

## Hospitalisation benefits under CMHT increased to 5 Lakhs

IT News  
Imphal, April 4:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today made an announcement to increase the free hospitalization benefit under the Chief Minister's Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT) Scheme from Rs. 2 Lakh to Rs. 5 Lakh per family per year. The announcement was made during a press briefing held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

The State Cabinet had decided to increase the benefit amount considering the success of CMHT in the past 4 years and its benefit to poor and vulnerable families of the State.

The Chief Minister further stated that the Health for All Scheme, which was launched to provide door-to-door health screening for primary health care and chronic disease management, had covered around 300 villages so far. All

villages of the State would be covered soon, he added. Mentioning that 5.24 Lakh poor beneficiaries had been enrolled under CMHT, he added that more than 83000 beneficiaries have received benefits of free hospitalisations of upto Rs 2 Lakhs per family per year in Private or Government hospitals in the last 4 years.

N. Biren continued that the State Government had launched Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission to scale up inclusive growth and development in all the 68 Sub-Divisions of the State. Prabhari Officers consisting of IAS, IRS, IFS, MCS and MFS Officers, had been appointed for each Sub-Division. The Prabhari Officers in coordination with local leaders would conduct a family wise survey to identify the needs of the people. He further stated that the step

had been taken to provide a source of livelihood for every household. The Prabhari Officers would also have discussion with residents and officials of Sub-division on "One Sub-division One Product" and also analyse the population profile of Sub-division with an aim of providing sustainable livelihood for each household, he added.

He further informed that the State Cabinet had approved to increase the corpus fund for Manipur StartUp from earlier Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 100 crores. The State Government would tie up closely with Government schemes, NEDFI and partnership with DPIT and other stakeholders with focus on providing a better eco system for nurturing growth of StartUps and marketing linkages. New StartUp 2.0 Policy and Guidelines would

be finalized within 100 days, he added.

Mentioning the recently launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign, N. Biren stated rain water harvesting methods would be set up in all offices, institutions and schools to conserve water. Instructions had also been given to officials concerned to start work for conserving wetlands so as to mitigate environmental degradation, he stated. He informed that steps would be initiated to take action against illegal construction carried out on paddy land after 2014 to preserve and save agricultural land. Zila Parishads, Pradhans and official concerns had been informed on the matter.

Stating that making out a long-term plan for at least 50 years from now, the State Cabinet had decided to widen State Highways, District

Highways and Inter-Village Roads. He appealed to the public to support and cooperate in such an initiative considering its necessity. Stressing on development of catchment areas, he stated that a meeting consisting of MLAs of hill districts, Autonomous District Councils and Bureaucrats would be held to take steps for the same. He was also hopeful that deforestation carried out for shifting cultivation would become lesser with the initiatives of the state Government to provide means of livelihood for every household.

Power Minister Thongam Biswajit, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Yumnam Khemchand, Works Minister Govindas Konthoujam, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar and other Government officials also attended the press conference.

## The Editorial

### MOMA impact on organic farmers

The world today has started showing serious concern about organic food products, as in-organic food products which we consume in our everyday life turns out to be a slow poison as killer pesticides, chemical fertilizers and many others are used to double the products. As the people of the entire world today started understanding the health hazard in consuming crops or fruits that are produce using chemical fertilizers, almost all human kind who are aware of these hazardous products started preferring organic products - either it may be paddy, fruits or vegetables. For quite long Manipur farmers even though understand the ill impact of using chemical fertilizer in crop production, still continue to use it as it was the only means for better crop production. This was because the farmers were left with no choice as high quantity production was the only way that they earn some income that can sustain their livelihood. They never thought that there is a bigger market that can earn even more than those crops produced using chemical market by scientifically producing organic crops.

Manipur Organic Mission Agency in short MOMA, under the Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation turn out to be a blessing not only for the state but for all people across the world. While speaking to a media sensitization workshop organised by Khelen Thochom trust (KIT) at Manipur Mountaineering Institution, Lamdan in Churachandpur district on Sunday, Project Director of MOMAK. Devadutta said that today MOMA has been planting organic food on land measuring 37,500 hectore under Manipur Organic Value Chain Development of North East Region and maintain that MOMA has sold organic food amounting around Rs. 89 crore to other states since 2016. He also said that the MOMA is considering to use floating Biomass in Loktak Lake to use as fertilizer in organic farming. This is perhaps a good initiative which need to be appreciated and supported not only by the people but also by the government as it will reduce use of chemical fertilizers.

Chongtham Shanta , who is also the chairman of Chakha Poiraiton Organic Farmers Producer company said that the annual turn over for the company is nearly 4 crore. This message needs to be spread far and wide to the farmers across the state as it will encourage farmers in producing organic crops.

Interesting Dr. L. Jeebit Singh, Project Officer, MOMA inform about the demand of the organic food not only in the state of Manipur and India but also at other countries. Manipur at present has turn out to be one of the best state for enhancing production of the organic crops due to the carbon contain of the cultivable site.

Pine Apple, orange, Lemon etc. which are abundantly available in the state if planted using scientific organic method, it is sure that farmers will double their income. As for the market, the MOMA is ready to do it and the farmers need not worry.

## Zeliangrong Solidarity Day observed

IT News  
Imphal, April 4:

Zeliangrong Solidarity Day (Chukthoibe, Chukthoibo, Chuksumei) which was performed on 1st April, 1934 at Tamenglong District Head Quarter, where 37 prominent Zeliangrong leaders hailed from different parts of Zeliangrong territory took part and recorded their attendance was commemorated today at Longjang (Thangal) village, Noney District, Manipur. Zeliangrong Civil Organisations choose Longjang village as the programme venue for the 88th anniversary of the Zeliangrong Solidarity Day and pay respect and honour to late Mr.

