

Museums, maths, digital economy: PM Modi addresses nation in 88th episode of Mann Ki Baat

Agency
New Delhi, April 24:

In the 88th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the cultural change brought about by the emergence of the digital economy. "Have you ever thought that how big a digital economy has been created in the country with these small online payments of yours?" He asked.

He also paid tribute to India's museums. He began by hailing the new Prime Ministers' museum opened in the National Capital on BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary this month. He highlighted some of the unique insights the museum has to offer about all of the country's past prime ministers.

"Several people are donating some of their own collections and ancient artefacts to museums. By doing this, you are sharing a cultural heritage with society," PM Modi said. "I laud these individual efforts. Amid the covid pandemic, museums are increasingly focussing on 'digitisation', PM Modi pointed out.

The prime minister, in the latest episode, hosted a museum quiz for his listeners.

The prime minister highlighted the many ways in which technology has made it possible for people with disabilities to thrive in various fields. "Like in sports, in the arts, academics, and many other fields, people with disabilities are doing wonders, but when they are armed with the power of technology, they achieve even greater heights," he said.

With blistering heatwaves spreading across many parts of the country, the prime minister urged people to save water. "Maybe where you are now, there is plenty of water available," PM Modi said, adding that water conservation is one of the main resolutions adopted as part of 75th year of India's independence. "But, you also have to always remember the crores of people who live in water-stressed areas, for whom every drop of water is like nectar."

Speaking about the importance of Mathematics in the country, PM Modi said it must be the subject Indians are most comfortable with. The people of India have given the most

research and contribution to the whole world regarding mathematics." The most significant mathematical discovery in India is that of the number zero.

"Often you will also hear that if zero was not discovered, then perhaps we would not have been able to see so much scientific progress of the world," he said.

Tracing the origins of computer language, PM Modi said that several sages, such as Acharya Pingala, first conceived the concept of binary. The PM added that maths is often easy for Indians because our understanding is rooted in Vedic Mathematics. "The credit of Vedic Mathematics in modern times goes to Shri Bharati Krishna Tirtha Ji Maharaj. He revived the ancient methods of calculation and named it Vedic Mathematics," he said, urging more parents to teach their children Vedic Maths.

People should go for 'Cashless Dayout', now even in small villages & town people are using UPI. It's benefitting both shopkeepers & customers. Online payments are developing a digital economy, every-

day Rs.20,000 Cr online transactions are taking place

Now even in small towns and in most villages people are transacting through UPI itself. A culture is also being born in the country from Digital Economy.

It is no longer the case that the spread of UPI is limited to only big cities like Delhi.

Cashless Day Out. An Interesting Resolution says PM Modi. "I would also urge you to try the experiment of Cashless Day Out, definitely do it."

Today, in the changing times and due to the covid protocols, emphasis is being placed on adopting new methods in museums. The focus has also increased on Digitization in museums.

Many people are donating their old collections, even historical things, to museums. When you do this, in a way, you share a cultural capital with the whole of society.

The country has got a 'Pradhan Mantri Sanghralay', it has been opened for the people of the country. It's a matter of pride that we are remembering the contribution of PMs, it's connecting the youth of the country with them

Sheikh Noorul Hassan Health Protection Mission launched



IT News
Imphal, April 24:

At what can be termed as the first of its kind in Manipur, the young and dynamic MLA said adding that it will make no difference between those who had voted for him or not.

Hassan today launched health protection mission in his name by donating his monthly salary to ensure health service facilities to all the people of his assembly constituency.

"Every people of the Kshetrigao Assembly con-

stituency irrespective of caste creed and gender will be benefitted under the mission", the young and dynamic MLA said adding that it will make no difference between those who had voted for him or not.

"Each and every people of the constituency will be benefitted", Sheikh Noorul Hassan told media persons while launching the mission. The MLA said that those who want to get the facilities will have to add for the scheme

in three categories - silver, Gold and platinum with minimum fees i.e. 1000, 1500 and 8000 respectively. However people above 80 years and those who are physically and mentally challenged will get the benefit at free of cost.

He said that the program is mainly initiated of poor people in view of the experienced witness during Covid pandemic period where many people died for lack of health facilities.

Media houses boycott BJP led Government in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, April 24:

Media houses in Manipur have decided to boycott all news related to Government of Manipur and BJP Manipur Pradesh following their failure to respond to appeal by media houses to clear pending advertisement bills by 4 pm of 23rd April 2022.

A joint meeting of the publishers, editors and representatives of AMWJU, Manipur Hill Journalist Union, held at Manipur press club today-23rd April 2022, recalled the media appeal made by a joint meeting 15th April 2022 asking the Manipur Government and BJP Manipur to clear pending advertisement bills by today.

However, following no response from the Government and BJP Manipur, the meeting decided to go ahead with the boycott. In case of

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee of INC, the meeting resolved to give some time following assurance given by its President.

The boycott, according to the resolution, will cover all news related to Manipur Government, ruling parties-BJP and NPF. The boycott will also include all government advertisements including those of its authorities, corporation like the PDA, LDA etc.

The media boycott will however not include the offices of the Governor, the Speaker, Covid-19 and pandemic related news including medical emergencies. Crime related stories of law and order will also be exempted from the boycott, as per the resolution.

The boycott will come into effect from 24th April 2022 till the pending bills are paid or an understanding has been entered with the parties concern.

The boycott came after the government failed to clear the bills even after series of assurances given by the Chief Minister and Chief secretary of the Government of Manipur.

The media bodies had suspended an earlier boycott call following personal intervention of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary.

Bills running into crores of rupees are pending with the government while bills running into lakhs for advertisements made in connection with just concluded 12 Assembly election have been pending with both the ruling BJP and opposition Congress(I).

Media houses in Manipur is reeling under financial strain following the pandemic and rising cost of news production. It has been appealing to the government to take a sympathetic view of situation to avoid the confrontation.

