

Petrol, diesel prices hiked again for the 13th times

IT News
Imphal, April 5:

Petrol and diesel prices were on Tuesday hiked by 80 paise a litre each, taking the total increase in rates in the last two weeks to Rs 9.20 per litre.

This is the 13th increase in prices since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22.

The Petrol prices in Manipur at different districts have also been increased. In Bishnupur district 1 liter of petrol will cost Rs. 109.47 and

diesel will cost Rs. 93.25, in Chandel 1 liter petrol will cost Rs. 109.89 and diesel Rs. 93.63, in Churachandpur 1 liter petrol will cost Rs. 109.85 and diesel Rs. 93.58, in Imphal East 1 liter petrol is Rs. 109.43 and diesel Rs. 93.21, in Imphal West 1 liter is Rs. 109.47 and diesel Rs. 93.25, in Jiribam one liter petrol will cost Rs. 111.45 and diesel 95.03, in Kakching district one liter petrol now cost Rs. 109.73 and diesel Rs. 93.48, in Kangpokpi one liter petrol cost Rs. 109.79 and diesel Rs. 93.53, in Noney district one liter petrol cost Rs. 109.81 and one liter diesel cost

Rs.93.56, in Pherzawl district the petrol price per liter is Rs. 111.25 and diesel is 94.86, in Senapati district the cost of petrol per liter is Rs. 110.39 and while that of diesel is Rs. 94.08, in Tamenglong district a liter of petrol is now Rs. 110.85, while diesel cost Rs. 94.50 per liter, in Tengnoupal district the price of petrol per liter now is Rs. 110.36 and diesel cost Rs. 94.05 per liter, in Thoubal district one liter petrol now cost Rs. 109.61 and while diesel cost Rs. 93.37 per liter, in Ukhrul district the price of petrol per liter is Rs. 110.18 and diesel cost Rs. 93.88.

The Petrol prices in Manipur are based on dynamic fuel pricing system and hence revised on a regular basis. The petrol rates are revised at 6 am every day. This dynamic pricing ensures that even a minute's variation in global oil prices can be transmitted to fuel users and dealers. The final petrol rate is decided by adding payment to the refineries, excise duty, dealer commission and Value-Added Tax or VAT. After adding these, the retail selling price of petrol gets nearly doubled. Several factors determine the price of

petrol – like rupee to US dollar exchange rate, cost of crude oil, global cues, demand for fuel, among others. When international crude oil prices gain, fuel price in India moves higher.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 104.61 per litre as against Rs 103.81 previously, while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 95.07 per litre to Rs 95.87, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending upon the incidence of local taxation.

The Editorial:

War against corruption – Chief Minister's stand

Promises to assure Manipur – a corrupt Free State is not a new one for Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. The first time when he became the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh has taken up various measures to fight corruption. It was in his period that an anti-corruption cell was established under his direct supervision. Later, he strengthened the state Vigilance Department. Later, in April 2018, N. Biren Singh government re-designated the State Vigilance department as the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department under the direct administrative control of the Chief Secretary. The effort to control the corrupt practice by government officials however received various criticisms as some major issues could not be taken up due to political pressures. That might be perhaps due to the nature of the coalition government. As BJP didn't get the absolute majority and had to depend on other political parties.

The same zeal continues in the mind of N. Biren Singh. And perhaps that might be the reason for him to declare repeatedly that he will not make any excuses for any form of corruption since the day he was re-elected with his party BJP getting more than the magic number. Soon after he was unanimously elected as the Chief Minister for the second term on March 21, N. Biren announced to his people that he will start fighting corruption from his family members, relatives, and friends. It is like "no mercy" to any form of government.

It was yesterday while speaking to a public meeting, he once more vowed that he will not tolerate any form of corruption. As the Chief Minister had time and again announced to public that he will take all possible measure to ensure that 'corruption' is wipe out of the state, there are reasons to believe that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, in his second term will surely do something to wipe out corruption from the soil of Manipur. People now believe that he will also take up pending issues of corruption and take up appropriate measures to punish all the guilty, no matter the persons committed the crime when he or she was in service.

Now, people across the state from all sections are waiting and watching the promises of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Well, the Chief Minister may be thinking of strengthening the statutory bodies like the Manipur Information Commission, the Anti-corruption cell as well as the Vigilance Commission, and also the Lokayukta. As these are the tools to fight corruption.

On the other hand, there are reasons to be skeptical on what the chief Minister had stated as many of the recruitment process are yet to be declared. There are rumours about Ministers, Commissioners and some influential people pressuring the government official for appointment of their near and dear one. There are reports of some Ministers or high ranking government officers as well as political workers pressuring the officials of the Social welfare department to select the candidates of their choice. If the recruitment exam for Supervisors and other post at the Social Welfare Department, Government of Manipur, conducted on Sunday, is fair and if the post are elected based on merit basis without the interference of any Ministers, MLAs, or top Bureaucrats of political workers, then people will consider that Manipur's Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is serious about what he told and people may expect a government free from corruption under his leadership.