Tingnampou Pamei who was one of the attendees of the great event and to uphold the legacy of those prominent leader who stood strong for the unity of Zeliangrong people. It is recorded and orally relayed by elders that the Zeliangrong Solidarity Oath was performed by late Mr. Tadangbe Newme from Magulung village of Tousem Sub Division who was a popular local quack (priest). The customary ritual was performed at the house of Mr. Lunglinbou Newmai of Chakha village who was serving as a Lambu posted at Tamenglong District Hq during the British administration period, in the presence of many prominent Zeliangrong leaders.

## NEDF condemn the series of inhumane action of the Army towards the civilians in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland

IT News  
Imphal, April 4:

The North East Dialogue Forum (NEDF) has expressed strong condemnation to the series of inhumane action of the Army towards the civilians in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. A statement said that On April, 2022, NEDF received information that two civilians were indiscriminately shot at by the Army in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh. The incident took place at Chasa village at evening when the two villagers Nokphya Wangdan (28) and Ramwang Wangsu (23), were returning

home after fishing in a river. One of the injured was hit by a bullet in the ulna of his hand, while the other's bullet injury was on the toe. It has been reported that the two injured persons were orphan. Fortunately the two injured villagers were able to save their lives after receiving treatment at the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh. The NEDF also condemned the killing of two civilians in Tirap District on March 21. It could be mentioned that in December, 2021 wherein 14 civilians (daily wage earners) were shot dead by the Army posted at Mon District of

Nagaland. The target to civilians by the Army under the AFSPA, 1958 is highly questionable. In all these killings, no proper investigation are being initiated neither the perpetrators are booked under the rule of law for which we urge the Union Minister of Home Affairs to imitate proper investigation.

While appreciating the reduce of AFSPA the NEDF appeal to the Government of India to repeal Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and direct the Army and the Assam Rifles to stop killing and harassing the civilians in the North Eastern States of India.

## Fuel price hike: Centre has passed on burden to poor people through rising inflation

By KR Sudhaman  
New Delhi

The Narendra Modi government may be elated at the ever increasing GST collections in recent months with the revival of the economy. A record GST collections of Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March this year is good and it also indicates that more and more industries and traders are getting into the tax net besides gradual shrinking of grey market and tax evasion by business.

This also reflects of the fact that more and more of the economy is getting formalized and opportunity for evasion decreasing. Though implementation of GST in the initial stages was faulty and tardy, it is now gaining momentum which augurs well for the economy.

Bringing Diesel and petrol into GST net will do a lot of good in reducing the fuel prices provided government abolishes various cess, whose revenue is not shared with states and only goes to the central tax kitty. Shedding

various cess on fuel will enable the central government to push through this idea in the GST council with more states supporting. This has however to be worked upon in GST council.

At the moment both centre and states bleed the common man, poor and middle class by collecting whopping Rs 6 lakh crore from petrol, diesel and other fuel oil taxes by way excise and state VAT. This is not sustainable besides being inflationary. Both centre and states may be happy it is easy and lazy way of collecting huge taxes from one commodity. Liquor and tobacco, called sin goods, are the few other items, which are exploited year after year to mop up huge revenue at the cost of common man. Irrespective of high taxes alcoholics and tobacco users do not reduce their consumption of liquor and tobacco despite being injurious to health because they being addictive in nature. The high taxes too in a way ruin these poor families. High taxes do not deter them from their consumption but instead

these families have less income for other necessities. This is a dilemma and a paradoxical situation as high taxes hardly fulfils the social responsibility. Prohibition does not work as it is difficult to implement and hence it leads to more tax evasion and malpractices. So instead both central and state governments are happy to collect more revenue from just one source though detrimental to social well-being and health of the people.

Be that as it may there is another serious issue which needed to be pondered over that is balancing the proportion of direct taxes and indirect tax collections. It is a known fact indirect taxes are considered regressive and direct taxes progressive. As per OECD recommendations, ideally every country should collected 60 per cent of their tax revenue from direct taxes and 40 per cent from indirect taxes. In case of India, the best case scenario was achieved during UPA government when it collected close to 55 per cent of tax revenue from direct taxes and 45 per cent from indirect taxes.

Lately with GST, high excise duty on petrol, diesel, ATF, LPG and so on besides high taxes on alcohol and tobacco, central government gets 55 per cent of its revenue from indirect taxes and around 45 per cent from direct taxes. This has put the government in bind in achieving OECD targets.

Indirect taxes are considered regressive because it does not differentiate between rich and poor. For example a steep hike in indirect taxes of fuel affect poor and the middle class most as compared to the rich. To cite an example, a person earning Rs 5000 may be spending Rs 500 on fuel, which accounts for 10 per cent of his income. A person earning Rs 50000 may be spending Rs 3000 on fuel, which may account for six per cent of income. Likewise a person with Rs 5 lakh income may be spending Rs 5000 which accounts from one per cent of his income and a person with Rs 50 lakh income may be spending 10,000 to 12,000 on fuel for his personal vehicle, which forms just half a per cent of his income. Proportionately the incidence

of tax decreases. In other words, it rewards the rich much more than the poor. In reality the rich should pay more proportion of their income as taxes and the poor less and that does not happen in the case of indirect taxes.

While in the case of direct taxes, there is a slab system and higher the income, higher the taxes. So also corporate taxes. Unfortunately in India corporate taxes have been reduced substantially to enable companies have more of their profits with them to increase their investments. But in reality last several years, corporates have not been investing due to excess capacity across the board in all industries. As a result the companies have higher earnings because of less taxes and this is given by of higher dividends putting more money in the hands of rich for not buying more luxury items. Due to higher demand from luxury items, the manufacturing too become lopsided. As it is only six crore of the 140 crore population pay direct taxes by way of income tax and

industrialists forming very small percentage pay corporate tax. Rich farmers do not pay tax on their farm produce as agriculture income is exempt from tax. One failed to understand why should their not be agriculture income tax with a threshold limit just as in the case of personal income tax so that poor and marginal farmers do not pay agriculture income tax. This will not only make rich farmers pay tax but also bring about equity in the tax system. But rich farmers lobby is strong because many of them are politicians as well.

