

Hearing of writ petition against Lokyukta recommendation by MD MSPCL listed tomorrow

IT Exclusive
Imphal, April 18:

In an interesting twist, to the recommendations by the Lokyukta Manipur dated 7/2/2022 in connection with alleged misappropriation of huge amount of money in the Manipur State Power Corporation Ltd. (MSPCL), Managing Director of the Corporation, has challenged the recommendation to the High Court of Manipur (under writ petition No. 168 of 2022).

The hearing of the writ petition was held on April 12, 2024 by a single bench of Justice Ahanthem Bimol Singh and listed for next hearing on April 19, i.e. tomorrow. During the hearing of April 12, the Advocate general of Manipur had submitted that at that moment, he has no instruction about any change in the Government decision in connection with the order of the govt. dated 17/2/2022 and the Corrigendum dated 22/02/2022 for not accepting the recommendation made by the Lokyukta at Para 25 (D) & (E).

The Govt. decision submitted to the Manipur Lokyukta on February 17, 2022, reads - "...the recommendations at para 25(D) & (E) of the Honourable Lokyukta's order dated 07.02.2022 have been examined in the light of administrative scenario of the Power Department. Power Department observed that it is not feasible to accept the recommendations at present due to administrative reasons under section 32(2) of Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013..."

The recommendation in the Para 25 (D) by the Lokyukta was based on a report by inquiry officers which stated suspicions of misappropriation to the installation of 2x1 MVA, 33 KV Sub Station along with the associated 33 KV line related



works at Chakpikarong in Chandel district, Manipur executed under work order dated 25/09/2009.

This observation by the Manipur Lokyukta was however, is challenged as it appears to be in contrast, and as it is evident with the comments of the competent authority of Power Department, the comment which is to be obtained from the competent authority on the allegations made in the complainant under Section 20 (2) of the Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014. The observations made in the comment from the competent authority were simply that allegations made by the complainant, Thiyan Nirosh Singh in the Hon'ble Lokyukta Manipur are unfounded and baseless and the comment was submitted by the Under Secretary (Power), Government of Manipur to the Director (Inquiry) Manipur Lokayukta on December 1, 2021.

In connection with the supply for Power Transformers (1 MVA, 33/11 KV) for the 33/11 KV Sub Station at Chakpikarong, findings of joint inspection team headed by Thongthang

Mantu, Dy SP, Manipur Lokayukta Inquiry officer stated, "...the said (alleged) two power transformers were most probably supplied as per the work order".

In connection with the construction of 33/11 KV electrical sub-station, the joint inspection team report said, "The construction of 33/11 KV electrical sub-station was done as per the single line diagram (SLD) associated with the work order. It was actually found that the said working sub-station was consisting of all the major necessary electrical equipments".

In connection with the allegation of misappropriation of fund for the 33/11 KV line, known as New Chayang-Joupi Line, the findings by the Joint Inspection team said that the MSPCL had clarified in a notification dated Dec. 30, 2019 that the line length has been shortened from 45 km to 4 km - with the existence of 33 KV line of another project taken up from a different source of funding by Electricity department, Manipur near the selected project site at Chakpikarong. This indeed has saved the state exchequer and

that the claimed about irregularities of over Rs. 5,10,98,440 does not arise.

In the writ petition by the Managing Director (MSPCL), it is pleaded that the Manipur Lokyukta without appreciating technical explanation as submitted by the office of the present petitioner on the issue regarding the shortening of 45 km to 4 km LIL and also overlooking that the scheme under NLCPR also includes 2 other components i.e. construction of KV sub station and connected/associated civil works and further utilization of the saved materials in a new project undertaken with the approval of the state Government on the one side and also appraisal made by the Administrative Department of Power, Government of Manipur where it has been clearly stated that no loss of public money or diversion of fund has been occurred in the execution of the project and also clarification given by the planning Department of the Government of Manipur to the effect that information to the Central Government regarding the allegation of shortening of the associated 33 KV line to 4 km from 45 km of the project is not required as no fund released by the DONER have been diverted whatsoever other than for the project for which the fund has been released.

Comments from the competent authority of Power Department which is to be obtained on the allegations made in the complaint under Section 20 (2) of the Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014 and based on the inquiry report compiled by the inspection team constituted by the Manipur Lokayukta in the case was sent to the Manipur Lokayukta with the following observations and are reproduced below:

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Health Mela held under 100 Days Action Plan of New Government of Manipur at Tamenglong

IT News
Imphal, April 18:

Under the 100 Days Action Plan of the New Government of Manipur, Tamenglong Block Health Mela was held today at Unity Stadium, Tamenglong Baptist Church compound under the theme "Strengthen Citizen-Centric Governance". The Tamenglong Block Health Mela was inaugurated by Chief Guest Janghemlung Panmei, Hon'ble MLA, 53-AC/ST. Rohit Anand, IAS Sub-Divisional Officer, Tamenglong and Dr. G. Majachunglu Chief Medical Officer, Tamenglong District attended the program as Guests of Honour and Function President.

Janghemlung Panmei, MLA requested the villagers to take maximum benefit from this Health Mela. People who are yet to register in the Health can do so and consult the doctor for any health issue today. He

also encouraged the young students present to opt MBBS as their career option. He again mentioned that his priority will be given to the health Sector and Education sector.

At the Tamenglong Block Health Mela, MLA Janghemlung Panmei ensures that the newly constructed PHSC will be inaugurated and start functioning in next month (May). At the program CMO office submitted a 12 point memorandum to Local MLA. The MLA ensures that he takes note of these 12 points and tries to deliver them to the public because we have an action-oriented state government under the able leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. He requested the general public to pray for the Medical team of Tamenglong.

Rohit Anand thanked the Medical Department for their best in tackling the Covid-19 situation in Tamenglong.

