow up

to 25-30 meters in dense mixed evergreen forest and unlike Japanese cherry blossoms which bloom during March-April, this new species bloom in November.

Informing this in a press release recently, Assistant Director Dr Avitoli G Zhimo of Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of Delhi said, "Their findings are now published in the latest issue of a reputed international scientific journal 'Annales Botanici Fennici' vol. 59 (105-109) Helsinki, Finland."

Prunus (Rosaceae) is a well-defined genus, and is said to be widely distributed in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere and in

the tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Africa, South America and Australia, according to the article published in the journal.

The new species is phylogenetically closest to *P. fordiana*, but morphologically resembles especially *P. zippeliana*, differing from it by having axillary racemes, mucronate leaf apex, 22-27 stamens, cup-shaped hypanthium, and different phenology, it added.

In 2017, the Manipur government also started to organise the first Cherry Blossom Festival at Mao, a border hill town which attracted a large crowd from all over the state as well as neighbouring Northeastern states.

How to use Online Education Sites to upgrade Skills?



Dr. Vijay Gar G

We are living in a world that is constantly evolving in terms of technology. And this is at a magnificent pace. When you were kids, the mobile phones were just for calling and messages. But look at your phone now! It is a smartphone. It does all the operations of a computer. You evolved yourself to suit the make the most out of the available technology. You need to do the same for your job skills too. you can no longer say that you are simply computer proficient. That is no more an advantage. Rather you need to be highly skilled in the tools used in that job. Like if you are an architect, you need to be proficient in AutoCAD, Revit, and Photoshop. And, with time, you need to add more skills. But that is never the end. You need to constantly evolve your skill set even while being in the job. This gives rise to the multi-dimensional issue of relocation, lost job opportunity and obviously a little of financial instability. Online education comes to your rescue at such times.

You can get yourself certified in different areas even while being in the current job and without relocating by using the online courses. All the prominent universities are now investing heavily in MOOCs. So no matter if you left your education mid-way or need to get yourself acquainted with the new technology, online courses are your saviour. With the better internet connectivity, no one of you will face any issue in using these courses.

Utilizing the Online Courses for Skill Enhancement

Understand your Requirement: Don't get yourself enrolled in some course just because everyone is doing or it sounds very nice. Every online educational site gives a complete list of the syllabus. Go through it. And, pay attention to what it actually teaches. If you find it suitable, then only go ahead. Otherwise, it will be just a waste of time. Online educational sites offer you the best of the universities without the problems of traditional classroom teaching. You can access the course anytime and anywhere. So, search for the best course and from the best university.

Give Time and 100% Efforts: Online courses are not a child's play. They are very exhaustive. But then, they do equip you with a world-class skill set. Get yourself enrolled in a course only when you are sure of devoting all your time and devotion to it. Read the course material, give tests honestly and go through the video tutorials. I have mentioned that you need to give tests honestly because you can actually go back to the course material and check the answer. But what purpose will it serve? It is not the course which someone forced you to do. You are doing it for your own benefit. So, be honest. Also, participate I the group discussions and talk with your fellow students. Most of the MOOCs give this platform to all the students. This will give you a multi-dimensional insight into the subject matter. Practice, practice and practice the course material.

Go for Certification: Although all the course material is usually free on these websites, they don't offer certification. To get that, you need to pay a fee. This fee is nominal when compared to the actual fee of the university. Moreover, with a certification, you can show that to your current and future employers too. this will give you better opportunities. So, if you can afford, select the certified courses. Just take, for example, the website Edx. This site offers five kinds of programs. You can go for the Micromasters program, professional certificate, online masters degree, global freshman academy and x series program. And most of these are highly specialized programs. You will be amazed to see the number of programs offered by Microsoft. Just imagine the importance of Microsoft certification for an IT guy. It is regarded as one of the best. So, after coming back from the office, he/she can do this and then get better opportunities. If you are an engineering student, you can do these and just look at the offers in your placement drive. So, it is always better to go for the certification. It will be proof of your skill set and also your endeavour to go few steps forward to learning something new.

Communicate with the Fellow Students: Most of the online learning sites have an online forum for their students. Here, they discuss their problems, show their course-related work, assignments and share views. When you spend time on this forum, you realize how others are using it for skill enhancement. Try to answer the queries posted by others. Read the answers and look at their point of view. Ask questions and share your problems. This way, you will feel more like a traditional classroom. This is important not because it makes you feel good but because it is an opportunity for you to interact with students from all over the world. The issues that they are facing might be new for you but who knows when you yourself face them? So, you will learn how to tackle the issues with different approaches. This will increase your understanding and give you all-around insight into the subject matter.