While it is welcome that GST has helped in gradually reducing tax evasion by business community, the idea of not widening direct tax net and giving huge concessions to industries by way of relief, exemptions and lower corporate taxes are not appropriate for having balanced tax structure with fair proportion of direct and indirect taxes. In advanced economies get much more revenue from direct taxes and a large section of the

population pay direct taxes. Hence they also have good social safety net, which is lacking for majority of the population in India. This also helps in keeping the tax rates lower with the tax net widening without impinging upon higher revenue. GST is a good indirect tax but the rates have to be lower and the attempt should be to move towards single rate for easy administration. Corporates should also be made to pay more by eliminating various exemptions they get so that rich contribute more to the tax kitty.

Tamil Nadu finance minister P T R Thiagarajan has been vociferously advocating the need to reverse the topsy-turvy tax system in the country. One only hopes the debate to bring about an appropriate mix of direct and indirect tax collections gather momentum so as to ensure poor and middle class pay less percentage of their actual income as taxes. It is also time to look at taxing agriculture income. Besides equity in tax structure it will also help in plugging tax evasion. (IPA Service)



By - M. R. LALU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) once again proved its uninterrupted and indubitable proximity towards what its political adversaries call an aggressive push of the Hindutva agenda. This time it is about the inclusion of the Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus in the party ruled state of Gujarat. Karnataka, another BJP ruled state recently witnessed upheavals in the name of Hijab. The Hijab controversy was scoffed at as a deliberate weapon that the BJP consciously brought out from its Hindutva casket, propelling an issue well before its bastion Uttar Pradesh went to polls. The issue remained in discussion for months until the appellants were told by the court to stop unnecessary commotions and directing them to fall in line with the democratic principles of the state. The Karnataka high court candidly made its observation enlightening the minority community, by pronouncing its verdict that the Hijab had never been an integral part of Islam. For the critics it is the BJP's saffron agenda but the party is unaffected by the hubbubs of the liberals on the streets and now it has come out with a different issue. The party steered another controversy by revamping the education system with the inclusion of the Gita which it probably thinks would bring about

greater understanding among the children about India and its spiritual heritage. But the writing on the wall is incredibly indicative to a motivated push keeping an eye on the forthcoming state elections in Gujarat. A little dose of *dharma* values to the young generation, according to the party, would do greater good to any society but a complexity such as India would reciprocate to everything with a deceptive note as it has deeply been entangled in the intricacies of secularism. And secularism, except for accepting different faiths with equal benchmarks, does everything that it can; to disregard, disorient and disproportionately demean everything that is part of human life. Concerns are genuine as to why the party that is in power is taking strides in the direction of genuinely appeasing a particular community and disregarding the emotions of the other, probably by hurting their sentiments and beliefs.

The country had witnessed aggression in the name of cow vigilantism by a bunch of transgressors vandalizing the spiritual ethos that India stood for generations. Dharma or righteousness is the core principle that the Gita exhorts through its seven hundred verses. The central idea of the Gita runs through an intense friendly conversation that happens between Lord Krishna and Arjuna in the middle of the battlefield. It envisages and urges the followers to take one among the three paths that it advocates, the Karma yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga which, if simply translated could be termed as the path of sincere work, knowledge and devotion. The paths to liberation or

salvation or nirvana, according to Gita, is possible through choosing any one of the above three by following its principles diligently. The plight of Arjuna in the battlefield was terrible and disproportionate to his being, a warrior prince, and the discourse that Lord Krishna puts him through reveals the ways in which life should be lived and critically examines the folly of principles that manipulated people's mind. India and Hinduism are defined as the essence of plurality and the strength it squeezes to survive is from the unity that the plurality ultimately aims at. The idea of pluralism is directly indicating what monism stands for. Essentially, pluralism in India always maintained the impression that "ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti", which means truth is one and people call it by different names. Semitic religions exhorted that there was one spiritual principle that was capable of awarding salvation, possibly discrediting the multiplicity that India offered with more freedom and liberty-undoubtedly, perplexity and animosity taking centerstage and skepticism becoming the villain.

By including the Gita in the syllabus, does the BJP plan to impose its version of Hinduism on others. Implementation to the level

of gaining acceptance from all corners would define its purpose and the intention behind the initiative. As a country or a conglomeration of principalities, India remained and still remains to be one in essence and principle mainly due to the values that we propagated from the great epics the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Nobody can deny the fact that the spiritual essence that India is gaining acceptance across the globe, is mainly due to the secular spiritual values that the Vedas and the Upanishads and the Epics that we have been handed over through generations. Our existence during the British period remained limited to the country of "Brown Sahibs" that Lord Macaulay wanted Indians to be transformed as. He wanted a new education system based on the English culture and spirit substituting the one that traditionally existed in India which taught the world, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means the world is one family. The BJP's experimentation, introducing the Gita in school curriculum should explain the manner in which it might complicate the indispensable cord of distrust that it was successful in tying the country with. The party must take sincere efforts to win the hearts of all the stakeholders

convincing them the need of such an exercise through which the constitutional concomitance of multiplicity would be strengthened. This should also help to rediscover the spiritual essence of India which is inclusiveness in its purest form which nobody, even the immature standards of politics, should be capable of meddling with. Therefore, the party cannot have an underhanded plan to infuse the social supremacy of a particular religion. This would lead to mistrust and friction further.

