

Centre extends ceasefire agreement with three Naga insurgent groups for 1 year



Agency
New Delhi, April 20:

The Centre has extended the ceasefire agreement with three different Naga groups for one more year. The groups are National Socialist Council of Nagaland/NK (NSCN/NK), National Socialist Council of Nagaland/ Reformation (NSCN/R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland/K-Khango (NSCN/K-Khango).

with the government over the years.

A statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs said that the ceasefire agreements were extended from April 28, 2022 to April 27, 2023 with NSCN/NK and NSCN/R and from April 18, 2022 to April 17, 2023 with NSCN/K-Khango. The agreements were signed on April 19.

The development comes even as NSCN-IM leaders, led by general secretary Th Muivah, on Tuesday met with A K Mishra, Centre's representative for Naga peace talks,

at the outfit's headquarters, Camp Hebron near Dimapur.

Former special director of the Intelligence Bureau, Mishra, who replaced R N Ravi as the Centre's representative last year, arrived in Nagaland on Monday to discuss the Naga political issue. He is expected to meet the state government's core committee, as well as the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) during his stay.

This is the first time that talks on the Naga issue were held inside the NSCN-IM headquarters. The discussions on Tuesday lasted for

little more than two hours.

The meeting comes a week after Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton and former chief minister T R Zeliang met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi to discuss the status of peace talks, which seems to have hit a roadblock since 2019.

The government has been trying to engage with various Naga groups, and not just NSCN IM, to finalise the Naga peace accord. It is an approach that the NSCN IM has not been comfortable with, particularly since former Naga interlocutor Ravi said the Naga peace deal would happen with or without NSCN IM.

Last September, the government had signed ceasefire agreement with the Niki Sumi faction of the NSCN K. The NSCN K had signed a ceasefire agreement with the government in 2001, but withdrew from it in 2015 under the leadership of S S Khlaphlang, who is now dead.

Any infiltration or immigration attempt should be checked and send them back: Governor

IT News
Imphal, April 20:

Governor of Manipur L. Ganesan stated that any infiltration or illegal immigration to the State should be checked and sent them back. On the second day of his two days visit to Ukhrul and Kamjong districts, Governor interacted with the villagers at a programme held at Town Hall of Kamjong District Headquarters today.

Governor said, infiltrators are deliberately trying to sneak into our territory from the Myanmar side mostly in the border areas. He said, as we are sharing a long border line with Myanmar, all should be vigilant enough to check such act and should inform authorities if such case arises. Being a border state, Government alone cannot stop such illegal activities without people's co-operation. Governor appealed the people to co-operate Government in this regard.



Reiterating that the Centre and the State Governments are fully committed for all round development and to give maximum benefits to the people, L. Ganesan said, most of the development works are in the planning map. He said roads are being built and basic infrastructures will also be developed in Kamjong district. Any issues pertaining to development will be taken care of by the State Government and also will apprise to the Centre if necessary, he added. Governor urged the people to implement ABCD which means A for Aadhar en-

rolment, B for opening Bank Account, C for COVID-19 Vaccination and D for taking part in developmental activities.

Phungyar MLA Leishiyao Keishing also attended the interaction programme and greeted the Governor for his visit to Kamjong District. Governor was accorded a warm welcome by the Deputy Commissioner R. Rang Peter, IAS, on his arrival at the district headquarters. Earlier Civil Society Organizations submitted Memorandum to the Governor and asked him to take prompt action concerning different issues.

Child Rights body condemns harassment to children

IT News
Imphal, April 20:

The Ukhrul District Alliance for Child Rights strongly condemned on the horrifying act and the persons responsible of beating three inmates of Ningrin club-Destitute home for boys located at Alungtang, Ukhrul. The act of cruelty was done on the night of 9th and the morning of 10th April.

Further on Ukhrul District Alliance for Child Right (UDACR) appealed to the concern authorities to resolve the matter through the order of the Juvenile Justice Act particularly the section 82 which prohibits the physical punishment in the Child Care Institution in the best interest of the children.

IBSD signs MoU with CDFD for research on DNA fingerprinting and genomics of medicinal plants of NE Region

IT News
Imphal, April 20:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal signed MoU with Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad for research on DNA fingerprinting and genomics of medicinal plants of North Eastern Region.

IBSD is working on docu-



mentation, evaluation and validation of traditional practices and development of bioresources of NER under the leadership of Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director, IBSD, Imphal. IBSD has already signed MoUs with many institutes for human resource development and to enhance the

research activities in this region. During the programme, Dr. K Thangaraj, Director, CDFD, scientists and staffs from both the institutes were present. This collaboration will help in development of genome resources for medicinal plants and capacity building of scientists/ students of NER in future.

UNMM questions the future of Manipur; Discuss to uphold the Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India

IT news
Imphal, April 20:

With the increase of various inhuman acts that suppressed the Rights of the common people in the state of Manipur, the United NGO Mission Manipur (UNMM) today organized a workshop under the title "Questioning the Future of Manipur and the UN International Humanitarian Law" at Sangai Hall in Imphal Hotel.

Speaking on the occasion as resources person Human Right activist Babuloo Laitongbam stressed on the need of education in shaping the future of the nation in general and in Manipur in particular. He further said that the changing phenomenon of acquiring education through various medium has change the life

of every citizen across the globe. Babuloo also highlighted on how the emergence of various technology and software that connects people to people and also its impact.