Upgrade your Digital Literacy: Online courses work on the simple formula of high digital literacy. So, if you are not so fluent with the computers and software, then spend time on learning that. Then only you will be able to completely grasp the subject matter. If you wish to learn the coding language python, then you do need to learn how to install that software on your system and run it. Most of the time, all these are provided by the site but it is you who needs to install that. Also, highly specialized courses need you to be aware of the different computer functions. So, being digitally literate with a high percentage is a must.

Use what you Learn: Always use whatever you learn. While learning, try to use that technology or the function in the real-life scenario. If you are an engineering student and learning about some coding language, then try to make your assignment in that language. If you are employed in a big data analytics firm and learning in-depth about ScrumMaster, then try to apply that in your work. This way, you will grow more fluency in the use. Also, you will be able to detect the issues you face which you can discuss in the course forum.

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Meaning of Life at Spring Season



By: Fr Paul Lelen Haokip

Humans find varieties of meaning in their lifetime. The 'purpose of life' is one of the riding powers making us face the uncertainties of life. The arrival of spring season, Easter season and lunar New Year celebrations worldwide are, but invitations for us to find newer meanings for life. *There is not one big cosmic meaning for all; there is only the meaning we each give to our life, an individual meaning, an individual plot, like an individual novel, a book for each person* (Anaïs Nin).

Logotherapy, developed by Viktor Frankl (a neurologist and psychiatrist) is based on the principle that the primary motivational force for any individual is to find meaning in life. More than power or pleasure, logotherapy drives humans to find purpose in life. Therefore, logotherapy is "healing through meaning", a meaning-centred approach to life. Each person is a unique and irreplaceable human being whose existence is characterized by freedom of choice, personal responsibility, and a human spirit. The core principles of logotherapy are: (1) Freedom of Will - We can choose how we respond to life and are personally responsible for our choices. (2) Will to Meaning - We are motivated to find meaning, and when this search is upset, we experience existential frustration and feelings of meaninglessness. (3) Meaning of Life - We are called moment-to-moment to answer the demands that life places on us. The focus is not on what we feel we deserve from life but on our responsibility to give to life. We have the ability and the ultimate necessity to self-transcend to improve humanity.

The Japanese concept "ikigai" which translates roughly as "the happiness of always being busy," is like logotherapy, but it goes a step beyond. It also seems to be one way of explaining the extraordinary longevity of the Japanese, especially on the island of Okinawa, where there are 24.55 people over the age of 100 for every 100,000 inhabitants - far more than the global average.

Ask these questions yourself, "Am I adding meaning to my life? Is life adding meaning to me?" Life is a constant search for meaning. Some find it early, while others don't. Life is a gift from God, and what you do with your life will be a gift to God in return. No one of us deserves life, but God has given us as a gift. We should be grateful for this most beautiful gift on earth. Life is a stage between non-existence and death. Death can become the beginning of our non-existence. Life is a brief period. We need to give meaning to this short life. We don't know when the death knell will call us. It is an unpredictable journey. Therefore, we have to make meaning with this short time.

We constantly daydream. We continuously create a world that doesn't exist. When some external force offers meaning, we become mere slaves to that definition of life. However, life becomes meaningful when we create, re-create, invent, re-invent, find, re-find, define, and

re-define our lives through the up and down experiences.

The meaning of life is to give sense to whatever happens to self. This is accepting what comes and dealing with it. If you see life as a problem, then you have only problems. If you see life as a

programme, you have plenty of time to attend all the programmes and enjoy the fun. It depends much on how you look at life. On all these ordinary occasions, you need to reaffirm and reassure yourself.

Shad Helmstetter challenges us, "Do you want to live with a bad programme? Do you want to go through the rest of your life literally at the mercy of a programme you don't want? You don't have to. You can override almost any conditioning you have ever received in any part of your life. It makes absolutely no difference how, where, what, why, or how you have been in the past. It makes no difference what you believe about yourself or what others have believed about you. It makes no difference what circumstances life may have tossed in your lap. You can put yourself in control. Now it's your turn. You can re-programme. You can erase the old negative, counter-productive, work-against-you programming and replace it with a healthy, new positive, productive kind of programming. And it's easy. Erase and replace. All you have to do is learn

how to talk to yourself." Now, learn to talk sensible things to yourself. Do not speak negative things to yourself. Consciously try to say positive things to yourself. Feel positive vibes, remember encouraging experiences, and think about the people supporting you.