With most of the Hindus and all the other Indian religions living together with acceptance in India, the presence of a large population of Muslims and Christians with their semitic credentials should also be seen with greater appreciation. The Hindus believe in Karma, the focal factor that they think would determine the destiny and a key to rebirths. This is one of the main tenets that the Gita elaborates at length and an idea that people across the globe are giving attention to. The Biblical maxim "you reap what you sow" is in line with what Lord Krishna propounded to Arjuna saying that it is the Karma that determines what we are destined to land upon. Going further Krishna makes the point clear. He says if the Karma is performed with dedication, the result is bound to be good. The Gita holds the philosophical

depth to transform young minds with a clarity of vision and the ability to untie the complexity of life. The saffron political patronage of the BJP should not be jumping into making political dividends out of the initiative that it takes to implement the Gita in curriculum. It should handle a complex philosophy such as the Gita with meticulous care. Before the curriculum is revamped in a haste, there should be preparatory exercises by experts to dilute the philosophy into a digestible fashion for the children. With exam-driven minds, the children need proper guidance to deal with the philosophy of the text while the real secular message of the Gita holds the power to strengthen them. The dilemma and the discord that Arjuna went through could hit anyone's life and the Gita offers a solution to those who sincerely seek. The whole theme of practice by the government should not end as a political gimmick making nothing solid out of it. That would break the cohesiveness in the learning atmosphere of schools, making young minds offensive to the life-giving principles available in the holy text.

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## Grasp the significance of all the regions besides zoning: We Are One

By - Taniya Khangembam

Being informed as a land of unity in diversity, India is a unique country and there's a belief system in saying by Mahatma Gandhi, "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the rest of our civilization." The land of a single mother has multi-location ranging from the Himalayas to the Northern plains to the Indian Desert to Peninsular Plateau to Coastal Plains and Islands. The gigantic geographic features, eventually lead to multi-culture in which every member of the region should acquire its knowledge as a part of nationality. The entire 28 states and 8 Union Territories excel in different aspects to create a better whole nation. Northeast India comprises the states of seven sisters: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and a brother called Sikkim. These eight members share their borders with exotic countries such as Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and China; this is one of the reasons for having mongoloid features in NE India.

Tea cultivation, oil resources, and one-horned Rhinos make Assam a famous state not only in the country but worldwide. Besides lagging in developmental activities as compared to other metro cities, the capital city of Assam, Guwahati is the gateway to the Northeast and one of the fastest emerging metro cities. Bihu dance along with the world's largest river known as Majuli resides in this state. Arunachal Pradesh, the land of the dawn-lit Sun has 26 tribes and more than 100 sub-tribes. It attracts Botanists as it is known as the Orchid State of India. The word 'Dancing Deer' is practically found in the state of Manipur as 'Sangai', one of the endangered species. The only natural floating island of Loktak Lake in Manipur is the only one in the world which is made by masses of vegetation known as Phumdis. Apart from this, the only women's market in the world and Sirui Lily are unforgettable substances of Manipur. Meghalaya is a land of Matriarchy where women have been given a higher status for upbringing within the society and the world's wettest place, Mawsynram is found here. Mizoram the land of the hill people is the place of Bamboo

Dance. Nagaland is known as the Land of Warriors for its braveness and is still famous for its outstanding performance during World War II. Tripura is famous for Ujanta Palace, jute cultivation, and many architectural styles. Sikkim is a host to Kanchenjunga, the highest peak in India. The stories of the Teesta river and Tsomgo lake have attracted a lot of tourists to Sikkim.

Knowing the distinctive features of Northeast India realized that the rest of the country also shines brilliantly in their way. Some of the mentionable areas are the importance of agriculture in Punjab, the uniqueness of Delhi's architecture, the significant features of Kerala's sex ratio, the smartness of Bangalore's IT companies, the sunset of Kanyakumari, Darjeeling of West Bengal, the lovely tribes of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, the coolness of Manali, the Chipko movement of Uttarakhand and many more.

Pleasing the significance of Rabindranath Tagore's saying: "If God had so wished, he would have made all Indians speak with one language... the unity of India has been and shall always be a unity in diversity"; every Indian is a must to restore and learn from each of their uniqueness as a family. The states must learn and share. The vibrant scenarios of Northeast India where the rest of the Indians can learn hails in the factors (a) Gender Equality : Northeast Indian states are at the top level of child sex ratio as well as the importance of matrilineal is found within the region (b) Women Empowerment : the states are well groomed about the importance of financial independence among women and education is given for both the genders similarly (c) Benevolent Characters : the people of the regions are friendly in nature and kind to their community members as well as to the others (d) Spirituality of Animism and Nature Worshipers : the people of the region are attached more to the importance of nature along with the conservation of mother earth (e) Gateway to Economic Development : the states like Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh shares their borders with foreign countries- they are the gateway to Act East Policy of India and will be the greatest trade

route with South-East Asian Countries (f) Sense of Belongingness : the people of the region have community feelings instead of individual livelihood, they help each other within their own village and is quite important to them since time immemorial to protect themselves against their enemies (g) Melting Pot of Ethnicity : the region has around 65 million and about 400 ethnic groups (h) Unbounded Hospitality, one is sure to be wondered by the warm welcoming and hospitality in Northeast India (i) Caste Less Society : the region of the northeast do not give importance to the hierarchical division within the people in the region (j) Way of Music : Shillong is known as the Rock Capital of India, almost every person in NE India can sing or play an instrument (k) Rich Culture : the culture of Northeast Indian states are mentionable in the areas of handloom & handicrafts also the colourful foods.

Just as importantly, the rest of the country blooms beautifully but differently from Northeast India. Some of them can be jotted down from the facts of - (a) Employment Opportunities: metro cities of the country are generating a huge amount of employment opportunities as compared to the Northeast region (b) Development of the Central Economy: a few of the rest of the countries are contributing economically such as from giant IT techs in Bengaluru, agricultural products from Punjab (c) Faster Public Works: roads and transportation, as well as urban developments, are more concerned mainly in South India and Northeast India lags behind it (d) Notorious Celebrities: the advancement in films, as well as artists, is more seen from other states of the country but there are fewer participants of artists or film awards from Northeast India. Having said that it doesn't mean there are fewer artists in the northeast but there's a lack of advancement and upliftment in the field of theatre (e) Sustainable Development: Kerala being the most developed region of the nation has widely formulated the importance of sustainable development. It represents a state of the highest respect for women in terms of empowering education and finances.

