

## CM and others greets people on Khongjom Day

IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Minister Biswajit, Speaker Seityabrata among others greets the people on occasion of the Khongjom Day, 2022 which is celebrating tomorrow.

In his message, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that on the occasion of Khongjom Day 2022, rich tributes is being paid to the great generals, martyrs and soldiers who fought against the mighty British forces, despite inevitable defeat, to protect the dignity and sovereignty of our motherland, in the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891.

On 23rd April, 1891, valiant Manipuri soldiers led by Paona Brajabashi fought a fierce battle with British forces at the southern fringe of Manipur valley at Khongjom and laid down their lives. The Battle of Khongjom is a story of heroism and patriotism against heavy odds, the outcome of which was a foregone conclusion. Even as we pay homage to the valiant heroes on this auspicious and solemn occasion, let us resolve to set aside differences and commit ourselves to upholding the unity and integrity of the country, the Chief Minister added.

In his message Th. Biswajit Singh said that the Day is observed every year on April 23 to pay homage to the brave heroes of the land who laid down their lives for the sake of our motherland.

"On this momentous day, let us all remember the heroic sacrifices made by our brave forefathers who stood against the mighty British in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. And let us follow in their footsteps and renew our pledge to preserve and defend the sovereignty of our State and to strive for peace and harmony amongst the people", Biswajit said.

Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Seityabrata also greets the people and pay respect to the martyrs of Khongjom Day, 2022.

"The Khongjom day is celebrated every year on the 23rd April as a remembrance to all the brave souls who sacrificed for Manipur in the memorable Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. The Battle of Khongjom was the greatest battle of the Anglo-Manipuri War. Great freedom fighters of the state namely — Major Paona Brajabashi, Chinglen Sana, Loitongba Jamadar, Keisa Jamadar, Heirang Khongja and many more rank and files of Manipuri warriors sacrificed their lives at this battlefield", Seityabrata said.

## Khongjom Day Celebration to be observed tomorrow



IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

The State will pay rich tributes to the brave sons of Manipur tomorrow on the occasion of Khongjom Day which is held every year on 23rd April at Khongjom War Memorial Complex, Khebaching, Thoubal district. The day is observed in remembrance to honour the gallant Manipuri warriors including Major Paona Brajabashi who made supreme sacrifice fighting against the British to protect the freedom of Manipur in the battle of Khongjom during the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war.

The Governor of Manipur

La. Ganesan and the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh will attend the observance function as the chief guest and the president respectively. They will lead the public in laying of floral wreaths at Khongjom War Memorial. This will be followed by a guard of honour, general salute, reverse arms, sounding of last post, two minutes silence, slope arms and order arms by a contingent of Manipur Rifles. There will also be wreaths laying ceremony at the statue of Paona Brajabashi followed by a gun salute at the statue. This will be followed by offering of Tarpon at Khongjom river and paying homage to the Sankirtan.

Khongjom Lal (Khongjom War) will also be staged by Art & Culture Department on the occasion.

The District Administration Thoubal is taking up all necessary measures for a successful observance. The District Administration, concern departments, officials and staffs of various departments of SP Thoubal; SDO Thoubal; EE (PWD); EE (WR); EE (PHED); AE (MI); Forest department; Thoubal and Wanging Lamding Municipal Council; Thoubal Fire service, NYK volunteers' among others have been preparing in coordination for smooth conduct of the function.

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## Block Health Mela for Thoubal Block held at Kiyam Siphai

IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

The Block Health Mela which is organised in different parts of the state under first 100 days action plan and in commemoration of 75 years of India's Independence is being held in different Blocks of Thoubal District also. The District Administration Thoubal along with District Health Society, Thoubal organised Block Health Mela today at Ibudhou Tangjeng Ningthou Laikol Kiyam Siphai under Thoubal Block, the third Mela in the District.

Thoubal Municipal Council Chairperson Th.

Syamo was the Chief Guest of the function. CMO Thoubal Dr. Y. Nukul Singh and Medical Superintendent Dr. Th. Memcha and Th. Suranjoy Singh DPO, ICDS graced the function as President and Guest of Honour.

As part of the Mela around 25 stalls including NYK, Food & Safety and Medical were opened for the public. During the Mela awareness were given to the public about various health programs and prevention of communicable and non communicable diseases. Facilities like testing, distribution of medicine and kits were done at the site of Mela. CMHT and Ayushman

card were also prepared for the eligible person as part of Block Health Mela.

ASHAs and Anganwadi workers also played an important part in the Mela.

As part of the Mela District Food safety Officer Thoubal deployed mobile Food Testing Vans, set up stall for generating awareness on "Eat Right Movement" in India. The department also deputed staff for demonstrations of food safety testing and educate people about eat right campaign.

It may be mentioned that similar block Health Mela was held earlier in the two different blocks of Lilong and Wanging Tentha.

## Trees planted at Jiribam celebrating the Earth Day Celebration

IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

Friendly Environment Warriors' (FEW), Jiribam and Jiribam Forest Division organised a tree plantation programme today under the theme "Invest in our planet" celebrating the Earth Day. Saplings were planted at Panjel Playground and BOC of Babupara, Jiribam.

Deputy Commissioner of Jiribam, W. Malemnganba Chenglei, IAS, led the tree plantation programme along with DFO Rajesh Darde, IFS, SDPO Channa Anal, MPS, President of JDO N. Sadananda Meetei, President of MSF District Committee A. Ratan Singh, and with the



members of Panjel club and Friendly Environmental Warriors'.

DC, Jiribam W. Malemnganba Chenglei said that "today Jiribam also celebrated the Earth day along with the worlds. We have to conserve our environment,

to preserve our environment we have to work together", he also further added that "with the plantation of trees it will control the pollution".