"Today Facebook or Whatsapp has become a way to connect people and this too has been control by someone in the power to fooled the people", Babuloo said. He further added that when one needs to look for the future of the people of Manipur we also need to look at the past.

"How were we in the past Hundred years and again in a past hundred years that is during 1822", Babuloo said and added that during 1882 the people of Manipur were in state of war with the invasion of Burmese which we today known as seven years of devastation.

Editor of Imphal Times, Rinku Khumukcham while delivering his speech as resource person said that today's democracy is nothing less than conducting election and waiting for election for the next term. He said that there are records of suppressing the people of North East India by enforcing various draconian laws like AFSPA and other sedition act.

"It is we ourselves that has to raise our voice to protect ourselves, no one will come to help us and we have to stand up together for our rights than expecting from others", Rinku said adding that today the two national highways is free from bandh and blockade but replace by extortions.

Various Speaker on the occasion also Highlighted the present issues.

Prashant Kishor, A ray of light at the end of tunnel for the opposition

Bypoll results, Proposed Non-BJP parties' conference are positive signals

By: Nitya Chakraborty
New Delhi, April 20:

Things are heating up in Indian politics as the BJP and the Sangh Parivar prepare for the next phase of assembly elections in the states within this year as also in 2023, and, eventually, to be followed by the Lok Sabha polls in March-April 2024. After the last round of assembly elections resulting in BJP's retaining power in four states, apprehensions were there that the Modi juggernaut had become invincible. However, the loss of the

BJP in all the bypolls announced on April 16 indicates that still there is some hope for the opposition, provided there is proper strategy and the killer instinct of the leadership to take on the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Reports abound that the Shiv Sena will be shortly convening a meeting of the non-BJP chief ministers in Mumbai to discuss the issues concerning the use of the central agencies against the opposition leaders. This meeting will naturally go into the issue of broadbasing the unity of the

non-BJP parties to fight the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections two years later. The time is short and the opposition parties will have to tread carefully, so that there is maximum possible areas of understanding among the parties who are honest in fighting the BJP model of Hindu Rashtra undermining the very basics of Indian constitution.

It is good that the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has taken the initiative in response to the letter sent by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee to the opposition leaders. Uddhav has been emerging as a mature leader of the anti-BJP alliance and it will be a productive exercise as the Shiv Sena supremo is respected now by both Mamata and Sonia Gandhi. Uddhav can invite all the opposition CMs including those belonging to the Congress. NCP supremo Sharad Pawar is there to guide the upcoming conclave so that the alliance consists of the Congress as well as the other non-Congress, non-BJP parties.

contd. on page 4

100 Action Points for First 100 Days Kick-Off at Pherzawl

IT News
Pherzawl, April 20:

As part of the State Government's effort to ensure development and governance to people's doorsteps, a Kick-Off Programme of Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission under '100 Action Points for First 100 Days' was held at Pherzawl Community Hall, Pherzawl District Headquarters on 19th April, 2022. The official Kick-Off Programme was organised under the aegis of the Pherzawl District Administration and Prabhari Officers for Pherzawl District with active

involvement of Village Chiefs and CSOs.

During the programme, Shri Joseph Pauline Kamson, the Deputy Commissioner said the Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission is a new concept and that development comes under grassroots level to improve the social, cultural and economic well-being of families, communities and societies for within the district. The DC assured that the District Administration will conduct door to door survey so that eligible beneficiaries of various schemes benefit in the region. He asserted that Teachers of

ZEO & ADC are robed-in as enumerators for collection of preliminary data and an economic index survey exercise will be conducted in 53 Villages including Hamlets to ensure initiative taken by the Government is translated into action. Urging the people of the District not to lose hope at the Government for development of infrastructures, he maintains that foundation stone laying for Construction of ITI Pherzawl, a provision for setting up of urban amenities in the district headquarters and activation of Transit Accommodation are in the pipeline.

contd. on page 4

Vegetarian food helps in environmental protection

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Corona cases have started growing once again, as the risk of a fourth wave is around the corner. Meanwhile, wearing masks has been made mandatory in 11 districts

of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Apart from the state capital Lucknow, most other such cities are located around Delhi. Cases have definitely increased in northern parts of the country, but this time the infection is not as serious as it was during the second wave in April and May last year. People are not required to be hospitalized and deaths are negligible. In UT Chandigarh, in the first week of April, all the restrictions related to Covid were lifted, but now again the emphasis is on wearing masks. In the new advisory of the administration, it has been advised to wear masks in public places, although none will be fined for this offence. Places where masks should be worn include buses, trains, aircraft, taxis, cinema halls, shopping malls, departmental stores, classrooms, offices and other crowded places. Due to Corona, many people had to face different problems, in which hair fall, muscle pain and mental diseases are prominent. Symptoms of depression are showing in many children who remained indoors during the pandemic.

A consumer court has imposed a fine of Rs 17,000 on Thai Airways after a passenger from Haryana was served non-veg food on a flight to Melbourne after he had stated his choice at the time of booking the ticket. When the food served between Delhi and Bangkok seemed odd and the passenger inquired, it was found that he was given non-veg food. When the airline did not respond to the complaint over email, the passenger filed a case in the consumer court. For those who do not eat non-veg food, such a situation becomes very troublesome. By the way, let me tell you that non-veg food is also responsible for increasing global warming. Raising an animal requires more water than farming, and the animals emit harmful gases. One should have compassion towards animals and birds and in view of the damage caused to the environment, it is prudent to eat vegetarian food.