Exercise: You can stop reading now and consciously tell yourself what you should be in the *next minute, next hour, next day, next month, a year* from now. If you want to grow in life, you need to have a frank and straightforward talk to yourself and open your life's good and not-so-good chapters. Remember, the programming you have received from enemies, rivals, or unsound sources affects you subconsciously. You need to remove them one by one, intentionally and steadily. This is a process. Don't expect to overcome within a day or two. It would be best if you had time. You need to fruitfully use your time and employ your vision to eliminate harmful programming. The most significant wall you ever have to climb is the negative programming you have received. You add *more meaning to your life* when you un-learn negative programming you have so far received and retained. At this springtime, New Year time, Easter season, let us reflect: What is the meaning I give to my life; Let me not live in the wrong programme; I decide to re-programme my life; I shall get help if necessary; I shall learn to talk about positive things to myself; I need time to re-programme myself.

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Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY: Transforming India's Healthcare Story

By: Dr R S Sharma

The National Health Policy (NHP) of 2017 had listed among its foremost objectives, the achievement of Universal Health Coverage. Achieving a significant reduction in out of pocket expenditure due to health care costs was one of another key objective. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) was conceived out of this vision to move towards a more holistic approach to healthcare service delivery.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY was not the nation's first tryst with healthcare insurance. Due credit must be given to predecessor schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), States schemes like Aarogya Sri Andhra Pradesh, Jeevandayee Yojana in Maharashtra. However, in terms of scope and scale, AB PM-JAY simply dwarfed all existing healthcare insurance interventions. It is for the first time that we now have a health insurance scheme with a pan-India presence being implemented almost everywhere in the country.

As of 01st April 2022, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY in alliance with State health schemes covers a beneficiary base of more than 14 Crore families (70 Crore individuals). Almost 18 Crore individuals have been identified under the scheme and provided with an Ayushman card. AB PM-JAY has facilitated almost 3.28 Crore hospitalizations providing treatment worth over Rs. 37,600 Crores. All this has been achieved in a little over 3.5 years and amidst the greatest global pandemic in recent times.

As I reflect on the trajectory of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, the scheme's success is mounted on the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the versatile policy frame-

work conceptualized by the Cabinet. This policy framework crystallized the guiding principles behind Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY which are as follows:

Comprehensive healthcare benefits

AB PM-JAY was launched with 1,393 treatment packages covering treatment for various medical specialties like oncology, neurosurgery, cardiovascular surgery etc up to Rs. 5 Lakhs per beneficiary family. This was subsequently increased to 1,670 treatment packages. The benefits package under AB PM-JAY was comprehensive covering pre and post hospitalisation expenses. Additionally, all pre-existing conditions were covered from day one of the policy period. The portability feature empowered beneficiaries from the remotest villages to seek treatment at the most advanced healthcare facilities.

Converged and integrated within the healthcare ecosystem

Under AB PM-JAY considerable flexibility was provided to the States and Union Territories (UTs) in choosing their mode of implementation, beneficiary database and creating the network of hospitals. Further, NHA diligently pursued convergence with the existing State based schemes. Currently, AB PM-JAY is implemented in alliance with more than 25 State-specific health schemes. Additionally, District Implementation Units were set up in over 600 districts across the country to ensure that the administrative reach of AB PM-JAY to the beneficiary's doorstep.

Ensuring equity in access to healthcare services

Renewed impetus has been given to extending the scheme benefits to the marginalized sections of society covered under the Socio-

Economic Caste Census database. Likewise, AB PM-JAY has adopted an enlightened approach towards ensuring gender-specific equity. The erstwhile RSBY scheme had mandated a limit of adding up to 5 family members. Unfortunately, this led to the exclusion of female members of the household, especially the girl child. However, under AB PM-JAY, this capping was done away with. Women account for approximately 50% of Ayushman cards generated using NHA IT platform and 47% of authorized hospital admissions.

Robust, scalable, and inter-operable technology platforms

One of the problems that afflicted in the past was fragmented IT systems for the schemes like Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. Therefore, under AB PM-JAY, a highly versatile technology platform was developed to aid in beneficiary identification, transaction management and hospital empanelment. This award-winning IT platform is now active across 26 States and UTs. As a result, SHAs and NHA have gained granular insights into the scheme to aid in evidence-based policymaking and necessary course correction, where required.

Public and private partnership

Under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY both public and private hospitals have been empanelled for providing healthcare services to the scheme beneficiaries. The participation of the private sector has increased avenues for the scheme's beneficiaries to seek treatment and concurrently reduced the burden on tertiary care facilities in the public sector. Under AB PM-JAY, it was ensured that public hospitals would be equally reimbursed for their services and at the same rates as that of private hospitals. This has also

supported public sector hospitals to create a pool of untied funds that could be sustainably invested in infrastructure and human resources. The complementary role of the public and private sector hospitals has been vital in ensuring that the scheme implementation proceeded seamlessly.