11 Tangkhul Village Chiefs vows to work with Haomee to protect indigenous people

IT News
Imphal, April 24:

Apex body of the Eleven Villages of Tangkhul community in Kamjong District, known as 'Shangpu Long' have resolved to go hand in hand with the Federation of Haomee.

A statement said that Village chiefs of 11 Tangkhul community in Kamjong district after having a meeting at Chakama Village on April 23 have taken the decision to go hand in hand with the Federation of Haomee. Those villages are Nungthar, Maryland, Ringnap, Khram, Horton, Tangkhul Khullen, Somir[hei, Somrei, Somcharam, Chakama and Komlaching. The meeting was presided by Chairman of



Shangpu Long, T. Ningchui Chitung. President of the Federation of Haomee, Sapamcha Jadumani and Vice President Dr.

Heera kabui also share the dais. The meeting also resolved to protect the indigenous people of the state and ex-

pressed dissatisfaction to the failure of the govt. in defining the indigenous people of Manipur.

KYKL Chairman initiates discourse on revolutionary ideology and tactics

IT News
Imphal, April 24:

While greeting the people of WESEA region on occasion of the 28th raising day of the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), chairman of the armed rebel group N. Oken has penned some serious issues to the present revolutionary movement of the region. The Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) is observing its Raising Day on April 25.

"It is not an exaggeration to state that the revolutionary movement in our society has reached its nadir. The notion of revolution now seems to non-existent in the consciousness of Kangleichas. People's faith in the cause has waned,

and fewer people now believe in revolution. Even those few people we think are committed to the cause have begun to reluctantly withdraw from their commitment and self-belief, N. Oken said.

He added that those who are opposed to the liberation movement, on the other hand, are now engaged in anti-revolutionary activities in record numbers and with no fear.

"We are critically reliant on the handouts of Indian imperial masters since one must work to one's highest ability to sustain, and our productive base is too small. As a result, many of us have come to believe that backing Indian colonialism in order to get monetary gain is the correct and sensible

option. We seem to have forgotten the importance of protecting our national identity while struggling for survival. Those who are concerned for the nation and the people have been called fools, while those who do not care about the country, society, or their people have been dubbed wise and normal people who understand the law and norms of the society.

"Similarly, revolutionary groups and revolutionaries in Kangleipak are falling apart. The majority of revolutionary cadres have no qualms about quitting the struggle; it has become a way of life for the revolutionary class. Anti-revolutionary views, such as failing to believe in the revolution, lack

of trusting their own people, disillusionment in a better future, giving in to the enemy as the correct act, prioritizing self-interest, and seeking the easiest way to meet the end have undoubtedly taken roots in most revolutionary cadres. We have reached a point in history when those who continue to fight for revolution can be seen as insane.

"Worse than individual cadres abandoning the party is the formation of a trend in which revolutionary organizations as a whole have abandoned the struggle in the name of peace and development by engaging in peace talks with the enemy. This is just a liquidationist act intended to annihilate the movement.

"In the last 1950s/60s, we had witnessed revolutionary organizations leave revolutionary movements through peace talks in WESEA. Renouncing revolutionary movements through peace talks with the enemy has been a chronic, incurable disease for the region since 1964. In the pretext of peace talks, many of the leading Wesean revolutionary organizations had already abandoned the movement. Major armed revolutionary groups have not yet embarked on this disastrous course in Kangleipak. However, in Kangleipak, we have recently witnessed a new trend in which many opportunists have formed factional groups in order to abandon the cause.

They have attracted revolutionary cadres by promising them big opportunities.

"Former revolutionary cadres who had surrendered to the enemy had even been re-recruited. Moreover, sympathizers have been enticed to become active members of their organizations by promising them government jobs.

"One of the primary reasons for the surrender to the enemy by those who want to quit the movement has to do with the wrong perspective from which they view the movement. Their idea is that the movement is stepping backwards because it has not been able to garner mass support, and that it will never win, so the best to move forward

is to abandon it. A lack of critical thinking is behind this idea. The crumbling revolutionary state that we are witnessing today is not that it can never be reversed to our advantage.

"We cannot simply take people's aversion to revolutionary movement and hatred of the revolutionary people as something inborn since the day they were born. Neither can the increasing power of colonial masters be taken as the major reason for people's non-participation in the movement. Many factors will contribute to the challenging social conditions in which the revolutionary movement moves south.

contd. on page 4

The Professor and the Mountain

By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

"If you have the high spirit of the high mountains, even the greatest powers of the outer world will respect and admire you." - Mehmet Murat İldan

With a dramatic conclusion of Nova Iter '22 Mt. Saramati Expedition that became tea time gossip and hot topic of discussion in Nagaland and outside; Tetso Mountaineering Club decided to take rest for a while. However, its leadership remained restless. It is a proven fact that once bitten by a Mountaineering bug its after effects remains forever. The support that Tetso College Mountaineering Team received from Indian Army through Tetso Friends like Lt. Col. Joy Chowdhury (Rtd), Col. Rajeev Sharma, Col. Md Raza Israel was only possible because of a common bonding of zeal for adventure and exploration that Army and Tetso College apparently share. Under the modern and visionary leadership of Shri. Kvuolorin and Smt. Hewasa Khing, Tetso College has been gradually transforming into a happening space for adventure sports and allied activities. With this vertical growth and transformation of Tetso College, the academician and an adventurer in me too has been growing.

I learned about Mt. Khulioh (also known as Mt. Khelia) for the first time when I went to Noklak solo on my Royal Enfield from Dimapur in December, 2021. It was actually a big surprise. Nagaland was never an alien place for a man like me who did his PhD on socio-political dynamics and governance of the region. However, this name 'Mt. Khulioh' was never being brought to my notice. With a hearing of the name a researcher in me started researching in every corner of virtual world and to my surprise even internet has extremely less information about this iconic mountain which stands tall on the Indo-Myanmar Border, in Noklak District-the land of Khiamniungans. I wanted to explore and climb the great mysterious mountain in De-

ember-January but that could not have been made possible. Good things DO takes their own sweet time to happen.