From individuals to companies, governments and nations, efforts have to be made at every level to save the environment. For this, the Sustainable Development Goals have been issued by the United Nations. Information about this has been given in the latest report of Hurun India. According to the report, 29 of India's top 50 companies that have taken measures in this direction include ITC, Infosys, Cipla, Adani Port, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Zinc and Tech Mahindra. Inspired by this list, other companies can step up efforts. Many companies are constantly turning to such energy sources, which cause the least harm to the environment. For this, water recycling plants and solar energy plants are being set up. By doing this, not only will the environment be safe, but the cost of companies will also be reduced. Sadhguru Jagdish Jaggi Vasudev considers soil not as inert matter, but as the source of life. He is on a 100-day global bike tour to create awareness around soil and environment conservation. Sadhguru says that regenerating the soil will help in tackling the current environmental challenges.

Why Digital Media more popular than Journalism today



By: Vijay GarG

There was a time when media was associated with only journalism. Readers identified themselves with the bylines of reporters and the names of top editors. Newspapers were the most dominant form of media. Then came television and it jostled for attention and mindspace. Radio, in the absence of hard news, became more a source of entertainment. Things changed dramatically after the advent of the Internet. The media in the last two decades has undergone a complete makeover. Newspapers, radio and television are still important. But it is digital media that is driving the growth.

Paradigm shift

The change is good news for students waiting to get into media. They now have more avenues and careers to choose from. An important space that has opened up is Digital Marketing and Social Media Marketing. Companies are struggling to find trained manpower to meet their Digital Marketing requirements. Most of these are high paying jobs, where abilities matter more than age or experience. For students aspiring to get into media, this is a good opportunity.

Another career that has opened up in a big way for media students is Digital PR. Public Relations firms are looking for youngsters who can create blogs, podcasts and video stories, that can go up on client websites. They need media students who can create databases and write press releases that can be delivered digitally.

Content making inroads

But the most explosive growth is happening in the field of content creation. This demand is fuelled by web portals, IT companies, e-commerce firms, corporates, government organisations, public sector companies, banks, NGOs, travel companies, hospitals, universities – the list is endless.

Everyone needs content creators to run their websites. This includes media houses. They need media students who can create content as text, audio stories, infographics, podcasts, photo essays and are adept at search engine optimisation. They also need media students to work as social media professionals and for creating content for mobile phones. The range and scope of work is so different from traditional journalism that some of the media houses have come up with a new designation for such media professionals – Digital Content

Content

The top influencers have earnings that run into crores. Several journalists have taken to social media and carved out a new career. You too can become an influencer if you learn the skills needed to succeed in digital and social media.

In fact, there was never a better time to get into media. You can still become a print journalist or a television journalist. But the real growth is happening in digital media.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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Freedom of Expression & Indian Constitution

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
Asst. Prof. JCRC Global College, Babupara, Imphal

Expression is a matter of liberty and right. The liberty of thought and right to know are the sources of expression. Free Speech is live wire of the democracy. Freedom of expression is integral to the expansion and fulfillment of individual personality. Freedom of expression is more essential in a democratic setup of State where people are the Sovereign rulers. Iver Jennings said, without freedom of speech, the appeal to reason which is the basis of democracy cannot be made. Freedom of Speech and Expression is defined under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India which states that all the citizens of India have a right to freedom of speech and expression. The philosophy behind this Article lies in the Preamble of the Constitution of India - 'where a solemn resolve is made to secure to its entire citizen, their liberty of thought and expression'. The exercise of this right is, however, subjected to reasonable restrictions for some purposes being imposed under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India. The following are the essential elements of the freedom of Speech and Expression: This right is solely available to a citizen of India and not to persons belonging to other nations i.e. foreign nationals; the freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) includes the right to express one's views and opinions about any kind of issue and it can be done through any kind of medium, such as by words of mouth, by writing, by printing, through pictorialisation or through a movie; this right is not absolute as it allows the Government of India to frame laws which can impose reasonable restrictions in the cases which are involved with the sovereignty and integrity of India or the security of the state, or friendly relations with foreign nations, even public order, decency and morality and incitement to an offence; such a restriction on the freedom of speech of any citizen may be imposed as much by an action of the State as by its inaction.

Thus, if failure is found on the part of the State to guarantee to all its citizens the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression would also constitute a violation of Article 19(1)(a).

In a democracy like India, the concept of freedom of speech & expression opens up channels of free discussion of issues. Freedom of speech plays a very important role in the formation and the showcasing of the public opinion on social, economic & political matters throughout the country. It ensures within its scope, the freedom related to propagation and interchange of ideas, dissemination of information which would, later on, help the formation of one's opinion along with their viewpoint on certain issues and give rise to debates on matters which involve the public. So long as the expression is confined to nationalism, patriotism & love for our nation, the use of National flag by the way of expression of those sentiments would be a Fundamental Right. The independent judiciary of India has held and stated it's an opinion that the right to receive any information is another part of the right to freedom of speech and expression and the right to communicate and receive any kind of information without any sort of interference is a crucial aspect of this right. This is because a person cannot form an informed opinion or make an informed choice and effectively participate socially, politically or culturally without receipt of adequate information.