It is to be enlightened by Jane Elliot's saying, "We don't need a melting pot in this country, folks. We need a salad bowl. In a salad bowl, you put in different things. You want the vegetables- the lettuce, the cucumbers, the onions, the green peppers- to maintain their identity. You appreciate differences."

There's no way to overestimate the importance of learning from our sisters and brothers of the country. When we are open to learning from others, we benefit from their experience as well as our own and we can inherit their wisdom and knowledge. Indians must exchange their unique roles, collaborate, and show empathetic kindness to each other. Acquiring knowledge of each other helps the whole nation grow emotionally, avoid making further mistakes, and can often help with our decision-making.

Jawaharlal Nehru says that Indian unity is not something imposed from the outside but rather, "It was something deeper and within its fold, the widest tolerance of belief and custom was practiced and every variety acknowledged and even encouraged." As India is a rising economic powerhouse and nuclear-armed state, it is known as one of the important regional powers in the United Nations. It is because India stands in unity besides having a lot of dissimilarities within the boundaries of the region. Another charming fact is about being the largest democratic country in the world, India stands and learns together for the betterment of the present generation as well as the upcoming generation to know and show the importance of having human rights values along with liberal sentiment.

We must believe in the saying, "We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race" by Kofi Annan. Despite all the differences learning the features from others and giving the features from us which are unknown to them should be emphasized to bring our nation on top of the world. We will indeed meet any person who knows something that we don't know and the key to uniting the pieces of mind is to learn from each other.

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## Those who want stardom overnight can't survive

### Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



New singers who try to become stars overnight, do not last long. Artists who want to get everything quickly in a short span without

striving hard and learning the tricks of the trade from a master, are not able to succeed. Sustainable success demands hard work, patience, experience and abilities. This was expressed by famous Bollywood singer, musician and performer, Mika Singh. He says, "My first remuneration was Rs 75 and I learned the nuances of the music industry from established performers like Daler Mehndi among others. When my first song was released, I got Rs 1000 only as payment. After striving hard and working like an assistant to elder brother Daler, gradually I gained the status of a star." When an immature singer's song becomes a hit, he considers himself successful, whereas just on the basis of a hit, one cannot perform on the stage for three hours. Today he boasts of scores of hit songs of his own, that is why he happily performs nonstop on the stage for three hours. Many of his songs have been continuous hits over the last decade and people enjoy most of his songs.

There is no doubt that permanent success does not come overnight. Because of social media, a person can get instant fame, but he cannot reach that point overnight where people can remember him for years. For that status one has to pass through the tests of talent, hard work and experience. Because of these specialties, Mika Singh is today called the King of Bollywood music. He is a terrific performer. Mika Singh's upcoming reality show - 'Swayamvar, Mika Di Vohti' is going to start on Star Bharat channel in May, in which Mika will choose a suitable life partner for himself. It will be a musical show, in which around 30 girls will compete to attract his attention. Talking about the show, the singer said, "I am doing everything to prepare myself for marriage because I want to look good. I have reduced my diet. I am thrilled about this new chapter of my life. I am looking for a life partner who can understand me, make my family happy and take everyone along."

The singer said that his family only wants him to settle now. "I need a partner who can understand the nature of my work because I travel a lot in connection with my music shows." Congratulating Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Mika appreciated the ban on songs promoting drugs and crime by saying that the Punjab government's decision was justified. He said that he has done many shows with Bhagwant Mann in the past, who is a good hearted person. In the last two years at the time of lockdowns, Mika through his NGO - Divine Touch, arranged free langars for a thousand needy people every day. His NGO is doing various social works in many cities. The singer is going to sing a song with legendary musician AR Rehman and for actor Tiger Shroff's upcoming movie also. He has recently sung a song for Abhishek Bachchan's movie 'Dasvi'. 'Sawan me lag gai aag' is Mika's superhit song, which was recently recreated by him as a remix too. The remix got over 1 lakh reels from his Instagram fans.

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# ‘Manpuri Cinema’ authored by Meghachandra Kongbam released



**DIPR**  
**Imphal, April 4:**

Legendary Theatre Director and Writer Ratan Thiyam released a book titled ‘MANPURI CINEMA’ authored by Meghachandra Kongbam, Former Director, Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur and a member of International Federation of Film Critics, Indian Chapter (FIPRESCI-India), on Sunday, at the auditorium of JN Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal. The book is released in connection with the solemn celebration of the Manipuri Cinema 50 years.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Ratan Thiyam said that the most important part of Manipuri Cinema is its aesthetic value. While making commercial films we need to consider the various aspects of our society, he added. He

also added that Children films are lacking in our state and the filmmakers need to focus on making films which can be beneficial to the children. He appealed the filmmakers and producers of this generation to make film which reflects social values.

In his speech as president of the function, M. Joy, IAS, Commissioner IPR and Arts & Culture said that filmmakers need to focus on making film which connects the generations. He further added that we should all render our support in producing films which have social values.

Professor MC Arun, Department of Anthropology, Manipur University reviewed the book before releasing. In his review speech he said the book throws light on the environment of cinema before the actual birth of Manipuri Cinema, the works of the

pioneers of Manipuri Cinema, the life and works of the second generation filmmakers and producers, the digital era of Manipuri Cinema and the issues of Manipuri Cinema. He added that a creative outburst is needed at this hour for continuation of our creativity in the field of art and culture which is unique from others.