The statement also informed that there were also distributions of saplings to the locals.

## 1st State Level Kanglei Open Symposium Competition

IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

1st State level Kanglei open symposium competition was organised by Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) today at Manipuri University, Centenary Hall in

connection of Anglo-Manipur war, 1981.

The symposium was held on the topic "Anglo Manipur War, 1891 gi Waiyel Kanadagi Lougani, Kanana Pigani". 15 students from different colleges and Universities from Manipur participated the com-

petition.

Dr. N. Sanatomba, Asst. Prof. Manipur Department, MU, Dr. Huidrom Rakesh, Prof. of Department of Teacher's Education, MU and Rinku Khumukcham, Editor, Imphal Times attended jury members.

## Civil Section Building inaugurated by Director, RIMS



IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal inaugurated Civil Section, Central Workshop of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal today. The said building was constructed by

Manipur State Cooperative Union Technical Engineering Cell (MSCUTEC), Manipur. Prof. A. Santa Singh stated that the newly constructed building will accommodate all the Civil Engineering staff and the present office block will be utilised for some other purposes.

During the inauguration,

Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, M. Hemantakumar Singh, Consultant (Civil)-II, Y. Jogeshwar Singh, Consultant (Civil)-I, Sanjoy Singh, Executive Engineer, Manipur State Cooperative Union Technical Engineering Cell, Manipur, Engineering staff and officials were present.

## Rebels' body pay tributes to the 1891 Anglo Manipur war heroes

IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

While paying tribute to the martyred war heroes of Anglo Manipur War 1891 with the coming of the April 23, a joint body of the armed rebel group CorCom systematically and categorically open the agenda of the India government alleging a hidden policy to engulf the history of Kangleipal (Manipur) while trying to built India — a one nation, one people and one culture.

A statement of the CorCom, released in occasion of the 1891 Anglo

Manipur War popularly known as the "Khongjom Lan" (Khongjom War) on April 23, the outfit said that the war was against the British to protect Manipur. The then patriots of Manipur had fought the British army with their bloods despite knowing that the invaders were more powerful in numbers and weapon. The war heroes had sacrifice because they prefer to live with dignity and freedom rather than living a life of slaves.

The statement further said that with the completion of 75 years of Independence the India government is

making all effort to narrate the history of our war heroes by interpreting that as a war against the British for India giving them the title — unsung heroes as it celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The CorCom statement also reminded on how the alien religion had impacted the Manipur society and the consequences that the people have been facing today. It said that Manipur was tried to put up as the "Manipur of Mahabharat" which was proved that Manipur or Kangleipak was not the Manipur of Mahabharat by noted Histo-

rian RC Majumdar in his lecture — Expansion of Aryan culture in Eastern India while delivering during Atombabu Memorial Lecture in 1966.

The CorCom statement also reminded the people on how the British wanted to keep in touch with Manipur. The statement elaborated the treaty of 1762, signed between jai Singh and the East India Company of British. It also stated about the 7 years devastation of Manipur and the follow up events at which the Manipur King with the help of the British established Manipur Levy and drive out the Burmese from

Manipur. After driving out the Burmese (Ava) the sovereignty of Manipur was recognized by both Burma and British in the Treaty of Yandaboo signed on February 24, 1826.

The CorCom statement also highlighted the root of the Anglo Manipur war. It said that the fight among the royal families and giving opportunity to the British to interfere to the administration of the state is one factor.

Regarding the hoisting of Flag at Moirang by the INA, the CorCom statement said that Subash Chandra Bose hoisted the INA flag for the

first time at Andaman Nicobar Island on December 30, 1943. However, some of the people who have been wanting to eradicate the historical existence of the erstwhile state have been misinterpreting the hoisting of the Indian flag by INA at Moirang in April 14, 1944 as a movement against British by India.

The CorCom seriously noted the statement by Home Minister of India on April 7, 2022 at which he stated to impose Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools in North East India as a plan to wipe out the indigenous people from WESEA region.

# All-round efforts needed to protect the planet

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Efforts are going on around the world to protect the environment and minimise the effects of climate change. In this direction, the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution

Control Board (HSPSCB) has been considering a proposal to give a green rating to the hotels and resorts in the hill state. This rating will be given on the basis of environment-friendly measures taken by the hotels to reduce pollution. Generally, hotels are rated in three and five star categories according to the facilities provided to the guests, but it will be perhaps for the first time in the country that the green rating will be given to the hotels and resorts. It is also important to take such small measures in the direction of controlling pollution and reducing the impact of environmental degradation. In order to provide luxurious facilities to the guests, big hotels sometimes indulge in such activities which cause pollution. Replacing diesel powered electric generators with solar energy panels to deal with the power outage or failure, and provision of natural light and ventilation to the buildings may be such good measures. Similarly, there is a lot of pollution from airplanes also. More than 50 percent of the world's air travelers want less air pollution from the flights and they are willing to pay a little more for this measure.

Management consulting firm McKinsey & Company conducted a survey in 13 countries in which most air travelers expressed concern about air pollution caused by airplanes. About 5,500 people were consulted in the survey, of which 40 percent agreed to pay 2 percent additional money if the carbon emissions are reduced. In Spain, 60 percent of air passengers expressed their desire to opt for carbon neutral flights. Not only aircraft, some trains also add to the air pollution, especially diesel engine driven trains. In India, 37 percent of trains are still dependent on diesel engines. They cause a lot of pollution, to reduce which the railway is working towards using biodiesel in the fossil fuel based engines. The Ministry of Railways plans to completely electrify the railways by the year 2023, that is, the above 37 percent diesel locomotives should also be replaced by electric locomotives. Diesel engines of freight trains may need a little longer time.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav wants that by the year 2030, Indian Railways should be completely transformed into 'green railways'. Railways has set up a solar power plant in Bina, Madhya Pradesh in February this year to generate the power it needs. Similarly, wind power plants are being planned in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat. There is a plan to illuminate railway buildings and premises with LED bulbs for lighting, so as to save electricity and contribute towards environmental protection. The trend of electric vehicles has already begun, which will help in controlling pollution. Japanese companies like Honda have been the world leaders in automobiles, but over the years they have been facing stiff competition from automakers in the US and Europe, especially from companies like Tesla. Sales of electric vehicles (EVs), especially battery-operated cars, increased in the US, Europe, China and around the world last year. Booking of EV cars is happening so fast that companies have even started taking full amounts in advance from the buyers.