A print medium is a powerful tool for broadcasting any kind of information to any citizen of the nation. Thus, access to printed material is very crucial for the satisfaction of a person's right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to him under the Constitution. If any failure is found on the part of the State to make legislative provision for enabling access to people having print impairment of material in alternative accessible formats would constitute a deprivation of their right to freedom of

speech and expression and such an inaction on the part of the State shall fall in the wrong place of the Constitution. It is an obligation on the part of the State to make sure that sufficient provisions are made in the law which enables people with a print impairment to access printed material in accessible formats. Under the Freedom of Speech and Expression, there is no separate guarantee of freedom of the press as it is already included in the freedom of expression, which is given to all the citizens of the nation. Freedom of the Press is not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution of India. However, it is present as a right under the meaning of freedom of speech and expression (not directly expressed though) as laid down under Article 19 of the Constitution. If by democracy it is meant that the Government is of the people of the nation, it is by the people and it is for the people, then it is necessary that every citizen should be entitled to participate actively in the democratic process of the nation. Free debates and open discussions about certain matters are not possible unless there is a free and independent press. The freedom of the press includes one of the pillars of democracy and indeed lies at the foundation of democratic organization. It has been held so by the Supreme Court of India in many decisions that the freedom of the press is a part of the Freedom of Speech and Expression and covered under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, the reason for this is that the freedom of the press is nothing but an aspect of freedom of speech and expression. Therefore, it has been rightly explained that although the Press is considered to be a medium for reaching the people's views to the everyone and yet it has to stick to the limitations which are imposed upon them by the Constitution under Article 19(2). In this case it was established after observing that the term "freedom of press" is not used under Article 19 in its language but it is contained

in the form of its essence within Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, and hence, there cannot be any interference with the freedom of press which involves the public interest and security. Therefore, it was concluded that the imposition of censorship of a journal or prohibiting a newspaper from publishing their own views about any issue which involves public interest would amount to a restriction on the press' liberty.

There are many grounds on which the freedom of speech and expression can be restricted up to some reasonable restrictions by the state. Such restrictions are defined under the clause (2) of Article 19 of the Constitution of India which imposes certain restrictions on free speech under the following: Security of the State; Friendly relations with foreign States; Public order; Decency and Morality; Contempt of court; Defamation; Incitement to an offence, and Sovereignty and integrity of India. Expressing one's opinions through speech is one of the basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India and in the modern context, the right to freedom of speech and expression is not just limited to expressing one's own views through words but it also includes the circulation of those views in terms of writing, or through audiovisuals, or through any other way of communication. This right also comprises of the right to freedom of the press, the right to information, etc. Hence it can be concluded that the concept of freedom is very much essential for the proper functioning of a Democratic State. The words "in the interest of public order" and "reasonable restrictions" mentioned under Article 19 of the Constitution of India are used to indicate that the rights provided under this section are not absolute and they can be restricted for the safety of the other people of the nation and to maintain the public order and decency.

(Writer cab be reached to: sjugheshwor7@gmail.com)

India's Hindu Rashtra Consolidating at Breakneck Speed Opposition's Arsenal has nothing to counter BJP's Hindutva

By: Sushil Kutty

The consolidation of the Hindutva is at breakneck speed. The Hindutva forces at play have no competition. There is nothing to match the right wing's polarization strategy. And the tactics employed are striking a chord with the Hindus. It's being driven home that time is fast running out for the Hindu way of life unless he pulls up his socks.

The resultant resonance suits Hindutva. The Congress-led UPA is aware of the crippling tactics employed but knows not how to retaliate in a patently Hindu-majority country. The attempt to drive a wedge between "Hindu" and "Hindutva" fell flat, as was seen in the state elections held last and earlier this year.

The advantage to the BJP is that unlike the Congress and the other so-called secular parties, the BJP has never been shy in declaring its intent. In fact, polarization is the BJP's USP, the most "basic" part of its strategy. Don't be surprised if some BJP Smart Alec with a degree from Harvard or Yale doesn't rename the BJP, Bharatiya Hindutva Party!

The sad part of the story is that the Congress party particularly has lost connection with the Hindu. The majority of Hindus at

one time used to vote for the Congress, which was proof that an overwhelming number of Hindus were "secular-minded." But there was a chink in the secular armour and the Congress chose to ignore the warning signs. Hindutva was eroding the secular mindset.

Today, the rank and file of the Hindu, who are younger by the yard and mile, are bound by religious nationalism, which is driving them to the Hindutva fold. It is no longer quiet acquiescence, "reluctant acceptance of something without a protest." The 'Hindu is waking up' is no longer a cliché. The belief is finding currency that for far too long the Hindu has suffered the humiliation of being labelled a "nation of cowards."

That said, if CAA has gone into the "thanda-buxa", it was because the Hindutva forces realized that something which didn't basically hurt the "Muslim minority" and therefore was not the glue to bring Hindus together wouldn't work towards polarization. It's the same with the "hijab". Muslim women wearing or not wearing the hijab does not hurt the Hindu, and therefore useless aid to polarize.

But 'halal' and 'loudspeaker' are potent weapons, patently po-

larizing because it is written in their dna. If 'halal' denies outright the "Hindu way of life", the "azaan on loudspeaker" is a daily provocation that plays on the sentiment that, for far too long, the Hindu has been at the receiving end, taking it on the chin and yet unable to put a stop to the humiliation.

The possibilities are endless. For instance, the "other" faith has only one god to flaunt. The Hindu had at last count 36 million! If push comes to shove, there could be countless "shobha yatra"s every day of the year, countless provocations to the ones who choose to be easily provoked.

The confounding part is the "One God" people are falling for the trap, believing they are living in the medieval age. Their usage of terms like "Muslim areas" aren't doing them any good, either. After Partition and Pakistan, there shouldn't have been mention of "Muslim areas."