Fast forward- 5th April, 2022. I was having a discussion with Tumchobemo Y Kithan, the President of Tetso Mountaineering Club about the possibility to conduct 'Blitzkrieg' style Mountaineering Campaign during short Easter vacation. However, during discussion we figured as to how difficult it is to build a 'motivated' team at short notice for climbing expedition to a completely unknown Mountain. The meeting ended with a 'promise' to climb the Mt. Khulioh in future.

However, I could not discard the idea of exploring Mt. Khulioh from my mind and I decided to attempt to climb the unknown mountain solo in 'Alpine Style'. Soon I discovered that there are two routes that can take me to the mountain top. One route goes through Choklangan Village and another route goes through Wui Village. I developed a 'Peak Assault' plan through Choklangan. Collected all the information that was possible to be collected. However, the major issue was that of a weather condition. I was getting latest updates about the status of Dimapur-Noklak-Choklangan road condition, Khulioh terrain and the weather conditions therein from our Tetso friend Col. Rajeev Sharma. The first advice I got from him was not to take Motorcycle as it was extremely perilous to ride during heavy rains. The second advice I got from him was to avoid the mountain completely as it could be infested with leeches with very slippery, dangerous approach due to intermittent rain. However, needless to mention, I was not in a mood to listen any advice from anyone. I politely rejected age old wisdom of Col. Sharma and then those golden words came from him. "...But Sir, I still I want to go", I stubbornly said. "THEN YOU MUST GO!" exclaimed the Colonel.



I started my final preparations. However, a thought came to my mind to talk to my friend Sir S. Meyo, an administrator of Christian High School, Noklak. The conversation took a surprising turn and in no time I became a part of an all Khiamniungan Team that was ready to brave the great mountain of my dream in heavy rains. A group consisted of teachers of Christian High School was formed, which further joined by three more people from Sanglao village as our guides. So in all Khiamniungan Team of climbers, I was made an integral part of the expedition. The mystery of the mountain was about to be unfolded.

Theoretical Choklangan route that I was suggesting was cancelled as our Expedition Commander S. Meyo decided to take up route from Wui. Why did he do so, that remained a mystery for me until I learned the reason from our friend, Sister Miss Chongtin, HM of Christian High School which raised a storm of thoughts in my mind. The climb was not as eventful as I visualized, however, I continuously felt something strange and mysterious about the dense forests through which I was going. Undoubtedly, Mt. Khulioh is far different Mountain than Mt. Saramati and Mt. Japfu

both of which I already explored and climbed.

Mountaineering and Jungle exploration is not unusual for me. Jungles of Nagaland (especially Frontier Nagaland) and the mysteries therein are well known to my soul. However, what was I then experiencing throughout my approach to the top of Mt. Khulioh and moments thereafter was extraordinary which is difficult to explain in words. There are certain things which can only be felt and witnessed, neither explained nor described. Mountain has its rules, distinct language and the soul-not all mortal humans can have access to it and those who have, becomes a 'MOUNTAIN' themselves.

During our short stay in the protective embrace of Mt. Khulioh I learned that the terrain is relatively virgin and untouched but a home to rich bio-diversity. Thankfully, due to its remote location and labyrinthine accessibility the purity of the region has been able to be remained 'protected' in the most natural form.

Noklak- the land of Khiamniungans is very close to me, not because of the family and friends that I have there but also because of their virgin forests and the mountains. Ever since I have visited Noklak for

the first time in the cold of December, I have been shouting against the road condition in the region. Journey from Noklak to Wui and back we made in Tata Pick-up Truck which was eventful. It is shameful to admit that the roads does not exist anywhere in Noklak, but at the same time I consider it a blessing too. With roads; access to the jungles and the mountains becomes easy and their destruction too. Why should so called "ADVANCED" mankind be trusted?

The great Mt. Khulioh gave a message to me which I am sharing. There are mysteries in the 'creation'. The Oceans, Rivers, Mountains, Forests, Sky, the deep infinite Space have something to say to the humanity. The rising Sun and its golden shadow, strong evening breeze of the wind and shining Moon of the night have a message to convey. We human beings have forgotten who we are.

We mistakenly believe that the Supreme Creator has created this world for us-for our consumption, we wrongly believe that the entire world is a gift given by GOD to us for our pleasure, for our enjoyment.

Mt. Khulioh says, "The perception that humanity carried for millions of years is wrong. World is not for Man, but Man is for the World. It is

not Human who alone is a child of God, in fact every seen and unseen creature is a Child of God and Man is one of those creatures. Man is merely a small part of the ecosystem constructed by divine hands. Man is not at all placed at the center of the 'creation' but 'inserted' as a small 'link' in the same. Man has no right to have any pride in his existence, rather he should surrender his 'ego' and strive for the 'Divine Wisdom'- to protect himself and his destiny from his own evil, destructive hands and be ready to leave the Earth in search of new world in the vast expanse of infinite universe when the right time comes".

As I was climbing down with heavy Boots filled with sludge and gravel, I promised myself to come back again to the land of Khiamniungans to visit wise Mt. Khulioh. Next time I will come from Choklangan route, preferably alone and thereafter with my Tetso Mountaineers.

As I was losing my inner self in the divine wisdom of Mt. Khulioh King I was finally made to realize that, in the world of tribalism, casteism, racism, religious madness and material insanity, in the times of fractured humanity, some handful of lonely individuals are resiliently busy in building 'bridges' and destroying 'walls' in different parts of the world- I MUST consider myself as one of them-THE MANSONS- echoed the silent chaos through the dark depths of mountain wilderness.