Let's make all things going well under the Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh.

Class X exam conducted by BOSEM begins



IT News
Imphal, April 5:

The High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examination 2022 conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM) begins today. Over 39,000 students are appearing in 192 centres across the state.

On the first day, one student bearing roll number 40614 has been expelled for impersonating at Yumnam Huidrom Govt. High School center.

As per the BOARD authority the examination is being conducted by following the Covid-19 appropriate behaviours. The students and staff were made to follow strict Covid discipline during the examination time in all the centres. Students were seen writing the examination, wearing

face masks and maintaining physical distance. Hand wash and hand sanitiser were also provided at the exam centres.

Various students bodies including some of the underground outfit has warn serious consequences over the use of unfair means in the examination.

In the previous year, the board examinations were conducted through Alternative Assessment/ Evaluation Mechanism due to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic.

The HSLC examination which began at 9 am concluded for the day at 12 noon. The entire Class 10 exam 2022 will continue till April 26.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and education minister Yumnam Khemchand among others had wished the students appearing the exam.

ZUF refutes allegations by NSCN (Niki Sumi) over jurisdictions

IT News
Imphal, April 5:

Reacting to the news report appeared a Nagaland based newspaper, at which the NSCN (Niki-Sumi) questions ZUF on Territorial Jurisdiction Issue, the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) said that the report based on NSCN (NS) is confusing and has the potential to mislead the general public.

A statement by John Pame Secretary, Information & Publicity ZUF, said that there has been a practice of dividing the land of the Nagas by the Nagas of Nagaland. The creation of Nagaland by the Nagas itself is one and the term used, "the Nagas of Nagaland" by some Nagas of Nagaland and even by NNPGs of Nagaland is sufficient answer to silent and proved that, the accusation labelled against ZUF by the group is self-contradictory and is therefore thrown back to the group.

"The fact is the face of NSCN (Niki Sumi) reflecting in the self-mirror. Whereas NNPGs or UG factions in Nagaland are practicing divisional regions and jurisdiction of operation of activities for the purpose of collection of taxes and extortion with strict vigilance on infiltrators of the

other UG groups in their respective regions. What then is there for NSCN (Niki Sumi) group to question ZUF, for exercising their own right over their land and people? Is it not a blind or blatant attempt to suppress the Zeliangrong people?" the ZUF asked.

Expressing regret over such statement by NSCN (Niki Sumi) the ZUF said that the discriminative classifying of the Nagas of Nagaland from Nagas of other states by some Nagas of Nagaland simply reflects the default and below standard politics of the Nagas in the face of India and the world.

"Is this not the biggest example of "divide and rule" policy used and applied among the Nagas by the Nagas? Is Nagas having many factions not the sign and example of Divide and rule policy used or practiced by the Nagas against the fellow Nagas? Where did all these started and who is responsible or exemplar? The NSCN (Niki Sumi) blames or pinpointing ZUF to "have started to Divide the Nagas" Lands with jurisdictional divisions... along the same lines using 'jurisdiction' and infiltration' reeks of Indian policy of divide and rule" as stated is self-contradictory and wrongly pinpointed.", the

statement said.

The ZUF further said that all the points and reasons elaborated in the said article are ostensibly an attempt to justify themselves of the malicious attitude and actions practiced and being played towards not only to the Zeliangrong Nagas but also the whole Naga people. It is right for ZUF or any responsible person or government to question or oppose any Naga faction/group or any non-Naga party or unscrupulous persons exploiting or extorting the wealth of the people. The people will naturally oppose any group/persons attempting to extend and apply their policy or supremacy in any Naga or other areas in the pretext and name of Naga National movement without the concerned authority and people of that part of the land.

The ZUF in its press statement, informed the NSCN (Niki Sumi) group to take care of their cadres who were going about extorting and kidnapping workers, leaders of companies along the Highway and Railways for ransom money without a regard shown to the concerned Villages, areas authorities and the concerned people Front.

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The partial withdrawal of AFSPA: an appraisal!

By: Janghaolun Haokip
Imphal, April 5:

The recent development concerning the Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958, particularly the partial withdrawal of AFSPA in selected areas has raised concerns of many to re-appraise the Act. In Manipur, AFSPA has been withdrawn for a period of six months in fifteen Police Stations of the valley districts, leaving the hill districts to fend for themselves. While it is commendable that the government has taken a step ahead with the demand for total repeal, the nature of the development is an issue to get to grips with.