Meghachandra Kongbam, the author highlighting his journey in the field of art and culture as a critic of films, said that he continuously contributed articles on films from various parts of the country. After taking break for a year, he started concentrating on writing the book as a contribution of his knowledge about the various aspects of Manipuri Cinema, he added. He urged the readers for positive suggestions, criticisms etc. for further improvement of

his book.

It may be worth mentioning that Shri Meghachandra Kongbam of Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, received Swarna Kamal for the Best Film Critic in the National Film Awards in the year 2015. He is a member of Film Critics Circle of India and currently the President of Film Society of Manipur, the third oldest film society in Northeast India. He is also the founder of Cine Artistes and Technician Association Manipur. He is a regular article contributor of many cinema books published by the Federation of Film Societies of India and others edited by film scholars.

The release function was attended by many renowned filmmakers, writers, critics, artists, cine lovers and others working in the field of Manipuri Cinema.

# Wheelchair Basketball Assn. seeks support

**IT News**  
**Imphal April 3:**

Wheelchair Basketball Association Manipur has organised an Executive meeting and appointed their office bearer on March 29, 2022. L. Dhaneshwor Singh was appointed as President, Kiran Yendrembam as Vice President, Md. Yunus Khan as General Secretary and L.

Sanatombi Singh as Treasurer.

Wheelchair Basketball Association Manipur stated that many Indian disabilities players were participate at the Paralympic games. Some players got Medals in various games.

Also mention that many disabilities in Manipur want to participate in the Paralympic games. The

association sought support from the government and the people of Manipur. If the disabilities players of Manipur get support from the government and Manipur people they can surely reach to the paralympic games. Noteworthy to mention that Association decided to open a Bank Account for their development.

# Army Medical Corps celebrates its 258th Raising Day

**IT News**  
**New Delhi, April 4:**

The Indian Army celebrated 258th Raising Day of Army Medical Corps on Sunday. The Corps has the motto of “Sarve Santu Niramaya” meaning “Let all be free from disease and disability”. It has excelled in providing both peace time and combat health care to the

defence forces, medical services to UN peace keeping forces in foreign missions and during disaster management to civil authorities. It has been at the forefront of the fight against COVID for the past two years and has done selfless & outstanding service to the Nation.

To commemorate the occasion, Vice Admiral

Rajat Datta, Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services and Lieutenant General Daljit Singh, Director General of Medical Services (Army) along with Directors General of Medical Services of (Navy) & (Air) laid wreaths at the National War Memorial and paid tributes to medical personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

# NCC cadets organises Puneet Sagar Abhiyan



**IT News**  
**Imphal, April 4:**

As a part of initiative to highlight the importance of cleanliness in the surroundings and eliminate single use plastic, A nationwide campaign, Puneet Sagar Abhiyan is being organised by NCC on

Sunday. Manipur Air Squadron NCC organised rallies and drawing Competition at three different locations. A total of 77 cadets of 1 (M) Air Squadron NCC participated in the same. Various handmade posters were carried by Air Wing NCC cadets of NIT Manipur and DM University during the

rally. Cadets also delivered lectures to public on elimination of single use plastic. Also, 25 cadets of JNV Bishnupur Higher Secondary School and 26 cadets of Moirang Multipurpose Hr Sec School took part in drawing competition at Moirang.

# RIMS organises Swachhta Health Camp



**IT News**  
**Imphal, April 4:**

As a part of the Swachhta Pakhawada being observed in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Imphal from 1st – 15th April, 2022, a Swachhta Health Camp was organised at Makhan Baptist Church Koubru Hill Range, Kangpokpi District today i.e 3rd April 2022. More than 260 patients were treated during the Swachhta Health Camp. The Doctors from the Departments of Obst & Gynaecology, Dermatology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Surgery, E.N.T., Dental, Ophthalmology and Medicine were present during the Health Camp. The medicines were also given to the patients free of cost for the benefits of the patients.

The Chairman of Makhan Village, Koubru Hill Range, Kangpokpi District expressed happiness and stated that this is the first medical health camp ever held in his village. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, most of the villagers could not go to the hospital for treatment. It is

a good opportunity for the villagers that such health camp was organised in this time.

The villager Chairman and his team also presented vegetables and fruits to the RIMS doctors and staff as a token of love.

Dr. L. Trinity Meetei, Assistant Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital who heads the health camp stated that the said health camp was organised as part of the fortnight observance of Swachhta Pakhawada which is a Government of India program. During this time, many activities and programs will be observed.

Prof. Y. Govindaraj Singh, Nodal Officer, Swachhta Action Plan, RIMS also explained to the public about the importance of keeping neat and cleanliness and talked in length about Health & Hygiene.

The institute also organised a cleanliness of Casualty Block, Neuro ICU and its campus which was also participated by CRED and MSS personnel.

# Registration Certificate lost

I, The undersigned, LYNDAPOTSANGBAM do hereby declared that I have lost my Registration certificate issued by the Manipur University bearing registration Number – 17250470/2017, on the way between Kwakeithel Bazar to Paona Bazar in Imphal West on April 2, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

**LYNDAPOTSANGBAM**

Kwakeithel Thokhom Leikai,

Imphal-West,

Contact No. 8259940158

# PEACE Crafts Bazar

**Venue :** Khoyol Keithel Moirang Lamkhai  
Bishnupur District, Manipur

**Date :** 26th March to 4th April 2022  
**Time :** 10:30 a.m.

## Item Display of Sales

\*Cane & Bamboo \*Kouna Crafts \* Hand Embroidery \* Artistic Textile  
\* Woolen Shoe \* Doll & Toys \* Other Decorative Items



**Organised by:-**

People's Education for Awareness & Community Empowerment Organisation (PEACE)  
Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai, Imphal - 795001  
Manipur, India



**Sponsored by:-**

Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicraft)  
Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India, New Delhi  
R.K. Puram - 66



# Rupee-Rouble oil deal could be key plank of Putin's Sanctions-Busting

India may get Russian Oil at around half of prevailing crude prices

By -K Raveendran  
New Delhi, April 4:

The proposed rupee-rouble trade for oil will be a key ingredient, along with Russian insistence on rouble payments from European gas customers, in Putin's sanctions-busting programme. The Biden administration has obviously seen the implications of an India-Russia oil deal and it is no surprise, therefore, that Washington is trying to put pressure on New Delhi and yet without pushing things too hard as it is well aware of the limited scope of US pressure in this regard.