If India is pitted with Muslim and Hindu areas, then what? If India cannot be "Hindu Rashtra", India cannot also be "Muslim areas." It is dangerous. But to believe that the Hindus threaten the idea of India because of their sheer numbers is missing the woods for

the tree. A growing number of Hindus believe that the "believers" are the Trojan to be feared.

Also, a misconception and complacency has crept in, which was spelled out by AIMIM's Akbaruddin Owaisi when he challenged the "100 crore" to "remove the police for 15 minutes." Yes, people on both sides of the aisle believe that the "coward nation of Hindus" survives at the mercy of the police and the army, remove them and the Hindu won't last even 15 minutes!

For the politician and political parties, the spate of communal riots following the "shobha yatra"s is what the doctor prescribed to win elections. What the rioting and polarization are doing to the Hindu and Muslim is something worse than unimaginable.

No wonder a slumbering Amit Shah is trending on Twitter even as the combined Opposition has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to wake up to the dangers of his ways. Maybe, a couple of Raj Thackeray's "bhompus" should be deployed to wake up the Rip Van Winkle. Politicians do not seem to know how the world changes when they are sleeping.

(IPA Service)

India's Covid-19 cases record 66% spike in 24 hours; death toll in China's Shanghai rises to 17

Agency
New Delhi, April 20:

Recording a 66 per cent jump in daily Covid-19 cases from the previous day, India reported 2,067, new infections Wednesday, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The death toll climbed to over 5.22 lakh with 40 fresh fatalities from a single one on Tuesday, the health ministry data also showed.

Active cases currently stand at 12,340 and comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections. As many as 480 active cases were reported in a span of 24 hours. The recovery rate remained unchanged at 98.76 per cent as 1,547 people recovered from Covid-19. The daily positivity rate was at 0.49 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.38 per cent, according to the data released by the health ministry.

The 40 new fatalities include 34 from Kerala, three from Maharashtra, and one each from Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland. The health ministry said that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that the state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Meanwhile, Delhi Tuesday recorded 632 fresh Covid-19 cases with a marginal drop in the positivity rate from Monday's 7.72 per cent to 4.42 per cent. No fatalities were reported. Maharashtra, on the other hand, reported 137 Covid-19 cases and three

deaths.

Amid a rise in Covid-19 cases in the national capital, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will meet on Wednesday to discuss the prevailing situation and is likely to take a call on reimposing the fine for not wearing face masks in public places, official sources said. Fearing the odd-even rule and closure of markets amid the increasing cases, traders and market associations Tuesday appealed to the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) not to impose any 'restrictions' in markets, saying the business is getting back on track.

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Kerala govt rejects reports on submission of Covid-19 data to Centre

The Kerala government on Tuesday rejected allegations that the state did not submit daily Covid-19 figures to the Centre and termed an ongoing campaign at the national level in this connection as "condemnable", news agency PTI reported.

Noting that Kerala reporting Covid-19 data after a gap

of five days has skewed India's key monitoring indicators of the pandemic such as cases, deaths and positivity rate, the Centre had asked the state to provide updated data daily.

However, claiming that the state had submitted the figures to the central government on a daily basis in the prescribed format without any fail, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said the digital evidence could not be covered up. She also expressed displeasure over the media getting hold of the copy of a letter sent by the Union joint secretary before it reached the principal secretary of the state health department.

Shanghai allows 4 million out of homes as virus rules ease

Shanghai has reported seven more fatalities due to Covid-19, taking the death toll to 17 amidst signs of a declining trend in fresh cases. According to several reports, over 4 million more people in Shanghai have been allowed to leave their homes as anti-coronavirus quarantine rules ease. A health official, Wang Ganyu, said Wednesday a total of almost 12 million people are allowed to leave their homes as China's most populous city tries to contain virus outbreaks, the Associated Press reported.

Must ensure traditional Indian medicine meets global standards: PM Modi

Noting the rising demand for Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani formulations globally since many countries are turning to traditional medicine to deal with the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tues-

day said testing and certification of traditional medicine at the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar must conform to international standards.

The Prime Minister, speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of the GCTM in the presence of Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, said that in the next 25 years, by the 100th year of India's Independence, "every household will rely" on traditional medicine.

US Justice Department will appeal mask ruling only if mandate still needed

The US Justice Department said Tuesday it will not appeal a federal district judge's ruling that ended the nation's federal mask mandate on public transit unless the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes the requirement is still necessary. In a statement released a day after a Florida judge ended the sweeping mandate, which required face coverings on planes and trains and in transit hubs, Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said officials believe that the federal mask order was "a valid exercise of the authority Congress has given CDC to protect the public health."

He said it was "an important authority the Department will continue to work to preserve." Coley said the CDC had said it would continue to assess public health conditions, and if the agency determined a mandate was necessary for public health, the Justice Department would file an appeal.

Assam Rifles apprehends an UTRA insurgent



IT News
Imphal, April 20:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) in a joint operation with 165 Infantry Battalion (TA) and Manipur Police apprehended a Self Styled Chief of proscribed group United

Tribal Revolutionary Army (UTRA) in Dampi village of Churachandpur yesterday.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles and Manipur Terriers along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension.

One Point 22 pistol with

seven live rounds, one chinese hand grenade and a mobile phone were recovered from the insurgent.

The apprehended insurgent and recovered items were handed over to Churachandpur Police Station for further investigation.