Tamenglong Medical Department has reached out to each and every village of the District. Whether there is a road or no road. He hopes that all the required health facilities are available in Tamenglong and no one needs to go down to Imphal for treatment in near future. He added that under the able leadership of the newly elected MLA and well Medical team, we can overcome this and we public need to give support to them. One day out Tamenglong will become a sufficient town.

Tamenglong Block Health Mela inaugural function was followed by Launching of Covid-19 vaccination for 12-14 years of age by Rev. Lungda Riamei, Associate Pastor Tamenglong Baptist Church.

MLA Janghemlung Panmei also visited the District Hospital Tamenglong and saw the condition of the District Hospital.

A two day national Seminar on Tourism kicks off

IT News
Imphal, April 18:

A two day National seminar on 'Sustainable Tourism in North East India' (18-19 April, 2022) inaugurated today at N.G. College, Imphal. The seminar is organised by Political Science Dept., N.G. College and Centre for Alternative Discourse Manipur.

Delivering his inaugural speech, the Vice Chancellor of Manipur University Prof. N. Lokendra Singh stressed on the need for alternative tourism that was not to be based on mega modern infrastructure but on a sensitive process of tourism that was region and community



friendly. He further stressed on the need for an eco friendly tourism as an essential aspect of economy for which people needed to prepare themselves to deal with tourists and visitors. As the people in the region in general and Manipur in particular were protective of their self and identify, there was

a need for understanding the significance of tourism without compromising region's diversity and distinctiveness. The vice chancellor also took the example of Southeast Asian countries which were adopting region and context specific tourism roadmap.

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Disposed of Dead body

IT News
Imphal, April 18:

One unidentified male dead body was deposited at JNIMS morgue for the identification and further necessary procedure.

As per the press note the unknown pedestrian was knocked down by one Tata Oil Tanker B/Regd. No. MN01AA/0577 at sangakpham Bazar in front of Imoinu Chak hotel while proceeding Imphal from korengai side yesterday at around 6:15 pm. As a result, the pedestrian succumbed at the spot to his injuries.

The unknown dead body was described as Normal Complexion, height- about 5'2" to 5'5" and wear one full shirt with white, red, grey & black colour & white Vest, one Jeans long pant (dark grey) along with one belt red colour, one cap blue colour, one leader sleeper purple colour and one necklace (Urik).

Myanmarese festival Thingyan 2022 concludes at Manipur University

IT News
Imphal, April 18:

Thingyan 2022 organised by the Centre for Myanmar Studies, Manipur University has been concluded today with the Burmese dance performed by the students of Manipur University. Thingyan, commonly referred to as water festival is a festival celebrated across Myanmar as a New Year's Day celebration. During the festival, multiple events has been exhibited which included Ngamu Thaba, Tree Plantation, Burmese Cuisines, Painting Competition, and Cultural dance of Myanmar performed by the students of Manipur University Students, Teachers of the University and invitees from different works of life took part the festival.

The programme begins at the Manipur University with the sprinkling of water with Thababay by releasing fishes

(Ngamu) and tree plantation at the Canchi Park, Manipur University. Further, The Chief Guest after sprinkling water on the inaugural tree which is a symbol of "Thingyan Lamp" at the Centenary Hall of the University inaugurated the function. Prof. Naorem Lokendra Singh, the Vice Chancellor of Manipur University; Thokchom Thoiba, Social and Cultural Activist; and Dr. L. Bishwanath Sharma, Dean, Students' Welfare, MU graded the function as the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President.

Prof. Naorem Lokendra Singh, the Vice Chancellor of Manipur University expressed the need for a comparative research work on the cultural similarities between Myanmar/Burma and North East India in general and Manipur in particular through folklore and ancient texts and materials in order to understand the land and the people



of this region. He further highlighted the need for an alternative historiography which can encounter the historiography developed by British Colonialism. Knowing the importance and significance of the neighbouring country Myanmar, in his words, the University has sent an appraisal to the External Affairs Ministry, Government of India for adoption of the Centre for

Myanmar Studies of Manipur University. He also expressed the need to organise such a festival in a grand manner in the coming year.

Thokchom Thoiba, Cultural Activist, who was the Guest of Honour of the function, stressed the importance and role of the Centre for Myanmar Studies, Manipur University in the academic activities at the present glo-

bal scenario. He highlighted the historicity of Thingyan Festival as the cultural synthesis of Pre-Buddhism and Buddhism elements. He also narrated his personal experienced during his stayed in Myanmar.

Dr. L. Bishwanath Sharma, the Dean of the Students' Welfare, Manipur University who acted as the President of the function also expressed in line with the above dignitar-

ies that the Centre needs to be strengthened and more activities should be done. He appreciated the kind of engaging by the Centre from the classroom teaching to the MU community domain through cultural medium in order to know a country is per excellent. He pointed out the inner ethos of Thingyan: the art of purification or cleansing away the sins and sorrows in order to start a fresh life. He also mentioned the spirit of respecting the elders during the festival.

Prof. MC Arun, Director, Centre for Myanmar Studies, gave the welcome address of the function and expressed the Thingyan, 2022 is a part of academic engagement of the students of the Centre in order to inculcate the cultural life world of the Myanmar people. He also expressed the value of knowing this festival by the scholars and students to understand Myanmar.