Aapke Dwar Ayushman

One of the key activities that I green-lighted upon assuming charge of NHA was the "Aapke Dwar Ayushman". Under Aapke Dwar Ayushman, a grassroots network of frontline healthcare workers, Gram Panchayat officials and village-based digital entrepreneurs were used to undertake door-to-door mobilization of beneficiaries across communities. Special night camps were setup for daily wages. These efforts translated into the creation of more than 4.7 Crore Ayushman cards since January 2021, an increase of 55% in the Ayushman cards generated by NHA IT system. NHA is launching Aapke Dwar Ayushman with renewed vigour. This time we are focusing on States such as Assam, Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

Aside from this, I would also like to take this opportunity to give credit to the entire Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY ecosystem consisting of NHA, SHAs, DIUs, Implementation support agencies, Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras, frontline healthcare workers, Ayushman card creators from partner agencies such as CSC / UTIITSL for their tireless support in making AB PM-JAY such a grand success. However, going forward much more needs to be done to help the scheme realize its full potential.

(The author is a Chief Executive Officer, National Health Authority)

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

Death toll climbs to 14 as lightning, storm hits Assam; IMD predicts heavy rainfall in next 2 days

Agency
Guwahati, April 17:

At least 14 people, including minors, were killed as severe storm accompanied by lightning strikes hit Assam, an official bulletin said on Saturday.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the 'Bordoisila', as such summer storms and rains are called, lashed several parts of Assam since Thursday.

In addition to the human casualty, it left behind a trail of destruction, including damaged houses, uprooted trees and snapped electric lines.

The ASDMA bulletin, which was updated till 8 pm on April 15, said that four persons were killed in Dibrugarh on Friday due to the massive storm.

The storm uprooted scores of trees and dozens of electric poles, damaged many houses at various places in the past few days, ASDMA said in the bulletin. At least 7,378



houses and other establishments have been damaged in the state during the last two days, it added.

The IMD has predicted rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm or lightning in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland,

Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura during the next five days.

Rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm or lightning in also "very likely" in the southern states during next five days, IMD said.

Also, a fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect the

northwest India from the night of April 18.

Under its influence, rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm or lightning very likely in Western Himalayan Region on April 19 and 20, and in Punjab on April 20, the IMD said.

Sinking of Russian Ship Moskva is a Dangerous Turning Point in Ukraine War

By: Anjan Roy
New Delhi, April, 17:

The sinking of the flagship of Russia's Black Sea flotilla MOSKVA is a significant turning point in the Ukraine war and also a lesson for military planners across the world.

Russia does not yield the point that Ukrainian missiles would have downed the ship and maintains that an accidental fire on board had damaged the structural balance of the ship which had tilted as a result in rough seas. The battleship now sunk was utilised for ill purposes by the Russians and had played a critical role in several piquant situations.

Maybe, in future the sinking of such a ship will be compared with the sinking of The Bismarck in course of the Second World War. "The Bismarck" was the vaunted emblem of German naval strength in the Sound War.

Close on eighty-one years, the Bismarck was sunk on May 27, 1941, by the British Navy which was driven to desperation by the depreciations of the Bismarck in association with another feared member of the German Navy, the Prince of Oregon.

The Bismarck was able to dominate the north Atlantic sea routes which brought essential supplies to a beleaguered Britain. From food to munitions, the British was bringing their provisions from across the Empire and United States in convoys of ships which were hunted down by German U-boats and the Bismarck being present to guard their operations.

What the Bismarck was able to do was to besmirch then reputation of the British Navy as the ultimate protector on the high seas for all allied vessels. So serious was the situation that from Winston Churchill to the first lord of the admiralty the top priority of the British was to track down the Bismarck in the vast north Atlantic waters and put her down.

Then in May, the British had despatched a series of reconnoitering missions to find out the exact locations of the Bismarck. British Navy's most prestigious ship, HMS Hood, had come far to face with Bismarck along with HMS Nor-

folk. For the British it was a shattering blow that the Hood, the invincible, received fire from the Bismarck and just split into two. However, Bismarck also was hit and its oil tank began to lose. That left a trail of Bismarck.

On the fateful day, the Bismarck met with HMS Rodney, an old battleship and the HMS King George Five, a brand new ship, which began pounding the Bismarck. They were soon joined by HMS Victoria, an aircraft carrier. The last did the ultimate trick and dropped bombs on the vulnerable upper decks which led to severe damages leading to the sinking of the Bismarck.

Such was the importance of the event that the Royal Navy celebrated the event and the first lord of the admiralty had immediately addressing the Navy fighters, admitting how powerful and great a ship Bismarck was. With the sinking of the Bismarck, the North Atlantic sea routes were again available to the Allied Forces.

The sudden sinking of the Black Sea fleet's flagship, Moskva, had dismayed the Russians. Moskva was so important that it could be deployed only on orders of the Russian President. Picking up the strands after the sinking of the ship, the official Russian TV channels have stated that the Third World War has already begun.