Nobody knows how old the earth is. But our only livable planet, the Earth is facing with numerous acute environmental crisis such as the climate change, pollution, population explosion, biodiversity lost, deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching, unsustainable agriculture, pesticides, human health, pandemics and many more environmental challenges.

These challenges have threatened our earth itself. It's our responsibilities to protect it for the future generation. Thus, World Earth Day is celebrated on the 22nd April every year since 1970 with this year's theme of "Invest in our Planet". Fifty two years ago today, the first Earth Day was marked in United States as a peaceful call for environment reform, following a massive oil spill off the coast of California. Half a century later, this annual day unites billions across the globe, drawing attention to the huge challenges facing by our planet. Now more than ever, this day offers us an opportunity to reflect upon our relationship with the planet, amid the most devastating consequences that nature can revenge back us at any moment. It is a time when the health of the planet and its people are in a tipping point.

Our earth is an amazing place, but it needs our help to thrive. Businesses, governments and individuals are the three pillars for the theme "invest in our planet". These pillars can be used to engage billions of people to recognize our responsibility toward our mother earth and to help the world into a transition for an equitable, prosperous and a beautiful place to live. Here the investment will not mean only for funds but our precious time, energy, effort, knowledge and dedication for the planet. As an effective part, we can use the corporate social responsibility (CSR) for reducing carbon footprints, saving the biodiversity and other environmen-

# The Birth Day of our Mother Earth

tal targets like reduce, reuse and recycling of materials and products for a circular economy.

Earth Day is just like the Birth Day celebration of the mother earth. Earth Hour initiated by WWF with the electricity switch off from 8.30 to 9.30 pm on the last Saturday of March every year is different from the Earth Day.

Everything the humans need to survive and thrive are provided by the natural world around us: food, water, medicines, material for shelter and even natural cycles such as climate and nutrients. To replenish the used up resources, the earth also need sufficient time but our human consumption is much more exceeding and hence to meet our present demand, we will require two earths by 2030. Together, we win and divided we fall. Climate change being the greatest challenge to all the living being, the future of humanity and other life-support systems that make our world habitable will depend on how we together can take care of the mother earth today.

While climate change presents considerable risks, countries across the world are starting to demonstrate that efforts to confront it could help to launch new engines for sustainable development. To a large extent, we are looking at the climate problem through the wrong lens by talking about the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a cost rather than an economic opportunity. Climate action is not just about reducing emissions but choosing a new development path creating jobs for the future development.

By COVID-19, the world is knocked down and reversed back from our civilization. But in spite of all such challenges, it's our responsi-



By: N. Munal Meitei

bility to save the blue planet alive. We all should be connected and take part the Earth Day celebration by way of planting trees, organizing awareness, seeing the nature, reading the nature books, go green and organic, going for green power, avoid from food & water waste and doing all eco-friendly activities irrespective of our national boundaries.

We are at a crossroads. The decisions we make now will only make the planet a livable future. For that, government and policy makers need to implement more aggressive steps, regulations and market instruments to hunt down and eliminate the excessive carbon emissions and otherwise, we are almost digging our own graves.

Under the Paris Agreement, each country is required to establish Nationally Determined Contribution, NDC and update it for every five years. So far no country has committed to teaching children on the critical climate literacy so far.

As carbon capture and extraction is clearly crucial, the only way for successfully stimulate the climate change is by setting a price for carbon. Carbon pricing is an effective mechanism to achieve climate stabilisation, encourage deep emissions reductions and stimulate technology innovation.

Having adequate access to food is one of the most basic and important human rights and yet, hundreds of millions of people suffer from starvation, with approximately 25,000 succumbing to hunger every day. Hunger kills more people than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined, which mainly are in developing countries. It's now or never, if we want to limit global warming to

1.5°C and without the immediate and concrete steps right now, it will be impossible.

The unprecedented global destruction and rapid reduction of plant and wildlife populations are directly linked to unhealthy planet. The impacts are not far reaching and if we ignore, extinction is humanity's most enduring legacy.

Nature gifts to our planet with various species. All living things have an intrinsic value, and each one plays a unique role in the complex web of life. The good news is that if we can destroy, we should be able to build them up again and many of our declining, threatened and endangered species can still recover if we work together. Build and activate a global movement that embraces nature and its values such as adopting plant based diet and stopping pesticide and herbicide use.

The IUCN defines for nature-based solutions to protect human well-being and restoring and conserving our environment to enhance the resilience to reduce the devastating natural consequences including human life and economic development. A failure to do so, could roll back years of progress and make it near impossible to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth avoiding exacerbating existing ones or inadvertently creating new problems.

Therefore, we all should know the importance of mother earth in our life. Without earth, we cannot even imagine living. Life is possible on the earth only with its resources. Thus changing the way we live today means we will be able to prosper for tomorrow. Since we are born, one day we will day from this lovely world. Let's make the mother earth, a green and beautiful planet for the humanity and the future generations.