Dalai Lama says happiness is the prime goal of life

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



When I saw a journalist friend's Facebook post recently, I started thinking. His wife had written in the post something like this: 'A nice family photo, because we often don't

spend time together and on a wedding occasion we are so happy today as never before. Bengali marriages are like this, they make you very happy.' Friend is a journalist, so obviously he would not be able to give enough time to his family. Such is the life of most of the journalists. They attend hundreds of happy and sad events as a part of their professional life; must be traveling to far away places in the country and abroad, but mostly they travel alone, not with their family. Many of the journalists can not afford to go on family vacations, because time and money both are in short supply. Journalism is a profession which requires army-like dedication with hardly any free time. When they manage to go out, still the office phone keeps on ringing for this or that. Their evenings are spent in their office and when they return home late in the night, most of the world is gone into sleep. Such is the routine of a typical journalist.

The line that made me think was that 'we have never been so happy till today'. It is really worrying that a family wants to attend a wedding in order to be happy. I personally don't like to attend wedding parties. I am very happy when I am alone. I chose to be happy all the time. It requires no money to be happy, neither does anyone's permission is needed for this. This is just a decision, a choice, that you want to be happy. Those who have decided to be unhappy will remain sad even if you make them live in a 5-star hotel, in a palace or in a luxurious car. There is one country in the world where most of the citizens are happy, that is Bhutan. Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama says that the highest goal of human life is to be happy. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, the founding president of Mahabodhi International Meditation Center, Leh, also preaches to 'live in the present moment and be happy'.

Recently an old friend of mine visited my place. Our friendship is four decades old, but for the last many years we were unable to meet or talk properly. Often friendships take a backseat after one gets married or starts working somewhere. The family equations do change and people get too busy in their lives. We took photos together before leaving. In the evening I sent a message that said, "Your happiness is visible, stay blessed." This I wrote after seeing the smiles in the photos. Quickly I got a reply - 'Do you think I am happy?' This response made me think deeply. Obviously all is not going well with my friend's life. However it was not evident from the facial expression and smile. This is what happens. People keep showing fake smiles. Still, I believe that whatever be the circumstances in life, we always have a choice to be happy.

How to control the rising temperature of the earth



By: Vijay Garg

For countries like India, the greenhouse effect is also a matter of more concern because due to this, not only the population of the cities situated along the sea will be affected, but also the adverse effect on agriculture.

In the Paris Agreement, countries around the world had expressed their commitment to establish controls on carbon emissions in such a way that gradually reducing carbon emissions to zero and the rising temperature of the earth could be controlled. But the discrepancy was that countries which on the basis of their resources could be an example for other countries in this direction, many of them were also indifferent to their responsibilities.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Environmental Affairs (IPCC) has once again expressed concern that responsible countries, despite warnings from nature, are not taking meaningful steps to control emissions of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. Huh. After reading this report on the deteriorating environment due to increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres even said that 'this situation is very shameful. We make empty promises to save the environment, but do not take any concrete steps, due to which we are increasing the bore of a world that will not be fit to live.' This statement of Guterres suggests that due to greenhouse gases Emissions have made the situation so dire.

After all, what are greenhouse gases and why are their emissions polluting the environment so much? Actually, there are some gases in the atmosphere that prevent the heat of the earth from going out. This increases the temperature of the earth. This condition is called the greenhouse effect. The term was first used by the Western scholar J. Fourier. On the one hand, due to the depletion of the ozone layer, the heat coming from the sun is reaching the earth in a relatively more free way and on the other hand greenhouse gases increase the temperature of the whole surroundings by preventing that heat from leaving the earth's atmosphere. The enormous increase in this effect in the past few years has stunned the vulnerable people of the world and the need is felt very strongly that efforts should be made to curb the emission of greenhouse gases on a global scale.

It is worth mentioning here that our changed lifestyle has contributed a lot to the emission of gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fluorine and chloro-fluorocarbons. Gases such as methane and carbon dioxide in the environment have been released many times higher than normal due to the use of smoke from vehicles to refrigerators and air conditioning plants. On the other hand, those forests have been wiped out rapidly, in which trees used to absorb carbon dioxide in large quantities and provide oxygen to the animal world. This is the reason why the latest IPCC report emphasizes the need for lifestyle changes.

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The central government's recent push to elevate Hindi as a national language has triggered uproar once again. With nationalism pouring from all sides, the BJP has always been batting for Hindi being hoisted to a visible pedestal of recognition nationally. Multilingualism, with different cultural elements living in unison in a geographical space such as India, makes it the most exceptional social experience. Various languages and dialects that we preserved through generations make the essence of communication and they have been matchless in effect and content. Information technology's enhanced versions underpinning the communication processes with adequate quality and clarity, it seems to be not necessary for a country like India to be battling for enforcing a particular language over the variety available. Multiplicity is the essential thread that a country such as India is intertwined into. When the globe is shrinking into a visible module accessible from anywhere, enabling people to jovially accept and appreciate the cultural variety that it offers, should there be an insistence on a linguistic enforcement growing into the level of a political compulsion. A country, which is a linguistic diversity, existing for years with a single civilizational essence has the societal ability to survive and go beyond political intimidations. The move by the government is not going to be an easy pass as reactions are streaming in from across the state borders.

The pomp and gaiety with which India celebrates its hundreds of festivals attracts the entire world. Festivals celebrated with the same significance probably in the same period or with little variation in different parts of the country with different names is the beauty of Indian ethnicity. Poila Baisakh in Bengal is Bihu in Assam and Vishu in Kerala. The same is Gudi Padwa in

Maharashtra and Baisakhi in Punjab. These festivals share a common significance but are celebrated with local traditional flavours. The demand for nationalising Hindi in India is not new. Amit Shah stoked controversy through his tweet in 2019 in which he demanded that Hindi should become part of the Indian identity. As Hindi is widely spoken by a large population in the country, he reiterated to recognise it as the national language now. Much before in 2014, when the Modi government came to power for the first time, it had its directives given to the officers and employees of all ministries to use Hindi in their social media interventions. Linguistic inheritance is a sensitive issue in India. Especially the southern states which do not share a linguistic heritage in line with the Devanagari script and identify themselves with different language traditions are natural to resist the move. Tamil, one of the most ancient languages is an example. The Sangam literature, rich with philosophical aphorisms came to exist as early as 3000 BC. Hindi is relatively a younger brother to many classical languages in India with little contribution to the cultural eminence of the country. The last census depicts a clear picture of the linguistic propensities of Indians. According to it, about 56 percent Indians do not recognise Hindi as their first language. Nearly 44 percent Indians either speak Hindi or find the language comfortable for communication. When Hindi is dominant in some parts of the country, the remaining languages together take an upper hand resulting in a balancing act.