Ukraine President, Vladimir Zelensky had stated in formal interviews that he did not discount a possible Russian preemptive nuclear strike. He urged the world to take note of the threat of nuclear attack.

Russia has resumed hitting areas around Kyiv with missiles. Ukraine expects Russia to substantially step up its attacks on Ukraine targets in the wake of the sinking of the flagship of Black Sea command.

No doubt, the loss of the ship is a deep dent on Russia's prestige and personally that of Vladimir Putin. The Russian autocrat will now try to seek revenge with redoubled attacks on Ukrainian positions.

Moskva, the 12,500 tonnes guided missile cruiser was a power statement for the Russian navy. The ship was earlier deployed during Russia's Syrian campaign for overseeing its security needs on the

coast and for missiles use inland.

Later, an irate Vladimir Putin has sent the ship to Black Sea areas when Turkey had downed several Russian military aircraft. It moved along with a flotilla of other ships which together made a real presence in an area and capable of multifarious tasks.

Moskva was fitted with anti-ship, anti-aircraft missiles pads, apart from torpedoes for use against submarines. It had a speed of 32 miles and it was 600 feet long. A ship of this class last destroyed was during the Falkland war off the coast of Argentina when HMS Destroyer had sunk the General Belgrade on May 2, 1982.

The ship had 510 crew on board, and so far it is not clear how many might have perished along with the ship. Given the firepower of the ship, it would have a very large stockpile of explosives on board and the fire from a missiles strike could have ignited the anger part of the explosives. This could have altogether destroyed the ship.

To have sunk such a immensely costly military hardware, a floating fort, is a feather on Ukraine's operational capabilities. The ship was reportedly struck by a Neptune anti-ship missile of Ukraine. The ship had directed the missiles strikes on the coastal cities of Ukraine and had delivered heavy damages.

Neptune class missiles have not so far been regarded as having adequate firepower. However, the sudden sinking of the massive ship really shot up the effective of the Neptune class missiles. Ironically enough, Moskva was built in Ukraine during the days of Soviet Union and entered service in early 1980s.

In their triumph, he Ukrainians have said the sinking of this ship is a small retribution to Putin for killing Ukrainian children and women. The reverberations of the Ukraine war are already been seen across the war. China is sending its latest jet fighters all over the disputed waters in the South China Sea. China is seeing its opportunity of asserting its authority when apparently USA and western allies are deeply engaged in meeting the threat from Russia. (IPA Service)

India Reports 1,150 New Covid-19 Cases, 4 Deaths; Active Caseload at 11,558

Agency
New Delhi, April 17:

With 1,150 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,30,42,097, while the active cases increased to 11,558, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll climbed to 5,21,751 with four fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am

stated. The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate remained at 98.76 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 192 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.31 per cent and the weekly positivity rate as 0.27 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,08,788, while the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 186.51 crore. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 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. The four new fatalities include two from Delhi and one each from Jammu and Kashmir and Mizoram.

BJP Relegated to back seat in By-Elections A Remarkable Success for the TMC

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 17:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) suffered a setback in the by-polls to four Assembly and one Lok Sabha seat, with its two former union ministers emerging victorious on the Trinamool Congress tickets.

The results of the elections held peacefully, barring stray incidents of violence in West Bengal's Asansol on Tuesday, were announced on Saturday.

In West Bengal former Union Minister and actor Shatrughan Sinha, who had switched on his loyalty to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), trounced BJP MLA-turned-party candidate Agnimitra Paul by a margin of 3,03,209 votes in the Asansol Lok Sabha seat. The TMC won the Asansol seat for the first time since the party's formation in 1998.

In the Ballygunge Assembly constituency, singer and BJP's former Minister Babul Supriyo who had recently joined the TMC defeated his nearest rival CPI(M)'s Saira Shah Halim, by 20,228 votes. BJP Keya Ghosh came third followed by Kamruzzaman Choudhary (Congress) in fourth position.

In Maharashtra Congress candidate Jayashree Chandrakant Jadhav won



The winning candidates in by-polls-Babul Supriyo, Shatrughan Sinha-both TMC, and Jayashree Jadhav-Congress (Maharashtra).

the Kolhapur North Assembly seat by defeating BJP's Satyajit Kadam by over 18,000 votes. She secured 96,226 votes against 77,426 seats bagged by Kadam. Jadhav became the first woman MLA in Kolhapur North assembly constituency.

The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi contested the election jointly and the leaders of the Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress had jointly campaigned for Jadhav. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had addressed the last campaign meeting online and had stated that the "saffron" colour will be retained in the constituency at any cost. The

seat had fallen vacant following the demise of Jayashree's husband Chandrakant Jadhav a few months back.