(The author is a Environmentalist, Email: nmunall@yahoo.in)

# Avoid breaking the bonds of social relationships

Despite all the forms and names of relationships in the society, every home-court yard is still drenched in its spiritual core in spite of many misfortunes. Our way of life in India is still present in the continuity of its age-old identity and dignity, because they may not have the degree of reputed educational institutions, but have the skill and experience to perpetuate the social-cum-family fabric, through mutual relationships, in coordination. These sutras are created in practical life like the life force of relationships. Despite many differences, the flight of mutual harmony has kept the differences in the strings of relationships beyond. However, due to many reasons there is a migration from rural life to the cities.

From time immemorial, there was a strong abundance of addresses in family relations like mother-babji, aunt-uncle, didi-brother, aunt-aunt, maternal grandmother, grandfather-grandmother. Although these addresses are still present in rural life, but in today's generation, reflections of miserliness can be seen in the above-mentioned relationships of families who settled in cities and got engrossed in the culture there. Instead of mother-babji, mother-father and many relationships have been transformed into uncle-aunt. It can be heard in many homes that grandmothers now prefer to be called 'Dadi Maa' and grandmothers 'Nani Maa'. Whereas the address of the old times used to present a wave of self-pride and happiness.

'Nani' from Nana and 'Nani Maa' from Nani can usually be heard in most of the houses. In its mythological tradition, the address of relationships on the one hand had a sense of intimacy,



By: Vijay Garg

while it also introduced the sequence of different responsibilities. The 'Uncle and Aunt' address has brought strange camaraderie in the periphery of the vast relationship in an era of change in address. The dignified relations like uncle, warts, uncle etc. have been reduced to wither in the courtyard of formality. Similarly, due to shrinking of addresses like aunt, aunt, aunt, the sweetness of relationships has definitely decreased.

When we look at the changing role and nature of relationships, it is clear that western culture has influenced the dimensions of our way of life. It is the need of the hour that we must adopt the good things we get from any source in our life, but do not forget our invaluable social and family heritage or do not tamper with its basic structure. It is the only country in the world, where there is a vast breadth of food-cuisine, clothes-garment, names of relationships, cultural and religious customs.

Even now, those memory fragments are alive on the psyche that during the summer vacation in childhood, the curiosity of going to 'Nani Ghar' used to reverberate in the mind many days ago. On going there, our group of children used to bathe in the river,

break tikole in the garden, play kabaddi in the evening and sleep while listening to the story from the grandmother at night. To save from the scolding of the mother, the mother's aunt's defense line was always ready, the mind never became heavy and the free mind used to break the limit of naughtiness.

Due to the heavy burden of bags and the transformation of the joint family into a nuclear family, now the existence of 'Nani Ghar' has elapsed. The feeling of collective responsibility in the conduct of worldly rituals strengthened the relationship. All kinds of support sources were gathered from the presence of a group of relations in marriages or other accidental events. The families of the victims used to feel the life force in the group gathered around them. The spontaneous mutual cooperation in relationships today seems to be indulging in the sad cry of artificiality.

The modus operandi has been the same in various parts of the country - processions with arms are taken out and as they pass through Muslim localities, provocative slogans are raised outside the mosque and skirmishes engineered. This becomes the signal to attack Muslim shops and houses and resort to arson.

That these were not spontaneous communal riots or clashes became clear when such incidents occurred on April 10 in six states - Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Goa - where Ram Navami processions led to violence in nearly a dozen places in these states. Earlier, on April 2, the first attack in a Muslim locality took place in Karauli, Rajasthan as a result of a bike rally on Hindu new year day.

# A new level of attacks on Muslims during Navaratri Festival

Left has to take the lead in fighting the Hindutva forces in the Country

By Prakash Karat

The month of April has seen a sharp escalation in the attacks on Muslims by the Hindutva forces. Using the nine-day Navaratri festival beginning on April 2 and culminating on Ram Navami day on April 10, the RSS outfits like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal have in a planned and organised manner utilised the Hindu new year day on April 2 and the Ram Navami processions on April 10 to target the Muslim community.

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The victims in all these places are mainly poor Muslims whose houses and shops were looted or destroyed. In all the BJP-ruled states, the police which did not intervene to stop such attacks later arrested the Muslims who were victims and those who tried to resist the attackers.

Another round of attacks on Muslims occurred in four states, a week later,

when Hanuman Jayanti processions were taken out on April 16. The same pattern of incidents occurred in Holagunda village in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, Bhagwanpur in Roorkee in Uttarakhand and Jahangirpuri in Delhi.

That these incidents happened with State patronage became evident when dozens of shops and houses belonging to Muslims in Kharagone in Madhya Pradesh were bulldozed directly on the orders of the state home minister. The notorious bulldozer policy of the Adityanath government is now being brought into play in other BJP-ruled states. A bulldozer was stationed in Bhagwanpur in Uttarakhand and a threat was issued that the houses of those Muslims who were wanted by the police would be demolished, if they did not surrender. The bulldozers were sent into Jahangirpuri in Delhi, where the police was under the central government. Inspite of the Supreme Court ordering that the status quo be maintained, the demolition of shops and houses continued for two hours.

What these countrywide incidents in the past three weeks signify must be properly understood. These are not sporadic communal riots or conventional clashes which occur when some religious activities or groups collide. This is a pre-planned move to take the anti-Muslim campaign to a new level. There is every danger of local level pogroms being launched.

Having spawned a huge army of unemployed youth and with economic distress affecting large sections of society, the hordes mobilised by the Hindutva outfits are being unleashed

for divisive and nihilistic purposes.

The branding of arms and vituperative slogans against Muslims by mobs in the garb of religious processions, the provocations outside mosques and the threats to desecrate them and the violent abuse are all designed to cow down and humiliate Muslims. It is a display of Hindu aggressiveness and domination. Any form of opposition, or counter to the provocations brings the police and State machinery into action. Arrests under the National Security Act and bulldozing the houses and shops of Muslims with no legal sanction whatsoever, are a signal to the minority community that the State can act with impunity against them.