Russia has reportedly offered a \$35 per barrel discount for its best crude, and that too on prices that prevailed before the Ukraine invasion took place. This means that at prevailing crude prices, Russia is offering oil at about half price, which is an irresistible offer even in normal situations, but given the precarious condition of India's oil economy at present, it is nothing less than a providential helping hand. On top of that, on offer is for upwards of 15 million barrels. India's oil major Indian Oil has had a contract for such quantity for a long time, but has barely drew down on it as

the deal provides for purchases only when it is economical for the company.

For Putin, a rupee-rouble trade in oil will take some sting out of the US-sponsored sanctions as the Biden administration's gambit of starving Russian oil of demand through the embargo will fail to deliver the desired results. Russia is a leading player in the international oil market and any plan to banish it from the market would have brought disastrous consequences, which Moscow could not have withstood easily. This is what Putin has checkmated through his currency standoff with the West as well as the rupee-rouble trade with India.

The two together will limit the shock of Russia's exclusion from the SWIFT, the most critical messaging interface that facilitates global banking transactions. By insisting on rouble payments to Europe for the Russian gas supplies, Putin has thrown the ball in the European court, leaving it to Europe to figure out how to deal with the problem. As things stand, it will be a long time before European nations can manage without Russian gas and Putin knows this as well as any European government. Biden

and his allies are well aware of this vulnerability, but have so far fallen short of anything that would address the problem even remotely. The task has been further complicated by the considerations of self-preservation by individual countries.

Moscow plans to circumvent the SWIFT embargo through its indigenous 'System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS)', which is used by Russian banks to complete financial transactions. Spearheaded by the Russian central bank, SPFS has been under development since 2014, when the US had threatened to cut Russian access to SWIFT. The adoption of the alternative system has come as a fait accompli. SWIFT has been used by western nations as a trump card against detractors.

Russia has offered that the rupee-rouble trade be transacted through the SPFS platform and the issue is learnt to be among the top agenda of Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and his team, currently in India. The team is believed to include officials of the Russian central bank as well. The Russian party would most probably be its oil major

Rosneft while Indian Oil will make the purchases directly. If the deal goes through, oil to India will follow through Russia's Vladivostok Port in the far east, which will help avoid shipping hurdles from the Baltic Sea in the west and shipments can reach India's east coast refineries in fewer than 20 days.

The Modi government has so far maintained that there has been no deal with Russia for rupee-rouble trade in oil amidst media reports that the two countries are moving towards such an arrangement as it serves the purpose of both sides. The denial, however, need to be looked at only as technical as at the time of making the statement there did not exist any such deal. In fact, Russian gas major Gazprom was reportedly insisting on rouble payments for gas to be bought by GAIL.

But as Indian and Russian delegations thrash out various issues related to an oil deal using rupee-rouble platform, everything appears to be falling in place for a win-win deal between two long-time partners, whose defence partnership lends credence to closer economic and commercial relations between two major players.

(IPA Service)

## CJI N V Ramana has questioned again the credibility of CBI and other agencies

Modi Government will never allow these bodies to function as autonomous

By Sushil Kuttu  
New Delhi, April 4:

So there have been questions raised about the "actions and inactions of the CBI, regarding its credibility in some cases." But even the Supreme Court of India cannot do much on its own on this serious institution required to run the country. All that CJI N V Ramana can do is recommend, ask whosoever it concerns to "set up a statutory, independent institution" and bring under one roof all the caged birds!

That is the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). The logic: It would end multiplicity of proceedings and save them from being blamed as tools of political harassment.

Is that so? Don't blame anybody if they say it's a rather simplistic observation, solution to the "caged bird syndrome." Instead of the now multiple caged birds, there would be one big caged bird. The CJI could have done a lot more better and made a lot more sense if he had blasted the actions and inactions of the CBI, and painted the ED with the same brush and sent a tough message to all the officers of the Modi durbur.

CJI Ramana should know that the Modi Government does not act on friendly recommendations, not even if it is from the top-most

judicial officer of the country. Or, perhaps, the CJI knows his limitations and would rather hold forth at a lecture, the 19th D P Kohli Memorial Lecture on "Democracy: Role and Responsibilities of Investigative Agencies".

CJI Ramana declared it was imperative to "reclaim social legitimacy and public trust" and that the "the first step to gain the same is to break the nexus with the political executive." The CJI cannot be accused of being naïve, he was only being honest.

But the imagery his words left in the minds of those gracing the occasion in Vigyan Bhavan was stark. The imagery and the multiple messages that accompanied it. What was he alluding to when he said "democracy is best suited for a pluralistic society like ours" or when he said that "our rich diversity cannot be sustained through dictatorial governance"?

Those were brave words. Of course, the CBI is everybody's whipping boy. To the CJI, the CBI has fallen from its top ratings of long ago. It doesn't possess the "immense trust of the public in its initial phase." No longer do people clamour to call the CBI. Today, the CBI has come under "deep public scrutiny."

Having said that, the CJI now stands accused of not doing anything to repair the situation all these years, he and his fellow justices.

Couldn't they have done their bit to release the "caged bird"? It is not just the "actions and inactions" of central investigative agencies that are under "deep public scrutiny."

Nevertheless, the CJI's suggestion is something for the Modi Government to give serious thought to. But to expect that any such "umbrella institution" would be "independent" is to believe in 'Betaal & Vikram'.