As an Act, the Armed Forces Special Power Act came into being in 1958. However, its character is an offshoot of the Rowlett Act of the colonial powers that was used to suppress the patriots of India. It gives the armed

forces the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, to use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law. However, the nodus of the act lies in the immunity of the armed forces against any legal proceedings even in case of wrongful action.

The Act has several defects as has been stated. In the first place, there is no clear and absolute definition of a disturbed area and is left to arbitration and misinterpretation. The Act simply states that the government may declare any area disturbed if they so deemed fit. For this reason, Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy observed in his report (pp 74) in 2005, "The Act is too sketchy, too bald and quite inadequate in several particulars." Further, the Act gives sweeping powers to the armed forces to the use of force and power even to the ex-

tent of "causing of death." For these reasons, the BP Jeevan Reddy Committee, examining it in relation to the Northeast in 2005, and the Veerappa Moily Report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission of 2007, recommended that the Act be repealed, and the Reports of the Justice Verma Committee (2013) and the Justice Hegde Commission (2013) supported the need to address the abuses committed under the AFSPA and end the effective impunity enjoyed by the security forces.

Resultantly in Manipur, Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families Association (EEVFAM) has reported 1,528 cases of extra-judicial killings by the police and security forces, let alone the other states. Other than extra-judicial killings there are hundreds of unaccounted cases of the misuse of force and power against the locals, espe-

cially in the Hill Areas. There are instances of rape, of physical and sexual assault, and mental and emotional abuse under the pretext of maintenance of law and order. In its entirety, the Act is in grave contravention of Human Rights, of the right to life and personal liberty provided by Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It is also in contravention with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International convention on civil and political rights, Convention against torture, UN code of conduct of law enforcement officials, UN body of principles for protection of all persons under any form of detention. It must therefore evoke a response from all concerned intellectuals and citizens alike on the question of whether an Act like AFSPA is truly sensible for a country with the world's largest democracy.

Furthermore, the partial removal has come as a piece of

dispiriting news for many and has provoked wide speculations, especially among the tribals. The Chief Minister in speaking to the media has stated that the partial removal is because of National Security reasons as the hill districts share International borders. However, it is to note that Kangpokpi and Senapati Hill Districts, for instance, do not share any international borders. Subsequently, as some activists state, the government could then be accused of partiality and unequal treatment between the Hills and the Valleys. It might be important as well to note that the Hill Districts are relatively peaceful as compared to the Valley Districts. Spotting of bombs and threats are most common in the valley districts especially in and around the city while such instances are not known or otherwise uncommon in the Hill Districts. In addition, the insurgents

operating in the Hill Districts are under Suspension of Operation (SoO) while the valley-based groups are in constant hostilities with the government. In such a state of affairs, the government is in dire need of a strong rationale to support its actions and inactions.

It is imperative that the government presents ample grounds for its partial withdrawal of AFSPA. The failure is feared to likely worsen the already persisting hill-valley divide as the voices of dissent in the hills grow stronger joined by like-minded individuals and groups in the valley. If the Valley Districts could be given a trial period, the Hill Districts too deserve the same unless otherwise, the government opines the Hills as essentially disturbed which may be a misapprehension and an undermining of the Tribals' rights, dignity and integrity. One may there-

fore subsequently respond to the withdrawal as discriminatory, implicit oppression against the tribal populace as a whole.

Notwithstanding, albeit the need felt by the government, AFSPA is a threat in its entirety, not just a threat to a particular community but to the nation as a whole. It is inhumane and is sabotaging the rights and privileges of an individual as a citizen of the country. To this, some activists even call the enforcement of AFSPA as the labelling of second-class citizenship which is outright deplorable to the core. The issue, therefore, calls for and demands comprehensive deliberation and immediate appeal, and the people have every right and due responsibility as well, as citizens of the country to collectively fight for the repeal of this Draconian Act, which has done but suppressed and oppressed the people.

There is a world beyond studies

Today most of the parents tell their children that if they will not study, they will have no future. The parents think that studying is the only option available for their children. They think that children should devote their full attention only towards studying. Most of the parents want their children to fulfil their dream of neglecting the dreams of the children. Everyone wants their child should become a child to become a doctor or an engineer. So, the parents force their children to study all the time. But they do not understand the fact that studying is not the only thing important in life. There is a world beyond studies also.

The One Way Thinking

According to the normal thinking of the parents, if their children have to be successful in their lives they need to become a doctor, pilot, engineer, CA, police officer and nothing else. Today if we see engineering is the most common profession the youth is opting. Out of this population, there are many students which do not want to become an engineer. They are pursuing their degree just because of the pressure from their parents. These kinds of students never succeed in life. This type of mindset of the parents is totally wrong. Just to fulfil their dreams or wishes they are spoiling their child's future.