According to the RSS, it is Muslim extremists who are responsible for the violence. The RSS weekly, Organiser, claims that "Islamists in Bharat went on a rampage to attack the auspicious occasion of Varsha Pratipada (Hindu New Year) and Ram Navami (the birth anniversary of Lord Rama) celebrations". It goes on to claim that it is a "synchronised jihad". Thus, the aggressor poses as the victim in typical fascist talk.

The nature of the beast confronting us is clear. It is a Hindutva juggernaut which employs vile tactics to establish its hegemony over society and its total domination over the minorities. This menace has to be squarely and determinedly fought by all those who do not want India to become a playground for the fascist ideology of the RSS. The Left, which is uncompromising in its fight against Hindutva authoritarianism, must take the lead. (IPA Service)

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# India reports 2,451 new Covid-19 cases; third continuous day with over 2,000 new infections

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22:

India has recorded 2,451 new cases of Covid-19 on Friday, April 22. This has pushed the total number of active cases to 14,241, with 5,22,116 total deaths in the country.

For the third day in a row, India has recorded more than 2,000 new cases of Covid-19. India recorded more than 2,000 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, April 21, with 2,380 new infections and 1,231 recoveries. There were 13,433 active cases in the country on Thursday and this has increased to 14,241, marking an increase of 808 cases.

Twelve students in IIT-Madras tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday, April 21. As many as 18 people were tested and 12 tested positive, state Health Secretary Radhakrishnan said.

A total of 2,067 fresh cases were reported on Wednesday, marking a sharp rise from the 1,247 new infections registered on Tuesday. The total number of people vaccinated in the coun-

## Eight new Variants detected in Delhi samples, Omicron Sub-lineage BA.2.12 dominant: Sources

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22:

Omicron sub-lineage BA.2.12 was detected in a majority of samples sequenced from Delhi in April, sources told CNN-News18. Eight new variants have been found of which one of them is dominant, they said, adding that it could be the likely cause behind rising cases in the national capital. The information comes after Delhi reported 1,009 fresh Covid cases on Wednesday, a 60 per cent jump from the day before. Delhi started genome sequencing of samples of all Covid infected people to ascertain if a new variant,

such as the XE, has spread in the city.

"New sub-variants BA.2.12 (52 per cent samples) and BA.2.10 (11 per cent samples) are showing high transmission and have been found in over 60 per cent of the total samples from Delhi sequenced recently," an official source told PTL. "The BA.2.12 variant appears to have a growth advantage of about 30% to 90% per week over BA.2 (Omicron)," the source added.

A senior scientist told the news agency that the recent surge in Delhi is due to Omicron's reproductive number being 10, the highest transmissible level, making its derivatives also have the same

transmissibility and spread in absence of hand hygiene, social distancing and masks.

Officials said that the top five states in terms of new cases reported are: Delhi (1009), Haryana (3103), Uttar Pradesh (1684), and Maharashtra (1625) and Mizoram (103).

The Delhi government had on Wednesday made the wearing of masks mandatory in public places and announced a fine of Rs 500 on violators. Officials said the Delhi Disaster Management Authority has also decided not to shut schools and will come up with a separate Standard Operating Procedure in consultation with experts.

try reached 1,87,26,26,515, on Friday, April 22.

The daily positivity rate stood at 0.55% with the weekly positivity rate at

0.47%.

A total of 83.38 crore tests have been conducted in the country so far with 4,48,939 tests being conducted in the

last 24 hours.

In the last 3 days, India's active Covid infections have increased by at least 2,000 cases every day.

## Britain's Johnson to offer India help building its own fighter jets

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22:

Britain will offer to step up defence cooperation with India, such as help to build its own fighter jets and faster delivery of defence equipment, during talks between their prime ministers on Friday, as the West tries to lure India away from Russia.

On his first visit to New Delhi as prime minister, Boris Johnson will discuss with Narendra Modi ways to boost trade and security ties with the South Asian country that buys more than half of its military hardware from Russia.

"This is a very auspicious moment in a relationship and friendship between two democracies," Johnson said after Modi briefly welcomed him at the presidential palace ahead of the talks on the final day of a two-day visit.

"I don't think the relationship has ever been as good."

The effort follows an attempt last month by the United States to move India away from Russia, with its own offer of more defence and energy sales, after President Joe Biden called



India "somewhat shaky" in acting against Russia.

Britain hopes its offer of closer security ties with the West will encourage India to distance itself from Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, which Moscow calls a special military operation.

India abstained from a United Nations vote condemning the invasion and has not imposed sanctions on Moscow, taking a stance that sparked off a recent flurry of diplomatic activity, such as visits by the foreign ministers of Russia and China.

Britain said it plans to support India's long-held goal of building its own fighter jets, to reduce expensive imports of military equipment. India now

has a mix of Russian, British, and French fighter jets.

Former colonial ruler Britain will issue a so-called open general export licence to India to shorten delivery times for defence items. Only the European Union and the United States now have such licences, Johnson's spokesperson said.

The offer of closer security ties would also bring more joint military exercises and officer exchanges.

While Britain's offer of greater security cooperation was welcome, India will remain reliant on Russian military equipment, partly because it is cheaper, said Mohan Guruswamy, a director of the Centre for Policy Alternatives in New Delhi.

"Russia's offer to India is always that 'Our cupboard is open', (but) Britain doesn't offer India everything it wants and what it does make available is usually more expensive," he said.

Johnson and Modi will also discuss trade as they try to push for a deal well ahead of general elections in both nations in 2024.