AR conducted Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, April 20:

Modi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) organised Medical Camp as part of Block Health Mela at Komlathabi, Chandel District on April 18, 2022.

The medical camp was conducted by Assam Rifles to synergise and augment

the 'Health Mela' which was organised by District Health Society, Chandel District, to provide free medical check-up and treatment to the residents of nearby villages in and around Chandel District.

The medical camp encompassed a massive array of services to include free health check-up, essential medicines,

vaccinations, issue of Ayushman Bharat Cards, referral services, minor surgeries, lab services, tele-consultation, food safety, family planning etc. The health checkup was carried out by Medical Specialists from Assam Rifles and Health Department, Chandel District. A total of 260 locals benefited from the medical camp.

Assam Rifles Ex-servicemen Rally at Dehradun

IT News
Imphal, April 20:

Assam Rifles conducted an Ex-Servicemen Rally at Dehradun, Uttarakhand yesterday. Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, other dependents attended the event. The rally was presided over by the Director General of Assam Rifles, Lt Gen Pradeep Chandran Nair, AVSM, YSM and was attended by Officers and Staff of Headquarters DG Assam Rifles.

A total of 40 grievances were registered during the rally out of which 15 were resolved on the spot. During the Rally wheelchairs were distributed to the physically challenged individuals and further Veer Naris, Gallantry Awardees and other Veterans, were also facilitated.

During the course of the event, DG Assam Rifles also interacted with the Ex-Servicemen and thanked them for their yeoman service to the Nation. DG apprised the gathering of the present challenges faced by the Force and further discussed various steps & schemes being initiated by Assam Rifles for the Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen all across the country.

Assam Rifles is the oldest and the most decorated Para Military Force of the Nation. With a rich history of valour and sacrifice spanning more than 187 years, the Assam Rifles has carved a niche for itself in operations and has contributed for the overall development of the Nation. It has been the Force that has held the North East together over the years of



turmoil thereby rightly being known as the **Force that Binds the North East**. The rich legacy of the Force is primarily due to the spirit and enthusiasm of the

men and women of Assam Rifles and the Force would forever be indebted for the selfless service of its Ex-Servicemen.

Bank Passbook Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Bank Passbook of SBI Uripok Branch, bearing Account No. 20387247686 on the way between Langol to Lamphel on April 18, 2022.

Finders are requested to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Prety Newmai
W/o, Thongbam Karan
Thangmeiband
Contact No. 9366955113

Document Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Original Certificate, Mark-Sheet and Provisional Certificate of PUC Examination 1991, bearing Roll No. 25122 (Commerce of the Kha Manipur College Kakching) issued by the Manipur University on the way between Kakching to Imphal on April 18, 2022.

Finders are requested to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Thokchom Dhananjay Singh
Kakching Ningthou Leikai
Contact No. 9856187377

Two-Day National Level Pollution Response Exercise Inaugurated in Goa



By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 20:

The eighth edition of the two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise, "NATPOLREX-VIII" organised by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Mormugao harbour, in Goa was inaugurated by Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar on Tuesday.

Besides NATPOLREX, the ICG is simultaneously conducting a capacity-building professional training course in Marine Oil Response and Preparedness for 45 international participants from 18 countries including member states from Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at Chennai till April 29. The marine spill prepared-

ness exercise was inaugurated by the Defence Secretary in the presence of Secretary, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. M Ravichandran, ICG Director General VS Pathania, Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) Dr. Mohamed Masumur Rahman, and various senior dignitaries from Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, National Disaster Response Force, India Meteorological Department, Indian Navy, and State Pollution Control Board, Goa.

The event is being attended by over 85 participants from 50 agencies, including 29 observers from 22 friendly foreign countries and International Organisations and two

Coast Guard ships from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills. It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels under the aegis of the SACEP Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to which India is a member state.

During the exercise, various components of NOSDCP were invoked to validate and improve the contingency plans and evaluate the preparedness of the resource

agencies as well as stakeholders to meet any marine spill disaster at sea.

In the exercise, 13 ships and 10 aircraft from ICG, one C-131 aircraft from the Indian Air Force, and two ships from SACEP member states viz. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and one Offshore Supply vessel (OSV) from ONGC, assets from Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), and tugs from Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) demonstrated containment cum marine spill recovery by side sweeping arms, deployment of booms and skimmers, streaming of single ship operated containment cum recovery system, fire fighting drill, rescue operation, and demonstration of surface and air oil spill dispersant systems. The exercise was reviewed by Chairman NOSDCP in presence of National and International Observers.

The exercise is being coordinated by ICG encompassing assets from resource agencies and stakeholders including Ports, Oil Handling Agencies, Coastal States/Union Territories, and other resource agencies. It comprises a two-day program featuring table-top exercise, pollution response workshop on marine oil and HNS spill followed by exercise at sea.

Delhi makes wearing of mask compulsory, DDMA imposes Rs 500 fine for violations

Agency
New Delhi, April 20:

In view of a spurt in coronavirus cases in the city, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday (April 20, 2022) announced that it is bringing back the mask mandate in the Capital city.

The authority, after its meeting chaired by the Delhi Lt Governor today, said that the residents of the national capital will have to compulsorily wear masks in public

places. DDMA also informed that those found in violation of the rule will have to pay Rs 500 in fine.

Officials said the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, in its meeting, also decided not to shut schools, but chose to come up with a separate Standard Operating Procedure in consultation with experts. The government is expected to issue an official order regarding the mandatory use of masks soon.

DDMA meeting comes as Delhi is witnessing an uptick

in Covid-19 cases.