The influence of English in a British colony such as India must be repulsive to the cultural nationalism propagated by the BJP. Swami Vivekananda had a different opinion on this. Vivekananda, who spoke English throughout his world tour was appreciated by his foreign audience for his in-depth knowledge, vocabulary and delivery in that language. He firmly believed that language could break barriers of territory and English, for him, was a medium of communication that he effectively used, to teach the world what India's cultural tradition was. Nehru's opinion on the choice of a national language was in line with what Gandhi viewed. He chose to believe that no country could become great based on a foreign language. He firmly believed that there should be consensus while choosing Hindi as India's national language and he aptly rejected calling the demand of imposing Hindi on India as authoritarian. Both Gandhi and Nehru were of the opinion of having one Indian language being chosen as the national lingua-franca but they were aware of the complexity with which, at least in this case, the cultural linguistic diversity behaved. Political parties in Tamil Nadu have already registered their disagreement. The Congress party, with no special subject to unleash its attack on the government has come out against the 'Hindi move'. As of now Hindi is not the national language. The more the BJP harps on the elevation of the language the more complex the situation becomes. We cannot but accept the circumstance that is emerging in different states. Large numbers of workers migrating from the northeast, Bihar and West Bengal into the state of Kerala have created a sudden urgency among the Malayalis to learn and speak Hindi. Interestingly, workers from northeast, including those from



By: M.R. Lalu

Assam and Bengal conveniently communicate in Hindi with the Malayalis. The state, welcoming the employee influx, is helping the migrants with boards and hoardings in Hindi. I personally find an openness in the state with regard to its acceptance of Hindi as a language of communication with its 'guest workers' and an enthusiasm in learning it. But the state may not acknowledge an imposition.

The Constitution provides each state the right to choose its own official language. A particular local language, deeply engraved into the collective cultural history of a particular state, is natural to move against the national language indicator. It is interesting to note that almost everybody from the northeast is multilingual. A person from Arunachal Pradesh can speak his local dialect along with Hindi, English, Assamese and Nepali. This is real with many other states in the northeast. But in the southern states the situation changes. Except for the cities, most of the villages go solo with their mother tongue. Challenging the country's nationalistic essence and hammering on India's diverse linguistic ethnicities, Rahul Gandhi's quip in the parliament calling India a conglomeration of states was an indication as to what would be the stand of the parties, if the government goes on trying to enforce anything in the direction of its dreamy cultural nationalism. History of agitations for linguistic identity in India should remind us of our national life that proclaims that there is no language that can hold us together as a nation. If there is anything that holds us one, that is the essence of Indianness. The geographical ethnicity that we have been pulsating through for years cementing the essence of being Indian with all its plurality flourishing across linguistic borders should remain intact.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

Shape of Anti-BJP Front of Regional Parties is not clear yet

By: Rahul Nora Chopra

In the midst of efforts by opposition parties to build a united front against the BJP for the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said that Third Front is not possible without the Congress. However West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao have been trying to fabricate together an alliance of regional parties while the DMK has made it clear that it is committed to opposing the BJP only in alliance with the Congress. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said that he is carrying on talks with like-minded parties to give "a new direction" to the nation, but asserted that it would be wrong to say now that attempts are being made by regional political outfits to forge an anti-BJP front. The Telangana CM has been journeying across the country to meet opposition leaders and it is being seen as an effort to form a united alliance against the BJP of regional parties excluding the Congress. Mamata has sent a letter to the non Congress and non-BJP parties for a meeting but so far, no date has been fixed.

Bhupinder Hooda May Replace Kumari Selja As Haryana Pcc Chief

The dramatic change in terms of big replacement is on the cards in Haryana Congress as the party is in the process of making organisational changes to form a strong platform for the party considering future assembly polls. Recently, the party leadership from the state met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Delhi and discussed the political situation. According to

Congress sources, the current Haryana Pradesh Congress chief Kumari Selja had recently met Congress president Sonia Gandhi and it is reported that she had expressed her desire to step down from her responsibility. According to sources, the party is all set to make change for state Congress chief where former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda is the front runner for the post of party president in the state. Kuldeep Bishnoi is likely to replace Hooda as a Congress legislator party (CLP) leader in the Haryana assembly. Meanwhile Congress will all set to get one Rajya Sabha seat, where Kumari Selja is likely to be accommodated or she will be made AICC General Secretary in charge of the state.

Congress High Command Showing No Initiative To Solve Gujarat Crisis

After the Supreme Court stayed his conviction in a 2015 case, Patidar leader and Gujarat Congress working president Hardik Patel on Wednesday showed his willingness to contest the elections, and accused the Congress of ignoring him. He also raised the question about the Congress delay on taking a call on Khodaldham trust president and powerful Patidar leader Naresh Patel, who is being wooed by all parties in the state, suggesting that it was an insult to the entire community. Hardik warned the Congress that the party had put up a good performance in the 2015 local body and 2017 Assembly polls due to the Patidar agitation. The Congress had won 77 seats in the 182-member House in 2017. "But what happened

after that?" Hardik said. "Many in the Congress feel that Hardik was not properly utilised by the party." He said it might be because people felt threatened by him in the party. Inducted into the Congress by Rahul Gandhi himself, as the celebrated young Patidar face who had led a successful agitation against the Gujarat government before the last elections, and made the working president in 2020, Hardik had earlier too expressed his frustration over not being given a prominent role in the party. According to a senior Congress leader, the party high command is not taking any less from Punjab and Uttarakhand assembly election debacle and has no time to solve the issue of party in Gujarat before the coming assembly elections.