British trade with India in 2019 was worth 23 billion pounds (\$29.93 billion), British data show, an amount dwarfed by trade with neighbouring Ireland, a nation of about 4 million.

But with the world's second biggest population of nearly 1.4 billion, India offers a vast pool of possible customers.

Any trade deal is likely to depend on relaxing rules and cutting fees for Indian students and professionals going to Britain.

Speaking on the airplane headed to India, Johnson signalled he was ready to be more accommodating on the issue, adding that Britain faced a massive shortage of hundreds of thousands of workers, particularly in sectors such as information technology.

## Assam Rifles apprehends six insurgents of HPC(D) Lk Hmar faction



IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended six insurgents including a Self Styled Defence Secretary and External Affairs of Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) LK

HMAR faction in Rengkai village, Churachandpur district on April 20.

Based on specific input from reliable sources, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehensions.

One 9mm Sig Sauer Pistol along with two maga-

zines and 19 rounds were recovered from the insurgents.

The insurgents have reportedly involved in various anti national activities in past.

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

## Dr. Lohro S. Pfoze chairs the joint meeting of Senapati and Kangpokpi districts

IT News  
Senapati, April 22:

A joint meeting of Senapati and Kangpokpi districts was held yesterday Conference Hall, Deputy Commissioner office, Senapati on District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) chaired by Dr. Lohro S. Pfoze, Member of Parliament, Outer Parliamentary Constituency/ Chairman, DDCMC.

While speaking on the meeting, the chairman said the meeting could not be convened in the early period of time due to covid pandemic. He also stressed on various facilities on banking and setting up of model village and its role to be played by DLO's.

In today's meeting, various Central Sponsored and Programmes that has been implemented in Senapati and Kangpokpi districts by DRDA and various line departments are presented through PPT format by the concerned officers. They also discussed the drawbacks and outcome of the

programmes/ schemes that have been implemented.

It may be mentioned that DISHA covering the schemes/ programmes are Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)/ Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Haat Khet Ko Pani- PMKSY (HKKP), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDP), Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin (SBM-G), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), National Health Mission (NHM), Samagra Shiksha, Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Digital India- Public Internet Access Programme- providing Common Service Centre in each Gram Panchayat, Imple-

mentation of National Food Security, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya- Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-KKY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Soil Health Card (SHC), e-National Agriculture Markets (E-NAM), Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission- National Rurban Mission (NRuM), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), Paramparaghat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVK), Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme and Sugamaya Bharat Abhiyan.

The meeting was attended by Kinmeo Haokip Hangshing, MLA 46- Saikul AC, J. Kumo Sha, MLA 47- Karong AC, Losii Dikho, MLA 48- Mao AC, Haokholet Kippen, MLA 51- Saitu AC and representative of 49- Tadubi AC & 50- Kangpokpi AC, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, DC Senapati, Kengoo Zuringla, IAS, DC Kangpokpi, all SDO's of Senapati and Kangpokpi districts, various DLO's of both district, Care Taker Chairman and CEO of both ADC and many other officers

## Electronic ballot for NRI voters under consideration: CEC Sushil Chandra

Agency  
New Delhi, April 22:

The Election Commission of India is considering the introduction of electronically transmitted postal ballot system (ETPBS) facility for overseas voters, the poll body said in a statement on Friday.

A delegation led by chief election commissioner of India Sushil Chandra visited South Africa and Mauritius from April 9-19 and held multiple meetings, wherein inputs were sought on how to conduct free and fair polls.

"During this visit, a series of meetings were held with the election commissions of South Africa and Mauritius, as well as interactions with the NRI community in the two countries," the ECI statement said. "Both election management bodies are also MoU partners with ECI. The three countries share a relationship which is fundamental, unique and rooted in the collective experiences and cumulative strength of their people."

The CEC also urged voters to register as overseas voters as the current numbers are



"abysmally low".

According to official estimates, at least 60-65% of the 1.26 crore people residing overseas are likely to be eligible to vote in Indian elections. People familiar with the matter added

that a large portion of the registered voters belonged mostly to Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while a smaller population of registered voters also came from Gujarat and Punjab.

Overseas electors are allowed to register in their respective constituencies using form 6A that is available online. Their names are added at the end of the electoral list of their respective polling station. At present,

non-resident Indians (NRIs) can cast their ballots only at their respective polling booths.

The EC, however, wrote to the law ministry on November 27 last year to expedite the amendment of the People's Representation Act, 1951, to extend the postal ballot facility to overseas electors.

It has proposed that voting be done via ETPBS, which was first tested in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections for service voters.

"He [Chandra] said that South Africa has made big strides in democracy and would be hosting the next gen-

eral assembly of AWEB in October 2022. India has a very intense and active association with AWEB. Both India and South Africa are the founding members of this organisation. He stated that coming to the land which made Mahatma out of Gandhiji and the land of Nelson Mandela was a veritable pilgrimage for him," the ECI statement said.

Of the 1.26 crore Indians residing overseas, only a little over 1,00,000 are registered as voters with the Election Commission of India, people familiar with the matter said.

# Indian Agriculture facing major technological challenges in present decade

**Public investment instead of Corporate can improve farmers' real income**

By: Dr B K Kango  
New Delhi, April 22:

When India became independent in 1947, the debate was about the vision the country was going to have. The options that were to be followed were few. Struggle for socialism was an obvious and continuing factor, uniting with the non-monopoly section of the bourgeoisie. With the growing availability of developed technology, there was the possibility of industrialisation offering jobs to larger number of people. The other option was development through state sector, that too offered jobs but ownership remained in the hands of state.

As the vision of future was based on the available technology, possibilities were there to have the corporate sector grow prominently and throw up the question of who would be the prime employer, state or private sector.