In any case, it is very unlikely that the Modi dispensation will dispense justice to central investigative agencies by even giving them an umbrella, forget independence. Not when it is widely believed that the current government can be trusted to strike off rather than add to the statute book.

Especially, if the umbrella comes with well-defined "powers functions and jurisdictions", and the "much needed legislative oversight." It can be said with certainty that the CJI's well-meaning suggestion must have already gone over the cuckoo's nest, and the Modi Government will not stir.

With apologies to the CJI, the "independent and impartial authority" that he was speaking about will not be a reality. Call it cynicism, call it blind faith in the assured stagnation of India, none of the politicians or political parties would want to invest in such a fearlessly

independent body.

Committing hara-kiri is not an Indian politician's favourite death wish. Even the politicians and political parties currently getting the CBI stick wouldn't vote for such statute-altering amendments. Politicians like caged birds; nay, politicians love caged birds.

The CJI wasn't thinking such morbid thoughts. "This umbrella organisation will end multiplicity of proceedings. A single incident these days gets investigated by multiple agencies, often leading to dilution of evidence, contradiction in depositions, prolonged incarceration of innocents."

CJI Ramana was in an expansive mood. Otherwise, he wouldn't have said "...there is no reason why state investigative agencies cannot enjoy the same level of credibility as that of the national agency...the Central law for the umbrella investigative body... can be suitably replicated by the states."

It was a lecture. The CJI's suggestions regarding central investigative agencies and police forces countrywide will be discussed around the table; perhaps even ordained study material for IPS and IAS recruits, but to expect it to become an umbrella statute is beyond expectations.

(IPA Service)



### MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Regd. Office : 3rd Floor, New Directorate Building, near 2nd MR Gate  
Imphal - Dimapur Road, Imphal, Manipur)

CIN: U40101MN2013SGC008343

Summary of Tariff Schedule approved by Commission for FY 2022-23 for Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd (MSPDCL) and to be effective from 01.04.2022 :

#### A) Approved Subsidised Tariff for FY 2022-23

Table 8.2: Category wise Subsidised Tariffs approved by the Commission for FY 2022-23

Sl. No		Consumer Category (FY 2019-20)	Existing Tariff		Approved Subsidised Tariff	
			Fixed Charges (P.M)	Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)	Fixed Charges (P.M)	Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)
	IT SUPPLY					(Rs./kWh)
1	Kutir Jyoti			Rs./Connection		
	All Units (Upto 45 KWh/ 3 Month)		25 (Connection)	2.10	25.00	2.10
2	Domestic			Rs./KW		Rs./KWh
	First - 100 kwh/Month		65.00	5.10	65.00	5.10
	Next 100 kwh/Month		65.00	5.95	65.00	5.95
	Above 200 kwh/Month		65.00	6.75	65.00	6.75
3	Non-Domestic/Commercial			Rs./KW		Rs./KWh
	First - 100 kwh/Month		85.00	6.55	85.00	6.55
	Next 100 kwh/Month		85.00	7.25	85.00	7.25
	Above 200 kwh/Month		85.00	7.65	85.00	7.65
4	Public Lighting		70.00	9.55	70.00	9.60
5	Public Water Works		105.00	9.80	105.00	9.80
6	a) Agriculture (Individual)		65.00	4.55	65.00	4.55
	b) Irrigation (others)		65.00	4.55	65.00	4.55
7	Small Industry		70.00	4.85	70.00	5.60
	HT SUPPLY		Rs/kVA	Rs/kVAh	Rs/kVA/PM	Rs/kVAh
1	Commercial		105.00	8.75	105.00	8.90
2	Public Water Works		105.00	9.50	105.00	9.60
3	a) Agriculture (Individual)		105.00	4.75	105.00	5.15
	b) Irrigation (others)		105.00	4.75	105.00	5.15
4	Medium Industry		105.00	7.20	105.00	8.00
5	Large Industry		105.00	8.80	105.00	9.10
6	Bulk Supply		105.00	8.80	105.00	9.25

#### B) Approved Full Cost Tariff (FCT)

Table 8.3: Category wise Full Cost Tariff (without subsidy) for FY 2022-23 as approved by the Commission

Sl. No.	Category & Consumption Slab	Full Cost Tariff	
		Fixed Charges (Rs./pm)	Energy Charges (Rs./KWh or KV/h)
1	Kutir Jyothi (FCT)	Rs./Connection	Rs.KWh
	All Units (upto 45 KWh/3 Months)	25 per Connection	9.01
2	Domestic	Rs./KW	Rs./KWh
i)	First 100 kWh	65	9.73
ii)	Next 100 kWh	65	9.57
iii)	Balance > 200 kWh	65	11.76
3	Non-Domestic/Commercial	Rs./KW	Rs./KWh
i)	First 100 kWh	85	11.04
ii)	Next 100 kWh	85	12.59
iii)	Balance > 200 kWh	85	13.47
4	Public Lighting	70	13.39
5	Public Water Works	105	13.16
6	a) Agriculture (individual)	65	0.00
	b) Irrigation (others)	65	0.00
7	Small Industry	70	11.28
	HT Supply (FCT)	Rs./KVA	Rs./KVAh
1	Commercial	105	10.78
2	Public Water Works	105	11.57
3	a) Agriculture (individual)	105	9.27
	b) Irrigation (others)	105	9.27
4	Medium Industry	105	10.48
5	Large Industry	105	11.00
6	Bulk Supply	105	11.65

Note: 1) "Fixed charge is per KW of contracted load for LT supply except KJ while in case of HT Supply, it is per KVA of Billing Demand. Energy charge is as per KWh for LT supply and per KVAh per HT supply and LT high value services provided with MDI meters. The above table depicts fixed and energy charge only. Tariff Charges description in detail are given under the Tariff Schedule chapter."

( Ng. Subhachandra Singh)  
Managing Director  
MSPDCL

IT(B)-30x5 days