Former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy Blasts Bjp Regime In Karnataka

HD Kumaraswamy is fiery when it comes to communal issues raked up by the Sangh Parivar. While his party Janata Dal (Secular) had an understanding with the ruling BJP in the legislative council to push through essential bill, Kumaraswamy has never been severely caustic against the Sangh as in recent years. With issues like religious conversion, love Jihad, hijab ban and ban on Muslim vendors at temples, it was Kumaraswamy who strongly has intensified his attack against the BJP government in Karnataka and was the loudest among Opposition leaders. The Congress was quite muted in its reaction to the brazen sectarianism. Of the BJP in the state compared to the former Chief Minister

of JD(S) government.

BJP President J P Nadda Leads Party In Himachal Before Coming Polls

After an overwhelming victory of AAP in recently held Punjab assembly elections and announcing itself in the electoral politics of Himachal Pradesh with a roadshow in Mandi on April 6, the Aam Aadmi Party will now go to the influential seat of Kangra on April 23 with Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's public rally. AAP's roadshow not only attracted people from across the state to Mandi but also compelled BJP president JP Nadda to undertake the tour in the state. BJP president J P Nadda, who hails from the state, has already launched the party's campaign. Nadda, had played a key role in inducing the AAP's top brass in the state and persuaded them to join BJP. Barely two days after the Mandi roadshow, AAP's HP unit chief Anoop Kesari, general secretary (Organisation) Satish Thakur and Una president Iqbal Singh joined the BJP. AAP's state Mahila Morcha chief Mamta Thakur and some office bearers of its women's wing also joined the BJP. A section of party leaders, including some from the central leadership, are of the view that Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has failed to provide inspiring leadership and hasn't been able to win popular support. Nadda, however, said the party has no plans to replace Jai Ram Thakur and that the forthcoming Assembly election would be fought under his captainship guidance and guardianship.

(IPA Service)

Covid cases in India see 90% jump in a day with 2,183 fresh infections

Agency
New Delhi, April 18:

India saw a jump of nearly 90 per cent in daily Covid cases - compared to Sunday - as the country registered 2,183 fresh infections, according to the health ministry data. This is the first time in nearly a month that the country has registered more than 2,000 cases in a day (2,075 cases were registered on March 19).

The data further shows that 214 deaths were logged in the last 24 hours. It's not yet clear if the number of deaths were revised as an addition to the backlog data. While the daily positivity rate stands at .83 per cent, the weekly positivity rate stands at .32 per cent. The country reported a rise of 1,150 coronavirus cases on Sunday and four deaths from across the country.

A worrying surge has been witnessed in Delhi yet again

days after the mask mandate was dropped and in-person classes resumed fully in the city's schools after a gap of nearly two years. The national capital, in its latest spike, reported 517 cases. A day before, the city had registered 461 new patients.

Of all the states, Kerala logged the highest number of cases (940).

Covid curbs were eased over the last few weeks across the country as a gradual drop in infections was recorded after the third wave in January pushed the tally above the 3-lakh mark.

However, experts have warned against letting guards down because several European nations - including Germany, France, and Italy - and China have been battling a fresh rise. China's zero tolerance Covid policy is facing its biggest test amid growing public anger over shortage of essentials.

Also, the WHO recently sounded an alert over a highly transmissible XE variant of which two cases have been reported by government officials from Mumbai and Gujarat.

The Covid-19 cases in the country has started to surge again with Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh reporting a spike of infections. Delhi, which was reporting around 200 cases last week, is currently reporting over 500 daily infections with positivity rate at 5.33 percent. The national capital, that had registered 202 cases last Tuesday, on Sunday reported 517 Covid Cases.

Thought the Covid infections in Haryana is lesser, the daily count has increased by four times until Sunday. The state breached the 200-mark on Saturday, with most of the infections coming from Gurugram.

On the other hand, 135 people have tested positive for the virus in Uttar Pradesh on

Sunday. The active caseload has now crossed the 600-mark with Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar on alert.

After 11 weeks of declining Covid infections, India's caseload has surged again this week rising by 35 percent against the previous seven days' count. Several states including Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh reported a spike in infections. Despite the overall case numbers remaining low, the surge was restricted to the three states.

According to a report in Times of India, the country recorded over 6,610 fresh cases in the week ending Sunday, against a count of 4,900 in the previous seven days.

Meanwhile the Covid-19 deaths continue to decline in the country with only 27 new deaths recorded during the week. Last week 54 deaths were reported, which includes 13 from Kerala.

Assam Rifles apprehends a PLA insurgent



IT News
Imphal, April 18:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) in a joint operation with Manipur Police ap-

prehended an insurgent of proscribed group PLA in Moirang, Bishnupur district on April 16.

Based on specific input, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched

an operation which led to the apprehension.

The apprehended insurgent was handed over to Moirang Police Station for further investigation.

Assam Rifles organises Recruitment Rally Awareness Camp

IT News
Imphal, April 18:

Churchandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) organised a recruitment rally awareness camp at Tutium Khongkhait, Churchandpur

district yesterday.

The camp was organised to spread awareness amongst the youths and locals about Assam Rifles Meritorious Sports Person Recruitment Rally 2022. During the interaction, youths were encour-

aged to explore career opportunities in Armed Forces.