Earlier, on Tuesday, Delhi recorded 632 fresh cases of Covid-19, however, the number of hospitalisations are very low and deaths due to Covid are negligible.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said on Monday that the Covid situation was not alarming in Delhi although cases were rising. The number of hospitalisations were low and the government was keeping watch on the situation, he had said.

Meanwhile, following an increasing trend in Covid-19 cases in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), some neighbouring states have also made the mask mandatory in public places in many of their districts.

Amid the fear of the fourth wave of Covid-19, the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana on Monday decided to bring back the mask mandates in some of their districts. These mask mandates will apply to everyone in the city, especially schools.

More than 3 lakh 57 thousand people participated in Ayushman Bharat block level Health Melas across the country

PBB
New Delhi, April 20:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in collaboration with States and Union Territories is celebrating the 4th Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from 16th April to 22nd April 2022. The celebrations are being carried out with great enthusiasm and fervour across the country. Union Health minister, Health Min-

ister of States/UTs, MPs, MLAs, senior officials of the Union Health Ministry, Principal Health secretaries of States/UTs, senior officials of the State Health department, representatives and local dignitaries are also visiting the AB-HWCs and creating awareness among the public regarding the importance of AB-HWCs in providing affordable and accessible Health care.

From 18th-22nd April 2022, Block level Health Melas at more than one lakh

AB-HWCs in at least one block in each district of the State/UT are being organised across the country. Each block level Health Mela would be for one day and each block in the State/UT will be covered.

On the second day of the Health Mela, more than 3 lakh 57 thousand people participated and around 490 blocks organized Health Melas across the country. Further, more than 60,000 ABHA Health IDs were created and 21,000 PMJAY Golden Cards issued in addition to thou-

sands of screenings being done for Hypertension, diabetes etc.

Record 3 lakh teleconsultations through e-Sanjeevani platform were done in a day at Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) on 16th April 2022. This has been the highest number of teleconsultations ever done at AB-HWCs on a single day, surpassing its earlier record of 1.8 lakh teleconsultations per day. On 19th April 2022, more than 25,000 teleconsultations were done throughout the country.

Sports

I-League: Mason Robertson's last-minute goal helps Real Kashmir escape with a draw against TRAU

Agency
Naihati, West Bengal, April 20:

Captain Mason Robertson scored in the seventh minute of added time to help Real Kashmir escape with a 1-1 draw and deny TRAU victory in the final match of phase one in the I-League in Naihati on Tuesday. Robertson was aided by defender Ponif Vaz, restoring parity in the final minute of the game.

The game had 0-0 written all over it till the 87th minute when Fernandinho opened the account for TRAU with what seemed like a winning goal. Real Kashmir did not stay quiet as they grabbed the equaliser by their captain.

Real Kashmir almost got their noses in front inside five minutes. Ragav Gupta lobbed the ball into the box for Kouassi Bernard, whose header beat keeper Amrit Gope but the ball was cleared off the line by TRAU skipper Helder Lobato.

The defender was on his toes again just after a couple of minutes to halt another goal-scoring opportunity for which he was booked.

TRAU had an opportunity after good build-up play down the left. Krishnananda Singh slid the ball through to Kishan Singh who was on an overlapping run. The low cross came in and eventually fell to Fernandinho who was unable to



keep his strike on target.

The next attack down the left saw Fayazuddin whipping a good looking cross towards Salam Johnson Singh, but the striker could not convert it.

A crucial and well-timed tackle by Vaz, midway through the first half, disallowed Khangnam Horam to get a shot away after being put clean through on goal by Fernandinho.

After a series of TRAU attacks, Real Kashmir charged forward. Gupta played a beautiful ball towards Bernard. The ball came off Grard Williams' head and fell to Bernard as the striker went past the keeper but still could not score as he struck the post.

The second half started exactly the way the first one

ended. Fernandinho danced past his marker and attempted to curl his effort into the far post. However, Kumar was quick enough to dive right, get a hand on it and palm it out for a corner. The skippers came together in TRAU's penalty area when Robertson was halted by Helder Ribeiro. The defences of both sides were on top.

Sudeva Delhi FC Kenkre 1-0

A deflected goal by Shubho Paul helped Sudeva Delhi FC eke out a narrow 1-0 win over Kenkre FC on the final matchday of phase one.

Sudeva drew first blood as the ball fell to Paul inside the box and the youngster struck it firmly and saw it ripple the back of the net after picking up a slight deflection off Nongkhlov

in the 13th minute.

Gokulam Kerala FC beat RoundGlass Punjab FC 3-1

Defending champions Gokulam Kerala FC defeated RoundGlass Punjab 3-1 at the Kalyani Stadium.

In the 13th minute, Gokulam Kerala took the lead through Bouba Aminou, who scored with a header from a corner-kick opportunity.

The leveller came in the 48th minute as Kean Lewis' delivery from a corner-kick caused havoc in the penalty area and headed into his own net by Bouba.

Gokulam Kerala regained the lead in the 63rd minute through Luka Majcen. The score became 1-3 in the 72nd minute after Josef Yarny inadvertently turned a cross into a goal from close range.

ATSUM submits memorandum to VC MU for restoration of Non NET University fellowship

IT News
Imphal, April 20:

The All tribal Student's Union Manipur (ATSUM) submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor of Manipur University demanding restoration of Non-Net University Fellowship to Research Scholars of Manipur University working under college Teacher affiliated to Manipur University.