Should I gatscared of the dense forests, the tall mountains and the mysterious silence of the divine chaos? Probably not. I recall what my Father said once, "There is nothing to fear in jungles and the mountains, enter blindly, wander freely-fearlessly with holy curiosity and you will be enlightened. However, beware when you enter the assembly of Earthly MEN".

(The author is a Professor, Department of Political Science, Tetso College, Dimapur)

Never whisper in the presence of wrong Sharpen your opposition to divisive politics

By: Dr. Arun Mitra

'Never Whisper in the presence of wrong' is a quote attributed to Dr Bernard Lown, the founder president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) from 1980 to 1993, who said 'The ticking of numerous time bombs demands critical re-examination of the existing world order. The new way of thinking must be a final awakening to our common origins, to our shared problems as well as to our common fate. If we all are to prevail, we must never delegate in the presence of challenge and never whisper in the presence of wrong'.

Lown said it in relation to the nuclear weapons, but it is true for several other situations as well. Any type of violence is a cause of concern as it causes both physical and mental trauma. Violence is not just a law and order problem but an issue of public health importance. The world has seen catastrophic impact on human health in 1945 when the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were atomic bombed by the USA. The Second World War led to loss of over 50 million lives and left over 90 million wounded. The USSR alone lost 18 million people.

The conflicts have not stopped thereafter. Dr. Barry S Levy Adjunct Professor of Public Health, Tufts University School of Medicine in a presentation at an event organized by the IPPNW on 19th February 2022 pointed out that the studies

have revealed that since 1990-2017 there have occurred 50000 direct deaths annually as a result of armed conflicts while the indirect deaths have been more than one million.

Many a times the conflicts are engineered by the interested groups. They use divisive ideology and spread hatred in the society. Harping on nostalgia of the past glory and hyper-nationalism they incite violence. In the recent years pushing the society into violence has become a tool for some to remain in power.

Ethnic strife between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes was the cause of death of nearly 800000 people in Rwanda. So much was the hatred spread against the each other that husbands killed their wives who belonged to the other tribe and with whom they must have been in extreme love that decided to marry. Nearly 2.5 million Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims were killed in the communal violence following partition of India in 1947 causing serious humanitarian crisis. Religious fundamentalism of the type of Taliban is danger to the society. What will be the end result of Russia Ukraine conflict, we do not know!

Fearing similar situation in the country due to on-going acts of some bigots and at many places with overt or covert support of the state machinery, several saner elements have expressed anguish at the events. Numerous videos have been circulating on social media

condemning these moves to break the social fabric of the society by targeting minorities, especially Muslims, by the 'Hindutva' brigade in many places. They have been appealing to the Prime Minister to break persistent silence on these incidents as it makes one sceptical of his support to such elements.

It appears as a member of the RSS and its pracharak at one time he is faithfully carrying forward the agenda put forth by the second Sarsangchalak (chief) of the RSS, M S Golwalkar who in his book 'We and Our Nationhood Identified' clearly states that whenever they come to power, first of all hand over the government property, state lands and forests to the 2-3 trusted rich people of the country. Make 95% people beggars and after that power will not be lost for seven generations. He also said that 'all his life I am ready to be enslaved by the British but I do not want such freedom which gives equal rights to Dalits, backward classes and Muslims'. Narendra Modi believes and practices this ideology of his Guru! Everyone can see how the nation's wealth is being handed over to two families, namely Ambani and Adani. This is reminiscent of Nazis.

Therefore it would be naive to appeal to and to expect from him to take such elements to task. It is time to stand up and fight against this kind of ideology that splits the social fabric. This is not the time to be silent, but to speak up and remember the quote 'never whisper in the presence of wrong'.
(IPAService)

Choice, dynamism and diversity drive forward in every walk of life

If there is no variation and diversity in life, what will happen? If all flowers are alike, singers sing alike, that is, if everything is the same, life will become dull and boring. There will be no experiments, no research, no progress, nor will the colors of life emerge.

Diversity is omnipresent. It is in every area of life. People's stature, walking style, food, hobbies, likes, dislikes, not only dress, choice of colors and lifestyle are different in all. In every house there will be one who lives with one window open, then one who lives with one window closed. Even the hobbies of husband and wife will get variety. If the husband would like to eat spicy chili-spicy food, then the wife would like simple and less chili-spicy food. Some would like cold water from the fridge even in cold, while some would like normal water even in summer.

The difference is also visible in the fabrics and their selection process. If there is a coat, what color and style should it be? If you have a tie, how are you? Opinions and preferences will differ in the brand of shirt as well as in the colours. The need is that people's opinion and choice differ in everything whether small, what is big. It is a rare coincidence that everyone has the same choice. Even in difference, there is a part of unity within, which gives strength to life.

If there is no variation and diversity in life, what will happen? If all flowers are alike, singers sing alike, that is, if everything is the same, life will become dull and boring. There will be no experiments, no research, no progress, nor will the colors of life emerge. There will be despair everywhere. The more options you have in life, the more success you get. Success is also limited in limited



By: Vijay Garg

options. Mobility and sailing are needed, not stability. Stability gives satisfaction, but the motivation to move forward comes from diversity. Choice, dynamism and diversity drive forward in every walk of life.

Energetic and talented person does not walk on the paimaal path. He seeks out new avenues and therefore enjoys a diverse environment. If it was not for this, people would still be doing the same things that their old people were doing years ago. There would have been no new inventions, nor plants providing various facilities would have been available. That is, what we call progress, it does not happen and it is visible in every area of life. Be it normal life or art and other genres. Travel on foot or by bullock cart to airplane, internet and smartphone proves the same. The journey is still on, new tools are being made all the time.