Village authorities and local Youth Association members attended the event and expressed their gratitude for such informative events.

Assam: At least 20 killed due to storms, lightning strikes

Agency
Dispur, April 18:

At least 20 people lost their lives in several incidents of severe storms and lightning strikes throughout Assam since late March.

As per the data shared by Chief Executive Officer of Assam State Disaster Management Authority GD Tripathi, in the last three days (i.e. from April 14, 2022) 22 districts have reported storm and lightning incidents in 80 Revenue Circles spanning over 1,410 villages impacting 95,239 people.

"Total of 20 deaths have been reported during this season due to storms and lightning, of which 19 deaths were reported in April (till April 17) and one in the last week of March.

Notably, an ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of deceased persons has been initiated and it will be completed soon.



Reportedly, 3,011 houses are fully damaged (Katcha=2,974; Pacca=37) and 19,256 houses (Katcha=17,713; Pacca=1,543) have been partially damaged till April 16.

A further detailed assessment is underway on in many storm-affected Revenue Circles.

So far, a total of 1,333 hectares of crop area damage has also been reported from the districts.

Circle level task forces constituted by the Government for damage assessment have started a detailed damage assessment process and verification for speedy disbursement of financial assistance.

Further, under the Scheme for Training of Community Volunteers in Disaster Response (Aapda Mitra) community volunteers have been deputed for the distribution of tarpaulin

and gratuitous relief items in order to help local circle level administration.

Teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and fire and ES were also deputed for clearance of Road communication and storm debris in the affected localities with close support from the forest department.

Power has been delegated to all Deputy Commissioners by the Government for speedy sanction and disbursement of Rehabilitation grants etc. to the affected populations and beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), without referring to the government for approval.

Tripathi held a virtual review meeting with the Deputy Commissioners on Sunday.

According to a preliminary report, at least 220 houses and the church building were damaged in Kolasib district, and about 18 houses in Mamit district near the Assam border, the official said.

AR conducts Psychological Counselling Workshop

IT News
Imphal, April 18:

Khoupum Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) in collaboration with JNIMS, Imphal con-

ducted a psychological counselling workshop for locals at N Khunou, Bishnupur district yesterday.

The workshop was organised to spread awareness

on various aspects of mental health and ways to handle stress related to studies, profession and social aspects. The workshop was attended by locals and troops of Assam Rifles.

Over 200 houses, including church, damaged as storm and heavy rains batter Kolasib in Mizoram

Agency
Aizawl, April 18:

A massive storm accompanied by heavy rains and hail damaged over 200 houses, including a church building in northern

Mizoram's Kolasib district bordering Assam and Mamit district in the western part of the state.

However, no casualties have been reported in the storm that hit the two districts on Saturday evening, an official informed.

According to a preliminary report, at least 220 houses and a church building were damaged in Kolasib district and about 18 houses in a village in Mamit district near the Assam border, the official said.

More than 40 houses were completely damaged by the storm, he said.

Detailed reports are awaited, he said. According to the official, Pangbalkawn village in Kolasib district was the worst

hit as at least 130 dwelling houses, including a church building of the Salvation Army were damaged there.

About 27 houses were completely damaged in the village, he said.

Meanwhile, Kolasib assembly constituency MLA and supply minister K Lalrinliana on Sunday paid a visit to storm hit villages to take stock of the situation.

The minister assured the victims of assistance from the government.

As per the instruction of Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga, Lalrinliana also informed that tin roofs will be immediately provided to those families whose house roofs have been blown away by the violent wind.

Contd. from Page 2

How to control the rising temperature....

It has been clearly said in the report that if the human society is still not managed, then many diseases will spread in the world, natural disasters will be more dire and there will be an unexpected rise in the water level of the seas. Significantly, in the last few years, incidents like floods in rivers, cloudbursts and sudden melting of glaciers have created havoc in India. The increase in the frequency of ocean storms around the world in the past years is also being linked to the greenhouse effect.

For countries like India, the greenhouse effect is also a matter of more concern because due to this, not only the population of the cities situated along the sea will be affected, but agriculture will also be adversely affected. According to the IPCC report, about 35 million people of India will have to face coastal floods every year due to rise in temperature.

The increase in normal temperature due to greenhouse effect has been named 'Wet Bulb Temperature'. It has been said in the report that due to this, not only the metropolitan cities of India, cities like Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Indore, Ahmedabad will also be affected. Rising temperatures will damage crops around the world, but agricultural systems like India are expected to suffer the most. It is estimated that by 2050, the greenhouse effect will reduce the production of rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals by up to nine percent.

Apart from this, the decreasing area of agriculture, construction on agricultural land and increase in population will make this shortage more serious. The discrepancy is that India, which has a tradition of eulogizing nature from the very beginning, is not behind other countries in the world in emitting greenhouse gases. In the year 2020, China

emitted more than one lakh fifteen thousand lakh metric tons of carbon dioxide. It was the highest in the world. America was second and India third.

After this, there was some reduction in the emission of gases like carbon dioxide in the world, but the reason for this was not any policy change, but due to Corona, business activities in the world were stalled for a long time. Apart from China, the US and India, EU member states, Russia, Japan, Iran and South Korea are also emitting greenhouse effect gases uncontrollably to challenge the lives of generations. Although everyone is talking about alternative energy, but technology-rich countries are still not able to reduce their dependence on conventional fuels. The US alone accounts for 20 percent of the global gasoline consumption. Even today, fifty-seven percent of electricity generation in China comes from coal.

The consumption of fossil

fuels is an important factor in making the environment toxic. But even more poisonous is selfishness, which does not allow people to think about the world. Recently, when US President Joe Biden proposed an ambitious plan to increase greenery, two senators from his own party strongly opposed the plan. The reason being that this plan would have some adverse effect on the interests of the fossil fuel industry, these senators have deep ties with the people associated with that industries.