In this background the left and their kisan organizations fought for land to the tiller to end the feudal relations. The process of redistribution of land was also initiated to end the system of middlemen. The questions like remunerative prices were rarely raised. Only exception was cotton monopoly scheme of Maharashtra state, where MSP was assured by government along with sole monopoly of purchase of cotton.

However, the famine of 1967 and subsequent struggles and new technology induced new changes in agricultural sector.

The implementation of idea of self-sufficiency in food grains, through green revolution assisted by hybrid seeds and bank nationalization along with public distribution system, created a new situation. Increase in irrigation facilities in

plain lands of Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh, the productivity of wheat, paddy etc. increased and this was partly due to new technology of hybrid crops with assured prices and purchase by government for public distribution system.

This created a section of influential lobby among farmers with rise of leaders like Charan Singh, Devi Lal and several others in national and state politics. There were other new leaders like Sharad Joshi, Mahendra Singh Tikait, etc. emerging with a demand for remunerative prices of commercial crops like sugarcane, cotton, etc.

Due to division of land amongst family members and success of land to the tiller movement and partly due to successful implementation of Land Ceiling Act in West Bengal, Kerala and few other pockets in certain states, the movement for land distribution did not or could not dominate the farmers' movement subsequently. However, the issue is still alive in Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and in some other states.

Now demand for remunerative prices dominated and left kisan sabhas lost their leading role which was taken over by newly formed farmers' lobby that were not sure about the programmes of land distribution and collectivization or co-operative agenda of the left kisan sabhas. There was also no clarity about how the Left viewed the rise of farmers' lobby. The question also remained about the characterization of rich farmers, whether they were to be considered feudal or capitalist.

When this picture was unfolding, technology and world economy was undergoing ma-

jor changes. Emergence of corporates dealing in Agriculture was a new phenomenon so was globalization under the concept of LPG. Corporates saw huge population of 750 crore(world over) as an opportunity to earn profit through control of food, vegetable and fruit trade and they tried to impose their agenda through GATT proposals (also called Dunkel proposals) that was taken up by WTO in 1994 and thus slowly kept expanding their influence and foothold in agrarian sector.

Leaders like Sharad Joshi and their organizations welcomed the withdrawal of government from the market and thought that farmers would be able to get better price for their products but failed to see the domination and designs of corporates. They still hold on to that position and hence oppose farmers' agitation against recent pro-corporate laws. Left kisan organizations have supported the farmers' agitation as they are against corporate domination.

Thus was created politically conscious influential farmers' lobby, because of government's strategy of green revolution, implemented to become self-sufficient in foodgrain, and along with that there came the rise of big corporates in Agriculture sector. It is a new emerging factor and as per capitalist principle, there is a possibility of big fish swallowing the small fish. Thus on this background the conflict between farmers and present Indian government has to be seen as a conflict between farmers protecting their independence and interest, against pro-corporate government.

However, this conflict has a potential to define "Future India" if farmers succeed in

keeping Indian state away from pro-corporate influence or dominance. In this fight Indian working-class is also engaged against the pro-corporate policies of Indian state and oppose any such interest. Hence, the unity of farmers and workers has become very crucial. Left could play a very important part in forging such a unity. But there are obstacles, as there are farmers that are also employer and want landless labour at low cost and hence left has to revisit its strategy and work for state intervention by insisting on free universal education, improved and affordable public health services and housing with better public transport, etc. along with allowing MNREGA to be used in selected areas for private farms. The point is there is need for new thinking as new situation is emerging.

China with its self-sufficiency in food grains is not a threat to their corporates as it is not a big player in exports of food grains and other agricultural products. In fact, it is a major importer of agriculture products. But with India the things are little different and corporates are threatened by Indian agricultural exports and hence want to control it and at the same time take advantage of huge Indian consumer market. But to oppose this corporate design what is the vision of immediate future vision of India that we see?

Indian economy is dominated by unorganized sector. MSME and small entrepreneurs dominate the scene. Hence our working force also comprises of 90 percent unorganized labour.

How to give social security to this huge working population without making the employers uncompetitive is a major issue.

Corporate lobby is expanding and also destroying this unorganized sector. Demonetization and GST are two big decisions along with the passing of three farm laws that were passed by this government to help corporate expansion. However, due to spirited and united fight by the farmers the farm laws have been withdrawn. Intervention of government through a concretised programme to help farmers must be spelt out by Left. Interest free loan, support of modern technology, food storage facilities, encouraging co-operation amongst farmers, fertilizers at affordable rates and logistical facilities including storage etc. are needed. Electricity at affordable rates through extensive use of solar power is also needed.

Thus, new technology must be used to protect and help independent farmers. Corporates are trying to control technology and only government can compete with it and provide this technology to small entrepreneurs and farmers. It is a fact that many small entrepreneurs are suppliers of big corporations but as China became a manufacturing hub of the world through mass production and big factories, India could also become next manufacturing hub through small and medium enterprises if proper strategy is used to strengthen them. A vision of RSS-BJP combine favours big corporates and offers them prominent role in its military-industrial complex. Hence, a new vision keeping interest of people in mind needs to be articulated by the Left in the coming years. The real conflict is between people centric policies and profit seeking policies of corporates.

(IPA Service)

## Audi Guwahati will conduct this year's Q-Drive event on April 23 & 24, 2022 at Thao Ground, Imphal

IT News  
Imphal, April 22:

Audi Q Drive is the most widespread program under the Audi driving experience program. Travelling across the country, the Audi Q drive is conducted on a custom-built off-roading track; designed keeping in mind the key attributes and features of the Audi Q range, including especially Audi's legendary quattro system.

Customers can enjoy driving on specially made off-road tracks and maneuver obstacles such as hill climbing, hill descend, slush, acceleration, braking, rumples, axle twist and articulation and tilt angle.