The constituency has been a stronghold of the Shiv Sena and Shiv Sena's Rajesh Kshirsagar had won the seat twice earlier. But in the 2019 elections, he was defeated by Congress's Chandrakant Jadhav. Kshirsagar was keen to contest the election this time. However, he gave up the thought following the direction of the party Chief and CM Uddhav Thackeray.

Reacting to the defeat, State BJP President Chandrakant Patil said that the party congratulates Jadhav

and accepts the defeat in all humility. BJP has 15 woman MLAs in the Maharashtra state legislature. But the fact remains that the BJP fought against the united Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress. Despite the defeat, party will not give up Hindutva, he added.

In Bihar, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) RJD candidate Amar Kumar Paswan won the Bocharan Assembly seat by securing 48.52 percent votes defeating BJP candidate Baby Kumari, who was in the second position.

In Chhattisgarh, Yashoda Nilamber Verma (Congress) defeated BJP's Komal Jangle by a sizable number of votes.

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How to use Online Education Sites...

Mention the Certification in your LinkedIn profile: LinkedIn is the best job search engine right now. The best part of this site is that it recognizes the importance of online learning. You can actually put a link of your online certificate in your profile here, so once you learn a new skill, don't forget to mention it in your profile. It will not only let your employers know about your proficiency but will also make your application rank higher.

Revise: Do not forget to revise the course material even after finishing it and receiving the certification. Constant brushing up is always needed. Otherwise, you tend to forget and may get embarrassed if your employer asks about it. Keep yourself updated with the developments in that field. If you

find some more advanced course in that field, go for it. It will deepen your understanding of the subject. And, as we have said, constant skill up gradation is the demand of the time. So it is better to be prepared than planning endlessly. We hope you will invest your time and resources in online education for your skill enhancement. We are providing you with a list of the top websites and universities that offer different courses in online mode. Look for the one that suits you the most and goes for it.

List of Some of the Top Educational Websites
<https://www.edx.org/>
<https://online.stanford.edu/courses>
<https://lagunita.stanford.edu/courses>

<https://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>
<https://www.coursera.org/>
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/?ucam-ref=global-header>
<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/online-courses>
https://mya.microsoft.com/h_t_t_p_s://www.khanacademy.org/
<https://www.udemy.com/>
we hope you find the course of your choice and need in any of these websites. This is just a comprehensive list. There are a lot more websites and universities offering MOOC. So, no need to get disappointed if you don't find what you need in any of the above-mentioned websites. Just give it a good search on the internet and you will get what you need. We wish you a skillful career with constant enthusiasm for learning.

As Covid Cases rise, UP CM puts NCR Districts on alert mode, Delhi Govt asks Hospitals to be ready

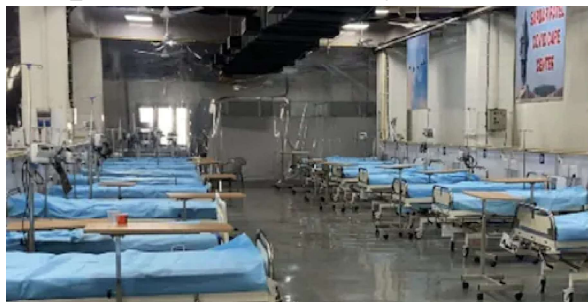
Agency
New Delhi, April 17:

An uptick in Covid-19 cases in Delhi and in the adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh such as Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar has put the administrations in alert mode. While UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the coronavirus situation in the state, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendar Jain assured people that the government was fully prepared to deal with the situation.

Alert Mode on
The National Capital Region (NCR) districts are on alert mode and directions to this effect were given by Yogi Adityanath while chairing a meeting on Covid-19 management in the state. During the meeting, the chief minister observed that over the past few days, there has been a rise in Covid-19 cases in the state's neighboring areas and its impact can be seen in the NCR districts. He asked officials to put all the NCR districts on alert mode, it said. Seeing the current circumstances, the entire NCR has been put on alert mode, it added.

Delhi Govt Puts Hospital on Alert

Kejriwal said that the Delhi government is keeping a close eye on rising cases. "Hospital admissions are not increasing, so there is no need to panic. Nothing to worry about as of now," he said. Satyendar Jain, said the government is monitoring the situation closely.



"We have completely overhauled our health infrastructure. All hospitals have been advised to remain alert," he said. The health minister also advised people to wear a mask while stepping out, and also get vaccinated at the earliest. "Prevention is better than cure. All those who have not yet taken the vaccine or have taken only the first dose should be taken to their nearest health facility as soon as possible for complete vaccination," he said.