Environmental lovers believe that the 2015 Paris Agreement can play an important role in saving the earth from the greenhouse effect, provided all countries are determined to follow its provisions honestly. In the Paris Agreement, countries around the world had expressed their commitment to establish controls on carbon emissions in such a way that gradually reducing carbon emissions to zero and the ris-

ing temperature of the earth could be controlled. But the discrepancy was that countries which could have been an example for other countries in this direction on the basis of their resources, many of them were also indifferent to their responsibilities. Of course, it can be a difficult task for poor countries to abandon conventional energy resources and establish renewable energy resources because they have their own economic limits.

That is why about a decade ago rich countries promised that they would give a hundred billion dollars every year to deal with the effects of climate change. But the developed countries neither kept that promise during this period nor felt it necessary to reiterate that commitment at the summit held in Glasgow some time back on the subject. What's more, many countries have not yet declared when they will try to achieve zero carbon emissions.

DOCUMENT LOST

I have lost my Original Certificates & Marksheets for passing the following examinations today, the 18th April, 2022 on the way to Thangal Bazar from my residence in between 9 am and 11:30 am.

1. HSLC Examination, 1983, bearing Roll No. 15284
2. PU Sc Examination, 1987, bearing Roll No. 4281
3. TDC-Core (Zoology) Examination, 1990, bearing Roll No. 2460

Finders may please hand over the same to the Office of the Imphal Times. Gratitude reserved.

Sd/-

Moirangthem Mibi Singh
Heirangoithong Ahomshangbam Leikai,
PO & PS: Singjamci
Contact No. 9366543031

Pinjang Village gets a new Primary School

After being engulfed by ethnic clashes in the 1990s, peace has since descended on Pinjang (Gangluan -IV) in Noney District. Generations of youngsters have however suffered due to the lack of affordable educational facilities with no viable school in the village. Now, the Learn for Life Foundation partnering with the Archdiocese of Imphal is ensuring that the children of Pinjang and neighbouring villages have better opportunities to access quality education.



By: Rucha Deshpande

Pinjang (Gangluan -IV) in Noney District is a village of about 600 persons hailing mainly from the Rongmei Naga tribe. During the 1990s, the village was severely impacted by the Kuki - Naga ethnic conflict. Many unfortunate persons from both communities from Pinjang and neighbouring villages unfortunately perished in the violence. As a result of this, the Kukis moved out of the village to neighbouring villages. Since those dark days, relations between the two communities have considerably improved with many progressive steps for reconciliation taken by community leaders on both sides.

Most of the inhabitants of Pinjang are subsistence farmers, many of who hail from the BPL category. The COVID pandemic and consequent lockdown further impacted the livelihoods of families, many already in indigent poverty. A major issue in the area for decades is the lack of any good schools as a result of which generations of children have lost out on an education. In 2016, an attempt was made by Mr James Thaimai, a local entrepreneur, who sought to bridge this gap by starting a primary school at Pinjang. The school temporarily came under the Salesian Fathers and came

to be called Don Bosco School as a branch of the school of similar name in nearby Khoupum. However, due to various factors, the school was turned over to the Archdiocese of Imphal. As it was extremely difficult to run the institution due to financial constraints the school once again came under the control of the village community. With little funds even to meet operational costs, the already dilapidated buildings with mud floors, tin sheet roofs and bamboo matting walls fell further into disrepair. The worst impacted were the school children, who, despite the pathetic infrastructure, clung tenaciously to this only hope for access to education.

Local villagers express their gratitude to the Assam Rifles which has helped build toilets, contributed roof sheets and books for the library. They are also grateful to Sunbird Trust, a Manipur based NGO, for immense support to the school through providing solar lighting and blankets for the children.

In January 2022, through the support of generous donors in the United States and Learn for Life Foundation. Its founder Mr Thomas Thekkethala, work commenced on building a brand new and permanent school building. Mr. Thekkethala is an entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist



with over twenty-five years of experience in financing and leading technology companies in the US. Mr Gaikhangam, former MLA of the Nungba constituency arranged for the levelling of the land for the new building. Thanks to a committed and resourceful contractor, the work progressed very quickly. "Members of the community are all working very hard with the building contractor to complete the building by the end of April 2022. The communities have provided the manpower to carry building materials to the site and haul sand and stone up the unpaved road to the school in their own 4x4 trucks. Every participating community member has put their differences aside to help

build the school for their children" added Fr Varghese Velickakam from the Archdiocese of Imphal.

In the coming years, the school will be able to serve more than 300 children in Classes KG to Class VI. There are also plans to raise a new hostel to facilitate access to the school from neighbouring villages. Mr Thaimai says that the local community had almost lost hope and their faith in society to educate their children. Now, he says, they are rubbing their eyes in disbelief as the new school building has literally risen like a phoenix from the dust. He conveys on their behalf their deepest gratitude to the unseen and most generous donors from far away and Mr

Thomas Thekkethala, founder of the Learn for Life Foundation. The next generation of

children at Pinjang and neighbouring villages now have a better chance of education, empowerment and consequent employment. Fr Velickakam expressed the gratitude of the Archdiocese of Imphal to the Learn for Life Foundation and the generous donors for their sponsorship of this critically needed primary school. He says that with this contribution, the Diocese will take the baton forward and run a viable school for the children. The school will serve children of all communities without preference on grounds of tribe or religion. He expects that the school will serve as a hub for bringing back true peace and reconciliation to this conflict affected area and also contrib-

ute to national integration. He also expressed his gratitude to the Assam Rifles and to Sunbird Trust for their support for the school. Mr Thomas Thekkethala, has expressed his satisfaction at the speedy pace of work. He believes that the donors can have a deep sense of satisfaction at getting the opportunity to positively impact the lives and destinies of hundreds of lesser privileged children for years to come.