Now take the game itself. In every game, the same player is remembered, whose style of playing is different from others. In cricket, someone plays well on the on side, while some on the off side. Someone's style is aggressive, someone's protective. The classic player is the one who changes the form of the game with his own game. Be it

Bradman, George Headley, Hobbs, Hammond or Schenwar. The style of playing in hockey has also changed from time to time. Individual performance was important and dribbling was important, then gradually the game became artistic and the importance of physical strength increased and the practice of sending big 'passes', that is, sending the ball to the partner by far. It is this difference that gives impetus to every sphere of life. If all are roses, jasmine or mogra, then life will become dull.

Beauty shines in different colors in every area. The distinct style of each player sets him apart from other players and earns him a place in the list of the greatest players of all time. Those who have seen Shemwame's magical spin skills can hardly forget the ball on which he bowled Mike Gatting and which is remembered as the best ball of the century.

The color of each flower, its fragrance and the soil of each place are different from each other. In the same way, human being, his nature and his every style, despite being different from each other, are all intrinsically linked to each other by some invisible thread. This unity of difference is the speciality of life. It is strange and also surprising that even people of conflicting nature and style seem to be tied to each other in some way or the other. Attraction may seem strange even in mutual opposition, but it happens. Distance between similar people and attraction among dissimilar people is not new.

When different types of dishes are served on a plate at one place, only then the beauty of those dishes and plate increases. Similarly, the whole glory of different things shines only when they are collected at one place.

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Amid fourth wave threat, India reports over 2,500 new COVID-19 cases, 44 fresh fatalities

Agency
New Delhi, April 24:

Amid growing concerns about a possible fourth wave of coronavirus, India reported more than 2,500 fresh COVID-19 cases for the second consecutive day on Sunday.

A total of 2,593 people tested positive for COVID-19 in a day, pushing the total tally of cases to 4,30,57,54, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has risen to 5,22,193 with 44 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national

COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded as 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease increased to 4,25,19,479, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent. The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.59 per cent and the weekly positivity rate as 0.54 per cent, according to the ministry.

So far, a total of 187.67 crore doses of COVID vaccines have been administered in the country under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold a virtual meeting with chief ministers on the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country on Wednesday.

and Mizoram and advised them to maintain strict watch and take pre-emptive action, if required, in areas of concern to control any emerging spread of COVID-19.

He also urged the states to focus on monitoring clusters of new cases and containment efforts for curbing the spread of the infection as well as on vaccination of the eligible population, including primary vaccination and administration of precaution doses.

Earlier on April 8, Centre has written to five states - Delhi, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra and Mizoram - asking them to maintain a strict watch and take pre-emptive action if required.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan will make a presentation on the matter, official sources said on Saturday, PTI reported.

India has been witnessing a spike in the number of coronavirus cases, triggering fears of a possible fourth wave of the pandemic. Several states, including Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana that recently dropped the mask mandate have once again made it compulsory for people to wear a face mask in public places.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday wrote to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra,

and take pre-emptive action, if required, in areas of concern to control any emerging spread of COVID-19.

He also urged the states to focus on monitoring clusters of new cases and containment efforts for curbing the spread of the infection as well as on vaccination of the eligible population, including primary vaccination and administration of precaution doses.

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Assam Rifles apprehends UG



IT News
Imphal, April 24:

Khoupum Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) in a joint operation with Manipul Police

apprehended an active insurgent of proscribed group UNLF from YumnamKhunou, Bishupur district on April 22.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles and Manipul Terriers along with

Manipul Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension.

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

Amid uptick in COVID cases, PM Modi to hold virtual meeting with CMs on April 27

Agency
New Delhi, April 24:

Amid a sudden surge in coronavirus cases in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold a virtual meeting with chief ministers on the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country on Wednesday.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan will make a presentation on the matter, official sources said on Saturday, PTI reported.

India on Saturday logged 2,527 fresh coronavirus infections, pushing the country's cumulative caseload to 4,30,54,952 while active cases

have increased to 15,079. The death toll has increased to 5,22,149 with 33 fatalities on Saturday.

India has been witnessing a spike in the number of coronavirus cases, triggering fears of a possible fourth wave of the pandemic. Several states, including Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana that recently dropped the mask mandate have once again made it compulsory for people to wear a face mask in public places.

Earlier this week, a researcher from Chennai's Institute of Mathematical Sciences said that India's R-value, which indicates how quickly the in-

fection is spreading rose to over one for the first time since January.

If R-value goes above 1, it means that the number of active cases has increased. R-value should be contained below 1 to control the pandemic.

The country's R-value stood at 1.07 for the week between April 12-18, according to Sitabhra Sinha. In the preceding April 5-11 week, it was 0.93, PTI reported.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday wrote to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Mizoram and advised them to maintain strict watch

and take pre-emptive action, if required, in areas of concern to control any emerging spread of COVID-19.

He also urged the states to focus on monitoring clusters of new cases and containment efforts for curbing the spread of the infection as well as on vaccination of the eligible population, including primary vaccination and administration of precaution doses.

Earlier on April 8, Centre has written to five states - Delhi, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra and Mizoram - asking them to maintain a strict watch and take pre-emptive action if required.

AR and MU organises North East Seminar

IT News
Imphal, April 24:

Assam Rifles and Manipul University organised North East Seminar at Manipul University (MU) on April 22. A Guest Lecture was delivered on the subject Future Contours of India's Act East Policy in the Emerging Geo Strategic Environment by Mr Jaideep Saikia,

a renowned expert on North East region.

Maj Gen D K Singh ADG Assam Rifles was the Chief Guest in the event. The lecture was attended by a number of Army and Assam Rifles officers, veterans, civil dignitaries and faculties of Manipul University.

During the seminar, the speaker chronologically high-

lighted the shift from Look East to Act East Policy with historical perspectives. The significance & challenges in manifestation of the policy, issues of concern with Myanmar, China and the NE regions were amply brought out. At the end of the seminar, the speaker also answered the queries posed by faculties and students of MU.