Delhi Plans to Increase 100 Oxygen beds in Every Ward

News18 has learnt that the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will hold a meeting on April 20 to check Covid preparedness. The government is also planning to increase 100 oxygen beds in every ward within two weeks and prepare 65,000 beds to ensure there is shortage in case of sudden rise in cases.

Send Covid Samples for Genome Sequencing: CM Yogi to Officials

Yogi Adityanath directed officials to send samples of Covid-19 patients for genome sequencing. He asked officials to ramp up the administration of the booster dose of Covid-19 vaccines to all adults. Booster doses are being administered at 700 private vaccination centres in the state.

The chief minister asked officials to remain vigilant to malaria in the Bareilly division and generate awareness about the prevention of dengue in Agra and Lucknow divisions, the statement said. Besides, he said, awareness about encephalitis should be generated among people in Purvanchal (eastern Uttar Pradesh), according to the statement.

Cases on the Rise

Delhi on Friday recorded 366 fresh Covid-19 cases and zero death, while the positivity rate rose further to 3.95 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department. With this, Delhi's Covid-19 tally has increased to 18,67,572. The death toll stands at 26,158, according to the bulletin.

The daily cases and the positivity rate in the national capital have seen an upward trend in the last few days. Delhi had on Thursday recorded 325 Covid-19 cases and zero death, while the positivity rate stood at 2.39 per cent. On Wednesday, 299 cases were recorded with a positivity rate of 2.49 per cent and no death. A total of 9,275 tests were conducted the previous day.

The number of daily cases in Delhi had touched the record high of 28,867 on January 13 this year during the third wave of the pandemic. The city had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14, the highest during the third wave of the pandemic which was largely driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

A total of 685 Covid-19 patients are under home isolation, the bulletin said. There are 9,735 beds for Covid-19 patients in Delhi hospitals and 51 (0.52 per cent) of them are occupied.

Film preservation needs to be given special focus at all times, not only during film festival

IT News
Imphal, April 17:

Noted multilingual filmmaker and producer from the Tangkhul community, Wungkathang Makang has emphasised the need for giving special focus to film preservation at all times and not only during film festivals.

He stated the same during a post-screening interaction after his 1994 classic Tangkhul film 'Manho' was screened on the 3rd day of the ongoing Festival of Cinemas of Manipur at Palace Auditorium, Manipur State Film Development Society here yesterday.

Indicating that film preservation can never be too late, Wungkathang announced that he will donate copies of his existing films to the SN Chand

Archive and Museum, MSFDS inaugurated last year.

He further stated that the ongoing festival helps in realising the urgent need for the people of Manipur especially authorities concerned to fixate on preservation of Manipuri films.

Wungkathang went on to express concern over the dwindling number of cinemas in the State and disappearance of the same from Ukhrul district.

He said that market control is becoming difficult and producers are pushed to hardships with many opting for CDs and other platforms.

To the surprise of many, Wungkathang also disclosed that the production cost of the film was around 40,000 Rupees only.

Young filmmaker Tushar Nongthombam's 'Monsoon of

Life' was screened as the second film of the day.

'Operation Sangai' directed by eminent filmmaker and cinematographer, L. Surjakanta and 'Amuba Chandan' by K Bimol Sharma were also screened on the third day of the festival.

An interesting debate over the superiority between adhering to what was demanded by the script and the schedule of artistes was also witnessed during the post-screening interaction of 'Operation Sangai'.

MSFDS also expressed regret over cancelling the scheduled screening of late Chan Heisnam's 'Kanaga Hinghouni' owing to technical glitches. It has been informed that MSFDS will make it convenient to screen the film in the next few days.

Assam Congress leader joins ULFA-I

Agency
New Delhi, April 17:

A leader of the Congress party in Assam has joined the Pargash Baruah-led banned insurgent outfit ULFA-I.

The Assam Congress leader who joined the ULFA-I has been identified as Janardan Gogoi.

Janardan Gogoi is a Congress leader from Sadiya in Tinsukia in Assam and vice president of Tinsukia district youth Congress unit.

The development was

confirmed by Janardan Gogoi himself via a Facebook post.

Gogoi has left his home in Sadiya to join the ULFA-I camp in the jungles of Myanmar.

In a letter addressed to his wife and posted in Facebook, Janardan Gogoi cited his reasons for joining the ULFA-I.

"Some people are conspiring to finish off the existence of the Assamese society. I have realised that some political parties and so called regional organisations have been doing business in the name of

Assamese society," Gogoi said in his letter.

He added: "Today, Assamese people have become helpless in their own motherland. I cannot become a mere spectator to attempts of eradicating the Assamese society."

"This government has failed to listen to the opposition raised by the people in democratic manner. There is no alternative to armed rebellion to protect the interest of Assamese society," Janardan Gogoi added.