Over 10,000 Audi enthusiasts have participated in this program since its inception in India. Enthusiasts in Imphal will get an opportunity to experience the superlative style and performance of these sporty, progressive and sophisticated vehicles. The 2022 edition of the

Audi Q Drive will be held on 23rd and 24th April, 2022 at Thao Ground Imphal, Manipur. Our participants will get to experience the legendary quattro technology in the Audi Q7 and the Audi Q5 on a specially curated off road track under the supervision of Audi Instructors. The Q Drive event will be curated by highly trained instructor Mr. Bobbie Bhogal - who will ensure participants get to experience Audi's Q range to the fullest.

Showcased at the event, will be the art, the newly launched Audi Q7 55 with TFSI (Technology variant) which is powered by a 3 L petrol engine putting out 335 bhp @ 5200 rpm and 500 Nm @ 1370 rpm of max power and max torque respectively. In addition, the best-selling Audi Q5 that is powered by a 2.0L 45 TFSI engine and churns 249 hp of power and 370Nm torque will also be driven by participants.

**Contd. from Page 1**

## Khongjom Day Celebration....

This year the District Administration is expecting large number of public attendance as the observation was restricted for the last two years due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

The State Government has arranged for free bus service to transport government employees, public and devotees from Imphal to Khebabach and back in

connection with the observance. One bus each will be stationed at Manipur Public School, Koirengai; Lamboikhongnangkhang Ground and DC Office Porompat which will depart at 6.30 am. 4 buses will be stationed at MST Complex, Moirangkhang which is scheduled to depart at 6 am, 6.30 am, 7 am and 7.30 am respectively.

## Sports

### Santosh Trophy: Manipur overcomes Gujarat; Karnataka stuns Services

Agency  
Malappuram, April 22:

Manipur overcame stubborn resistance from Gujarat to eke out a hard fought 2-0 win in the Santosh Trophy National football championship at the Kottapadi Football stadium here on Thursday.

Manipur, with its second win, kept its semifinal hopes alive while Gujarat slumped to its third consecutive defeat. After a goalless first half, a goal from striker Sudhir Laitonjam (47) and an own goal by Gujarat defender Siddharth Suresh Nair ( 67) gave the much needed win for Manipur.

The team from the North East slipped into the attack mode from the start but an overtly defensive Gujarat managed to balk at the attempts to score. The Gujarat goal survived through some pluck and luck in the first half.

However, at the start of the second half, the Gujarat defence was breached when Ngariyanbam Jenish Singh's through pass found an unmarked Sudhir Laitonjam in-



side the box. The striker scored to put Manipur ahead in the 47th minute.

The opening goal triggered a flurry of moves from the Manipur side which rattled the Gujarat defence. The sustained pressure resulted in the second goal in the 67th minute when Gujarat defender Siddharth Suresh Nair made an erroneous clearance and watched in dismay as the ball

enter his own net. Gujarat showed some late spark but Manipur defence was well organised to be troubled.

**Karnataka stuns Services**  
Karnataka rode on P. Ankith's header in the 38th minute to stun defending champion Services by a solitary goal on Thursday. Karnataka's first win has opened up the group B and effectively ended Services'

chances of securing a place in the semifinal.

Karnataka goalkeeper Jayanth Kumar gave a lionhearted performance under the bar. The keeper made a string of saves in the first half to keep his side in the game. Karnataka defended stoutly in the second half and defender Pavan made a goal-line save in the dying minutes to deny Services.

### MS Dhoni seals thrilling last-ball win for CSK over MI



Agency  
Mumbai, April 22:

MS Dhoni has conjured up his old magic, hitting 16 runs off the last four balls to steer the Chennai Super Kings to a last-ball, three-wicket victory over the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League.

The great 40-year-old finisher took the game deep into the final over on Thursday before smashing left-arm fast bowler Jaydev Unadkat for 6-4-2-4 to carry Chennai to 7-156 with his unbeaten match-winning knock of 28 off 13 balls.

Even a splendid effort from Australian paceman Daniel Sams, who took 4-30 while running through Chennai's top order, couldn't stop Mumbai suffering a seventh straight loss which has all but ended the powerhouse team's hopes of reaching the playoffs.

The frustrated Mumbai skip-

per Rohit Sharma ended up pulling his cap over his face when Dhoni raised the victory with a flicked boundary to fine leg off Unadkat's well-directed yorker.

Mumbai's top-order problem in the batting continued and despite Chennai dropping four catches and Dhoni missing out on a stumping chance, they still managed to restrict Rohit's team to 7-155.

"Actually we were very tense, the way the game was going," said Chennai skipper Ravindra Jadeja, who dropped two of four catches.

"But he (Dhoni) showed the world that he's still here and he can finish the game."

As well as Sams' excellent bowling, his Australian teammate Riley Meredith also per-

formed well for Mumbai, keeping things tight with 1-25 off his four overs.

Fast bowler Mukesh Chaudhry (3-19) blew away Mumbai's top-order by claiming the wickets of Rohit and Ishan Kishan in space of only five balls early in the match.

Rohit became the first batter in IPL history to get out for a duck for the 14th time when he offered a tame catch to mid-off and Kishan was clean bowled off a perfect yorker off the first ball he faced.

Mumbai could have lost two more wickets to left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner in the second over, but Jadeja dropped a skier off Dewald Brevis and Dhoni missed out on a stumping of Suryakumar Yadav.

## RC Book Lost

I have lost R.C. Book of my vehicle Pleasure, bearing Regn. No. MN-06-SB-4483, Engine No. JF16EGHGC16696 and Chassis No. MBLJFN 032 HGC 06940 on the way between Khurai Thoudam Leikai and Porompat on March 20, 2022. Sd/-

Thoudam Aruna Chanu  
Khurai Thoudam Leikai,  
Imphal East