India suspends tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals: IATA

Agency
New Delhi, April 24:

India has suspended tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals, global airlines body IATA told its member carriers on April 20.

India has been raising with China the plight of approximately 22,000 Indian students enrolled in Chinese universities who are unable to go back for physical classes. However, the neighbouring country has till date refused to let them enter.

These students had to leave their studies in China and come to India when the Covid-19 pandemic began in the beginning of 2020.

In a circular issued on April

20 regarding India, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said, "Tourist visas issued to nationals of China (People's Republic) are no longer valid."

It said the following passengers are allowed to enter India: nationals of Bhutan, India, Maldives and Nepal; passengers with a residence permit issued by India; passengers with visa or an e-visa issued by India; passengers with an overseas citizen of India (OCI) card or booklet; passengers with a persons of Indian origin (PIO) card; and passengers with a diplomatic passport.

The IATA also said that tourist visas with a validity of 10 years are no longer valid.

The IATA is a global airlines body with around 290 members that comprise more than 80 per cent of global air traffic.

India has urged Beijing to adopt a "congenial stance" in the matter as the continuation of the strict restrictions is putting the academic careers of thousands of Indian students in jeopardy, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said on March 17.

Bagchi said a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson had stated on February 8 that China was looking into the matter in a coordinated manner and that arrangements for allowing foreign students to return to China were being examined.

"But let me clarify that till date, the Chinese side has not given any categorical response about the return of Indian students. We will continue to urge the Chinese side to adopt a congenial stance in the interest of our students and that they facilitate an early return to China so that our students can pursue their studies," Bagchi said.

He said the issue was also taken up with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a meeting in Dushanbe in September last year. The two foreign ministers had held talks in the Tajik capital city on the sidelines of a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Medical Camp held

IT News
Imphal, April 24:

Khuga Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) organised a medical camp at Singhat,

Churachandpur district yesterday.

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

tele-consultation, food safety, family planning issues etc. The health checkup was carried out by Medical Officer from Assam Rifles. More than 260 locals benefited from the medical camp.

Assam Rifles organises 'Know Your Army Mela'

IT News
Imphal, April 24:

Chassad Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (S) organised 'Know Your Army MELA' for students at Chassad, Kamjong District yesterday.

85 motivated young boys and girls from three schools, willing to join the Indian Armed Forces, witnessed a demonstration of firing, Karate and Weapons & Equipments display. The youths were thrilled to see such an elaborate layout of sophisticated weapons and equipments.

The youth were also briefed about nuances of the re-



recruitment procedures including aspects from document inspection to medical fitness, physical and academic ability requirements for joining the Armed Forces. Youths from the remote areas were also guided

and motivated to aim for future recruitment rallies.

As a token of continued association, all the three schools were provided with a set of dictionaries to be kept in their respective School libraries.

As Congress gets ready to induct Prashant Kishor, Sonia Gandhi cracks the whip on poll-bound states

Agency
New Delhi, April 24:

Even as the Congress is getting ready to induct poll strategist Prashant Kishor, AICC interim chief Sonia Gandhi is trying to get the party's house in order in several states, including Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh etc. Interestingly, while Prashant Kishor has not talked about internal Congress dynamics and factionalism in various state party units, his induction has been intrinsically linked to sweeping changes in the grand party on the parameters of winnability in the 2024 general elections and a need for



a non-Gandhi leader at the helm of party affairs.

Rajasthan is high on Sonia Gandhi's agenda, where contender Sachin Pilot is staking a claim. Informed sources say a move to end the Rajasthan im-

passe may come shortly after a 'Chintan Shivir' [brain-storming session] being planned in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The big question is whether incumbent Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot be asked to take up a senior posi-

tion in the AICC secretariat? And more importantly, would the 70-year-old former magician accept it willingly?

In a rather uncharacteristic manner, Gehlot has himself started talking about a change of guard in Rajasthan, hours after Pilot called on Sonia Gandhi. The chief minister, as if stung by something behind the scenes, remarked that his resignation letter is permanently with interim AICC chief Sonia Gandhi. "My resignation is permanently with Sonia Gandhi. When Congress decides to change the chief minister, no one will get a hint. No deliberation will be done on it [changing CM]. Con-

gress high command is independent to take decisions."

Interestingly, Prashant Kishor or PK as he is fondly called, in his presentation before Sonia Gandhi and top Congress leaders, had harped on the theme of winnability criteria for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, particularly in states like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, where the Congress is in a direct contest against the BJP. The big question is whether the Congress in Rajasthan is better equipped to deliver more parliamentary seats under Gehlot or Sachin Pilot's leadership. Informed party sources say AICC general secretary in-charge of Rajasthan,

Ajay Maken has submitted a detailed report. Pilot, it is believed, has given Sonia Gandhi a firm assurance to work with anyone she deems fit to lead the Congress to victory in the November-December 2023 state assembly polls.

Another key point in the PK demonstration was a need for a non-Gandhi leader to occupy a high office in the AICC secretariat. An informal search [rather subjective though] within the Congress ranks places both Gehlot and Pilot in contention. Perhaps just as a coincidence, four Rajya Sabha berths are coming up for grabs in Rajasthan in June 2022. The Congress has a

fair chance to net three seats. The buzz in 24 Akbar Road is that Rajya Sabha nomination would play a crucial role in ending the Rajasthan impasse.

The Congress's Punjab 'misadventure' of appointing Charanjit Singh Channi 114 days before the state assembly polls is said to be playing on Sonia Gandhi's mind. The AICC chief has reportedly been getting inputs that if a change of guards is indeed required in Rajasthan, it should happen at least one and a half years before the state polls. In this context too, the time period between mid-May and June 2022 assumes significance.

Covishield has least neutralizing power against Omicron's BA.1 variant, Boosters needed: NIV Study

Agency
New Delhi, April 24:

Covishield recipients with no history of Covid have shown the least neutralizing power against Omicron's BA.1 variant, a study conducted by the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) have found, indicating need for booster shots.