Sports

Karthik stars as RCB inflict 16-run defeat on Delhi Capitals



Agency
Mumbai, April 17:

Dinesh Karthik batted with authority in his unbeaten 34-ball 66 before the bowlers staged a fine comeback as Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Delhi Capitals by 16 runs in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Karthik blazed away after Glenn Maxwell hit seven fours and two sixes in his 55 off 34 deliveries to take RCB to 189 for five.

In reply, the Capitals could only manage 173 for seven despite David Warner's sensational 38-ball 66.

It was RCB's fourth win in six games and they are now third on the points table while Delhi slumped to their third loss in five outings.

Chasing 190, DC were off to a flier with Warner and young Prithvi Shaw (16) pummeling the RCB bowlers into submission, the duo racing to 50 before Mohammed Siraj dismissed the Indian.

Warner was then joined by compatriot Mitchell Marsh,



who was playing his first match for the Capitals. The all-rounder, who is coming off a hip injury, looked rusty and struggled to hit the ball.

But that didn't dampen Warner's spirits as the south-paw continued to strike the ball with perfection as his family cheered him on from the stands.

The 35-year-old cracked five sixes and four fours before his fiery knock was brought to an end by Wanindu Hasaranga. The Australian's wicket signalled a shift in momentum as RCB made a strong comeback with Delhi losing a flurry of wickets.

First, Marsh's painstaking knock 14 off 24 balls came to an end thanks to a bizarre run out. Josh Hazlewood (3/28), who was exceptional, then bowled a brilliant 15th over, dismissing Rovman Powell for a first ball duck and then accounting for Lalit Yadav (1).

Delhi's hopes were pinned on the big-hitting Pant (34), who did hit some lusty blows, but his whirlwind innings was brought to an end by a one-handed blinder from Virat Kohli.

Shardul and Axar Patel managed to play some big shots but the RCB bowlers had other plans as DC fell short.

Earlier, the Capitals' bowlers performed as a well-oiled unit initially with Shardul Thakur (1/27), Khaleel Ahmed (1/36), Axar Patel (1/29) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/46) doing well but blunders in the slog overs as Karthik and Shahbaz Ahmed (32 not out) added 74 in the last five.

Karthik, who has been reveling in his role as a finisher this season, hit five fours and as many sixes in his sensational knock.

DC made full use of the coin landing in their favour as they put pressure on RCB early on

with tight fielding and good bowling.

The Delhi bowlers managed to snare two wickets in the powerplay overs while giving away 40 runs.

Thakur produced a beautiful inswinger that curled into Anju Rawat (0) to give Delhi the early breakthrough. Khaleel Ahmed then made it two as he accounted for the dangerous Faf du Plessis.

Lalit Yadav effected Virat Kohli's run out with a brilliant direct hit to compound RCB's woes.

It was then that Maxwell took the onus upon himself as he pummeled Kuldeep Yadav for 23 runs in the ninth over. The all-rounder hit top gear as he smashed the ball to the fence twice and over it a couple of times.

His half-century came soon after as he continued to hit the Delhi bowlers all round the park.

However, Kuldeep extracted his revenge a few overs later as the ball caught the Australian's bat's toe and Lalit Yadav completed the regulation catch.

With Maxwell gone, Karthik and Shahbaz joined forces. The wicketkeeper made batting look effortless as he cracked four boundaries and two maximum off Mustafizur to plunder 28 runs off the 18th over.

Cristiano Ronaldo seals 50th hat-trick of his club career with stunning free-kick



Agency
Norwich, April 17:

Cristiano Ronaldo's 50th club career hat-trick earned below-par Manchester United a 3-2 Premier League victory over Norwich City on Saturday amid scenes of fan protest at Old Trafford.

With Tottenham Hotspur losing 1-0 at home to Brighton & Hove Albion earlier on Saturday, the door was open for United to close on the Champions League qualification places with victory over bottom side Norwich and they just about took advantage.

A first-half double from veteran striker Ronaldo seemingly put the hosts on course for a comfortable win in the sunshine, with Norwich struggling to keep pace.

However, Kieran Dowell's goal out of nowhere in first-half stoppage time got the visitors back in the contest, before Finnish forward Teemu Pukki completed the Norwich comeback to stun Old Trafford into silence seven minutes after the break.

Fans who protested against the club's owners ahead of the match were singing "you're not fit to wear the shirt" in the second half as

their team were second best to a team seven points adrift of the Premier League safety zone.

United's France midfielder Paul Pogba was booed by his own fans as he was substituted before Ronaldo stole the show once again with a sensational winner 14 minutes from time to drag United out of the mire once more.

The win, United's first in four games in all competitions, moved them above Arsenal, who lost 1-0 at Southampton, into fifth on 54 points from 32 matches, with Spurs now just three points in front. Norwich stay bottom on 21 points.