In the memorandum the ATSUM said, "the Scholars who were admitted to any Central University under the proper channel laid down by the concerned department or following the norms of UGC or the University rule are eligible to apply for the university Non-Net fellowship once they register from their respective university. But the Organisation is shocked about hearing the news of some scholars in Manipur University working under college teachers are debarred from availing Non-Net Fellowship which can be termed as double discrimination and

injustice.

"The Organisation is very much aware of the fact that the scheme of Non-Net fellowship is being provided to all eligible candidates in all the central universities for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. and who are not in receipt of any fellowship from any other sources. An amount of rupees 8000 per month is given to the concerned scholars who is registered at the University.

"As per grievances received from our tribal scholar of Manipur University only those who got departmental guidelines are eligible to avail of the Non-Net fellowship from the university despite same process of getting enrolled into Ph.D. courses. This can never bring a good atmosphere to the academic life of the university instead it would lead to enmity feeling between the scholar of have and not have.

"The Organisation is also aware that the scholars from Manipur University who are working under college teachers in the year 2017 still avail

and enjoy the university fellowship at par with the rest of the university. If 2017 Batch can still avail of the said scholarship why not the scholar who got admitted in 2019 be-curbed of this privilege.

"As per the PhD ordinance 2019 of Manipur University it is crystal clear that the university Non-JRF fellowship may be awarded for a maximum period of 4 (four) years from the date of provisional registration of the programme subject to fulfillment of their every six months progress report. 6. It is pertinent to mention that recently Mizoram university practice college guidelines to a scholars of Mizoram university after coming in touch with the concerned authority it is realised that them is nothing like categorization or discrimination based on guidelines allotted to supervisor. Any scholars who had done final registration in the university are deemed eligible to avail of the Non-Net fellowship".

Contd. from Page 1

100 Action Points for First 100....

He emphasized that the Prabhari Officers will deal into the development programme to sort out the development issues in the sub-division and focus on major themes such as "One Sub-Division One Product", "One Family One Livelihood".

In today's programme, a District Meeyangmi Numit was held by the District Administration with village chiefs and representatives of

different villages to rectify various issues pertaining in the District. Meanwhile, Block Health Mela were organised on 18-04-2022 at Thanlon Community Hall, today at Parbung Community Hall and on 20-04-2022 at Anghasuo Community Hall.

It may be mentioned here that the Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission in its meeting held on 11-04-2022 decided that a launch-

ing programme at the field shall be held at Pherzawl District Headquarter on 19-04-2022 in the presence of the District Level Coordinator of Pherzawl District, Prabhari Officers, DLOs and other Officials.

Apart from the two Prabhari Officers Haotinkhup Haokip, MCS & Nangbam Roman Singh, MFS; the programme was attended by the DLOs.

Prashant Kishor, A ray of light

Right now, the issue is how prepared is the Congress, the main national party challenging the BJP in the elections, and to what extent will it be in a position to rejuvenate itself to take on effectively the electoral challenge to the BJP in the states where it is the main party against the saffrons. The poll strategist Prashant Kishor is busy undertaking detailed talks with the Congress leaders led by Sonia Gandhi on a joint strategy to ensure the BJP's defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. PK's strategy has not got green signal yet, but if it happens, that will be positive for the Congress Party.

There are some important elements in PK's concept which minimise the areas of differences between the Congress and the regional parties and underline the importance for the Congress to focus on the seats where it is the number one or number two party of the opposition against the BJP. PK's note advises the Congress leadership not to spread the resources of the GOP to the areas where there are little chance of success. The party is already cash-starved and it has to use financial resources judiciously so that optimum results are obtained.

Let us take a look at the Congress's present strength of

the Lok Sabha. Out of its 53 members, 28 are from South India. There are 15 from Kerala, eight from Tamil Nadu, three from Telangana and one each from Karnataka and Puducherry. In Punjab, Congress has got eight members from Punjab, three from Assam and two each from Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

In several states, the Congress has just one member. These include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal, Goa and Meghalaya. This grim position has to be change drastically in favour of Congress if the party has to cross 100 seats in 2024 polls. PK has to perform this job which is only possible by adopting an innovative strategy which will facilitate the polling of maximum number of anti-BJP votes in favour of the Congress Party. This requires drastic reorganisation of the party units at grassroots level, massive collection of resources and ensuring the minimum division of non-BJP votes on the polling day. This is a Herculean task but it is possible with the right strategy.

The Congress leadership may take into account some key factors. The Congress will lose in Kerala, Punjab and

West Bengal in the coming Lok Sabha polls. In Kerala, it can lose even 7 to 8 seats out of the present 15 and in Punjab, it will a few seats as AAP spell will continue till the Lok Sabha elections. In Bengal, the Congress will lose both seats; similarly, the BJP too will lose. Trinamool is expected to go back to its old figure of 34. So all these possible losses in the present seats, will have to be compensated by a big win in the Hindi-speaking states as also in Gujarat which PK must be planning.

Congress is most vulnerable where it fights the BJP as a major challenger. In the northern states as also Gujarat, the Congress did very badly despite its initial success in the assembly elections. The party has got potential in increasing its Lok Sabha tally in MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Himachal, Jharkhand, Haryana and Uttarakhand. In these states, the Congress did badly in the 2019 elections compared to its effective strength. These are the states from where the GOP should plan to get maximum number of seats. How PK organises his poll strategy for the Congress to take on the BJP in the 2024 polls, will be known soon.

(IPA Service)