"With the highest mutations in the spike region, Omicron also showed better immune escape in breakthrough cases than other variants. Breakthrough cases jabbed with Covishield, however, had highest neutralizing antibodies against all variants studied, than recovered and Covid-naïve vaccinated individuals," an ICMR scientist told The Times of India.

To conduct the research, serum samples were collected from 24 Covid-naïve individuals 180 days after they were administered with the second dose of Covishield and from 17 people who had earlier recovered from Covid and vaccinated with two doses of Covishield. In the third group, 46 people who got SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infection after two doses of Covishield were included.

The serum samples of third group were collected 14-30 days after their infection and out of the 46 breakthrough cases, complete genome could be retrieved of only 21 cases, the TOI reported.

Earlier, the NIV had found out that neutralising antibody levels waned after six months in those who were fully vaccinated

against the coronavirus with Covishield, Covaxin and a mix of both — Covishield in the first dose and Covaxin as the second dose with regard to Omicron variant.

The heterologous vaccination regimen of administering the first dose of Covishield, followed by the second dose of Covaxin, however, had given a very good neutralising response against Delta and other Variants of Concern, Dr Pragna Yadav, a scientist at the NIV, said.

The study findings were published in the Journal of Travel Medicine recently. The study involved three cohorts — a heterologous group with 18 individuals who were inadvertently administered the first dose of Covishield and the second dose

of Covaxin in Uttar Pradesh and the other two groups comprising 40 individuals each receiving two doses of homologous Covishield or Covaxin.

For the Covishield study, scientists later assessed the neutralization potential of these serum samples against B.1, Delta, Beta and Omicron variants. "All the three groups neutralized B.1, Beta and Delta variants more effectively than Omicron. Geometric average concentrations of neutralizing antibodies in the serum of Covid-naïve group were found to be lowest against Omicron — at 0.11. This average in the recovered cases was 11.28 and 26.25 in case of breakthrough cases," the ICMR scientist said.

Exhibition on Applique and Embroidery Crafts program initiated

IT News
Imphal, April 24:



The Exhibition on Applique and Embroidery Crafts Programme is initiated yesterday at Chingakhom Lampak, Thangmeiband, Imphal West, Manipur. Its Programme will be continued till May 2, 2022. It is organised by Network of Rural Upliftment (NERU), Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai, Imphal and sponsored by O/o The Development Commissioner (H) Ministry of Textile, Govt of India. This exhibition is held under the scheme of AHVY Scheme.

Th. Ravi Singh, Manager, Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., Paona Bazar joined this inaugurated Programme as Chief Guest and Salam Bihari Singh, President

of NHYOC as president of the function. The guest of Honours of the inaugurated function are Yumnam Jagyashwori Devi, Assistance Director (H) Handicrafts Service Centre, Imphal said that it is 10 days exhibition Programme started from April 23, 2022 and concluded at May 2, 30 cluster as the part of this exhibition Programme and they demonstrated and sales their product in this program.

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KYKL Chairman initiates discourse on revolutionary ideology.....

To name a few significant reasons for the Kanglei revolutionary movement's downward spiral, the following can be mentioned: most of our leaders' inability to follow Che Guevara's revolutionary principle that revolutionaries should behave like ascetics in the last 30/40 years; a slew of antirevolutionary acts committed during the revolutionary movement to deal with the challenges encountered; incorrect mass leadership methods; non-revolutionary method to forging relationships between the masses and revolutionary cadres; and lack of ideological indoctrination among new members of the organization.

"While our set goals are correct, our practice has disempowered the people in spite of empowering them, thus expediting Indian colonialists' plan to totally infringe on people's power.

"Rather than equipping the masses with revolutionary con-

sciousness, Kanglei revolutionary organizations focused all their efforts on strengthening their respective organizations. To make their goal of swaying people's consciousness a reality, the mass based organizations became fragmented, and many cultural norms were distorted, resulting in the breakdown of the collective Kanglei identity and consciousness. Moreover, the situation has expedited the breakdown of societal moral and behavioral fabric, which has been imbued with our uniqueness. It has imposed a value to the people of rather than elevating people's consciousness to stand on their own two feet by fostering unity among them and establishing their own economy, the Kanglei revolutionary organization encouraged people to rely on them, and Indian leaders, much like Indian colonial rulers did, the rise of the vile culture, such as the transformation of Yaosang donation into a busi-

ness and the thronging of people at the gates of ministers/MLAs to beg for money, is equally the responsibility of Kanglei revolutionary organizations. Rather than aiming to make people more free and human, we have molded their thoughts to become even more dependent beings. Corruption and injustice are rooted in society as a result of revolutionary groups' anti-revolutionary practices. It is certainly true that they have engaged in many sorts of corruption, injustice, and wrongdoings to encourage party supporters and build a revolutionary base in society. In addition, numerous instances of injustice have been committed in the guise of bringing justice. They acted as counsels for the wrongdoers while sitting in a judge's chair. Thus, revolutionary organizations and supporters play a critical role in shaping our current society, which is marked by a lack of social justice.

"We have never fully applied the political, organizational, and leadership method of the mass line, in which we learn from the masses and interpret what we learn via Marxism-Leninism to re-connect with the people so that the masses and revolutionaries can build an inseparable relationship. On countless occasions, the revolutionaries had oppressed the masses for no apparent reason. They are yet to realize the revolutionary principle of revolutionary people serving as ideal figures for the masses. The task of transforming new members into real revolutionaries is still not on the correct track. One of the causes of issues related to maintaining party discipline, organizational instability, and frequent party splits, among other things, is this incorrect method of imparting correct revolutionary doctrines to the new party members. There are many more non-revolutionary practices in addition to those listed here. There are also a number of flaws in the way organizational structures are built. It is not an attribute of a revolutionary to come to the conclusion that the revolutionary movement must be abandoned and capitulated to the enemy if the movement moves backwards, rather than sorting out all of these mistaken ideas and practices in order to form a new type of revolutionary party based on correct revolutionary principles. This is a staunchly anti-revolutionary position. We must not, in any case, act in this manner. It is never too late to turn a revolutionary movement around in the correct direction. A revolutionary party that is on the correct path cannot be stopped. The annihilation of the revolutionary movement has grave consequences for the indigenous people of the region. It may be stated that we, the indigenous peoples of the region, are rushing towards extinction.