The inhabitants of Pinjang and neighbouring villages, it seems, can hope again!!

(A resident of Pune, Rucha feels privileged to have been able to spend over two years in a school in an idyllic village in the hills of Manipur. She now works in Goa)

Block Health Mela kicks off at Noney



IT News
Imphal, April 18:

As part of AzadiKaAmritMahotsav celebration, a Block Health Mela was inaugurated on Monday at Multipurpose Hall, Longmai III, Noney district. The mela was organized by the District Administration

Noneyin collaboration with District Health Society, Noney.

Chairman Longmai Area Council, Adai Dangmei, Chairman Longmai Village Authority, Kasaigai Gangmei and Chief Medical Officer, Noney district Dr. Edwin Golmei graced the function as chief guest, guest of honour and president respectively.

In his keynote address, Dr. Edwin Golmei stressed on the importance of health as a key ingredient in our daily lives.

DPO (AIDS) Dr. Louisa Golmei, DPO (NLEP) Dr. Azin Maringmei, DPM Bijeta R.K. and health officials of Noney district were present at the function amongst others.

Sports

Santosh Trophy: Manipur defeats defending champions Services

Agency
Malappuram, April 18:

Manipur served up the big upset of the 75th Hero Santosh Trophy so far by beating defending champions Services 3-0 in their group encounter here, today. The scoreline was an accurate representation of the desire, hunger and creativity Manipur displayed through the ninety minutes to outplay the defending champions off the park.

Manipur started stronger, pressing Services on the ball and forcing errors in midfield. In the 5th minute, Ngulvoul Singis overhit a pass towards Thiyan Chingkeingnaba's run on the left channel inside the box. Despite losing the ball though, Manipur refused to give up on it inside the box, Lummlen Haokip forcing an error from the Services defence and then laying the ball perfectly in the path of an onrushing N Jenish Singh, who hit it first time into the top far corner of goal. Bhabindra Malla Thakuri had no chance, and Manipur had the lead.

From there, Services slowly grew into the game, holding possession better, using the flanks and creating more in the final third. Pintu Mahata was at the centre of most of it, teeing up the flanks for the Services wingers to drill into the



box. Too often though, the chances were astray. Manipur were content to play on the counter, comfortable in the knowledge they had the lead and enough firepower to trouble their opponents when needed.

Services' best opportunity came right before the half hour as Mahata chased and won a long hopeful ball from the back by B Sunil. His cross was met by Ronaldo Singh, who dummied his way past the first defender before letting fly a weak shot, off target, that was nonetheless parried to safety by Md Abujar in Manipur's goal.

As the teams went into the

break, Manipur led by a single goal, while Services, despite holding a majority of the possession, had managed no shots on target at all.

Gift Raikhan's words at halftime were probably directed at Manipur's forwards, asking them for more energy, and right from the restart his players delivered. They swarmed over Services to turn over possession quickly and forced errors at regular intervals. From a deep corner in the 50th minute, Lummlen Haokip rose highest at the far post to rocket in a header and double their lead. Services were in shock, and soon it would get

worse. Manipur held possession, and strangled them for space.

In the 75th came the third goal, Jenish Singh, hassling and winning the ball in midfield to release Thokhom Manichand Singh through on goal, with only the keeper to beat. Before Manichand could pull the trigger though, B Sunil poked his foot through, as the ball ended up in the bottom corner, an own goal that confirmed Manipur's victory and sent Services back to the drawing board. The defending champions have been shocked and the tournament has been thrown open.

Contd. from Page 1

Hearing of writ petition against...

"With the above facts, it is certain that there are no lapses made by the executing agency namely, Electricity Department/Manipur State Power Company Limited in execution of the project - Construction of 2x1 MVA, 33/11 kV Sub-Station at Chakpikarong along with the associated 33 kV line and related civil works on turn-key basis with assistance from the Ministry of Develop-

ment of North Eastern Region under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and allegations made by the complainant, Thiyan Nirosh Singh in the Hon'ble Lokayukta Manipur are unfounded and baseless."

Meanwhile, a source from the Manipur High Court also said that a person PIL has been filed by a person appealing on why the recommendation by

the Lokayukta has not been converted into action.

However, mentioned may be made that state government is taking the recommendation by the Lokayukta with extreme seriousness and has been investigating the matter by the state police Crime branch. Two of the officers have been reportedly questioned in connection with the matter.

A two day national Seminar...

Waikhom Ibolah, MCS - Director, Department of Tourism, Govt. Of Manipur also spoke on the prospects and challenges of tourism in Manipur. He revealed how the Government was committed to an eco friendly tourism which was to uphold the aspects of conservation of natural biodiversity and incredible water bodies like the Loktak lake. The government has adopted a system of ecology friendly infrastructure in sensitive areas like Shirui, location of ancient caves and Loktak lake, etc., said the Director. The recommendations of the Semi-

nar was to be of great source for policy perusal, stated the Director.

Ashok R.C, principal - NG College, applauded the concept of the Seminar as it was integral to modern economies.

Manipur was endowed with natural beauty, flora and fauna and community cultural practices, said the Principal.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Mangoljao Maibam, Seminar Convenor. He underscored the challenges and prospects of Tourism in the region. The convenor stressed on the significance of a sustainable tourism that was

considerate of region's biodiversity and indigenous economies.

The two day seminar was to have six technical sessions. Scholars, policy makers and academia from various universities across India were expected to place their views and papers in the two day proceedings.

Scholars from Karnataka University, Delhi University, Nagaland University, Sikkim University, Manipur University, Dhanamanguri University and Mizoram University were to present their papers on tourism.