It is the epochal task of true revolutionaries and revolutionary organizations to ensure the organizations' continuity and consistency, and re-invigorate in order to safeguard the people from such catastrophic situations. Many lives and generations may have been lost in the process of completing this historic task. Several revolutionary efforts have been recorded as taking a long time to win throughout human history. People or organizations that join revolutionary movements when the situation is advantageous to the movement but join the enemy when the circumstance is unfavorable to the movement are not revolutionaries or revolutionary organizations. Given the objective conditions in the WESEA region, we must continue the revolutionary struggle and remain consistent in our commitment to the cause. Although Hijam Irabot's followers had surrendered to the Indian political

structure, he never kowtowed to his enemies, but instead lived in jungles and rugged terrains until the end of his life. After his death 12 years later, a few of his followers set up a revolutionary organization that carried on the Kanglei revolutionary movement to this day. Our generation now has to follow his footsteps and uphold his revolutionary ideals. It is an undeniable objective reality substantiated by both internal and external conditions that if we launch a revolutionary movement in Kangleipak without disrupting the historical trajectory of revolutionary movements in this region, the movement will spread like wildfire throughout the entire WESEA region in no time. The above viewpoints have been presented to all revolutionaries and Kanglei people for further debate and discussion regarding its precincts, viability, correctness, incorrectness, and limitations", the KYKL chief said.

Sports

Santosh Trophy: Manipur blanks Karnataka to enter semifinals

Agency
Malappuram, April 24:

A ruthless Manipur blanked Karnataka 3-0 to enter the semifinals of the Santosh Trophy National Football Championship at the Kottappadi Stadium in Malappuram on Saturday.

Striker Lumlinlen Haokip struck a brace (18 & 42) while Somishon Shirak (44) scored the other goal as Manipur completed its league engagements with nine points from four matches.

Karnataka paid the price for some tardy defending in the first half. From the start, the Karnataka defence looked susceptible to swift counters from the Manipur side. The opening goal came through a fast break when Somishon Shirak moved up through the right flank and easily warded off the challenge from Darshan to arrow in a pass to Lumlinlen who scored from close.

Manipur held the aces and translated its dominance when Lumlinlen broke free from



left and rounded off a couple of defenders to score his second goal in the 42nd minute. Two minutes later, Somishon profited from another slack marking and he found space to fire in a shot which was parried by Karnataka goalkeeper Jayanth Kumar. However, the rebound came to Somishon who tapped in to increase the lead.

Karnataka gave a vastly improved performance in the second half but Manipur defence didn't allow any leeway and the North East side played percentage football to preserve its lead.

Manipur struck their third from a through ball that found Shirak with a lot of space. His first shot was saved superbly by Jayanthkumar

Krishnamurthy but Shirak poked home the rebound to make it 3-0 at the stroke of half-time.

In the second-half, Manipur were content to hold their shape and try to hit Karnataka on the break.

Karnataka put up a much improved display after the break but they had nothing to show for their efforts.

Rajasthan United back to winning ways with clinical 2-0 victory against NEROCA

Agency
Naihati, April 24:

Two second-half goals for Rajasthan United against NEROCA FC were enough to end their four-game winless run in the Hero I-League at the Naihati Stadium here on Saturday. A goal from Biswa Darjee right after half-time and a late strike from Pedro Manzi got Rajasthan off to a winning start in Phase II of the tournament.

Unlike the Phase I encounter between these two sides, the game got off to a very cagey and slow start. Neither goalkeeper was tested as the final-third performance of both sides was disappointing. When it looked promising, the attacks were stalled by astute defending at both ends.

Aman Thapa looked menacing down the left and won a corner inside five minutes. The ball from the set piece ended up at the feet of Julian Omar Ramos, who shot it straight into the stands behind the goal.

Shortly after that, Rajasthan lost the ball cheaply in their own half but Ricky Shabong was alert and calmly intercepted and nodded a lofted ball back to his keeper.

Shabong's game was cut short after an unfortunate injury forced him to go off just before the half-hour mark. Biswa Darjee came on to replace Shabong as Rajasthan United trotted forward with Pritam Singh. Singh shot from distance and kept it on target but failed to get the required power on it as keeper Shubham Dhas collected the ball easily.

In first-half stoppage time, Anil Chawan came flying in with a strong challenge on Abdul Salam and got his name taken by the referee. NEROCA were unable to cause any damage from the resulting free-kick after it was hurled in towards Sergio Mendigutxia. The first half ended with Rajasthan having only one shot on-target and NEROCA with none.

The second half was not-

ing like the first. Aman Thapa won a corner after forcing a save out of Shubham Dhas from close range. From the resulting corner, the ball was cleared off the line by Lallenmang Sithouh.

The very next attack resulted in the opening goal of the match. Sardor Jakhonov put a delightful cross into the box from the left and substitute Biswa Darjee headed it into the back of the net. The header was quite close to Shubham Dhas and the keeper could have done better with that effort.

NEROCA were trailing and an injury to Ben Nash Quansah added to their concerns. The defender was stretched out but came back on to bring some relief to his side. NEROCA almost equalised when Abdul Salam picked out Sergio Mendigutxia with a long throw into the box. Keeper Bhaskar Roy came forward to collect it but spilled it in the process. Luckily for him, his defence was alert and dealt with the ball well.