After the completion of class tenth board results, the students have to make a choice about what profession they want to opt for. At this stage, some of the students are forced to choose medical or non-medical and become a doctor or an engineer. Some parents understand their children and let them follow their heart. But the other kind of parents makes studying an only option for their children. There

are some children who want to do something different. They want to become a fashion designer, chef, sports player, actor, actress, model or anything different. But the parents do not consider these professions as good. The parents look at what others are doing and want their children to do the same. If a person in their neighbourhood becomes a doctor or gets 98 per cent marks, they expect the same from their children. They force their children to enter into the world of a tough competition of marks and compete with others. For this, they are just forced to study.

Consider an example; a tenth class student scored ten CGPA in board exams. He wants to become a chef. When he tells this to his parents, parents say, why do you want to waste such wonderful intelligence for cooking food, you should become an engineer. Following his parent's advice, the boy chose non-medical as his stream standard eleventh and twelfth. He gets up at 5 o'clock in the morning attends a two-hour tuition, goes to school for six hours, again goes to tuitions for approximately four hours, and comes back home at 6 o'clock in the evening. But this is not the end of his days studying routine. He is supposed to study for another four to five hours. For the next two years of his life, he is just supposed to study for 17 hours in a day and sleep for the remaining hours. On one fine Sunday morning, the boy asks his parents if he can go to the movies with his friends after all it is his holiday. The parents tell him that he should utilize his holiday for studying; he has been given a holiday for doing self-study and to revise all the work done in the previous classes. This means that the person can do only one thing,

that is studying, he has no other option.

In some cases, it is not the parents who force their children to study, but it is the students themselves. Looking at the other students who study more than them, they study more. They enter into a competition with them. They get stressed when they get a mark less than their competitor. To fulfil the gap between their marks and the marks between their competitors, they study for more hours. They ignore their health; they ignore other necessary aspects of life and make study the only aspect of their life. These types of students need to know that there is a world beyond studies.

What is the World beyond Studies?

Apart from studies, there are other important things in life. It should be understood that a student's body and mind need some deviation from studying. If a student studies for the whole time, he will not get the results he wants because there are other needs of the body or mind which need to be satisfied. Some of those are:

Playing or Physical Exercise: The human body requires physical exercise. When a student studies regularly, his brains get tired. At that time some physical exercise is required to freshen up the mind. Studying regularly without breaks is not at all beneficial. When our mind gets tired it will stop absorbing new information. In this case, the student may study for hours but it will not be of any use because he will not retain anything which he read. When a student includes physical exercise in his routine, his mind becomes all the way fresher. The physical exercise can be



By: Vijay GarG

of any form. It can be a small game of cricket or badminton in the evening or a short walk or jog in the morning. It could also take the form of meditation. During physical workout done in the fresh air, our body consumes more oxygen which directly reaches our brain and increases our concentration power.

Therefore, physical exercise is very important for the students. Usually, the parents or the students themselves think that playing in the evening or physical exercise is just a waste of time, instead of it, that time can be utilized for studying. This mindset is totally wrong. Moreover, physical exercise makes the body healthier, and the student will not fall ill easily, which will help his study. Also, playing and physical exercise can be chosen as a career also. The person can become a sports player or a coach. He can teach other people the art of staying fit. Hence, the world of students should also include playing or physical exercise.

Fun and Enjoyment: A student's life is the dulllest life if studying is the only thing he does. A dull life can never be productive or fruitful. It is very commonly seen that the students say no to movies, parties or get together organized by their friends because they or their parents think that it is a waste of time and they should utilize this time for studying. But this type of enjoyment in life is also necessary. It does not mean that the student is out with his friends enjoying his life. This type of outing should be planned once in a month or forty-five days. But it should not be ignored. If the parents force their child to sit at home and study instead of going out with friends, the child

will not be able to study. He will be studying physically not mentally. His mind and concentration will be with his friends. He will keep on thinking what his friends are doing, whether they are missing him or not or how much fun they are having without him. At this point, the student may compare his own parents with the parents of his friends who sent their children for the outing which could lead to conflicts or misunderstandings. The students who themselves ignore such outings for studying are also not doing right. After a few time, they will themselves feel how dull their life is becoming. When they grow up they will regret that they did not enjoy their college life or school life. One outing with friends will not harm their studies. Therefore we can say that the world beyond studies also includes fun and enjoyment.

Family Time: A short span of time spent together in the family is very beneficial. It brings the family closer and this time is the most enjoyable time. When each and every member sits together and is having a fun time, the student should not be told to get up and go to study neither the student should ignore such a time for studying. Family time is important. A small family trip should be organized once in two or three months. This outing freshens up the minds and removes stress and tension. The students become all the way happier and will now be able to study with more concentration. Outings with family should not be ignored or postponed for studying. The family is the immediate next thing beyond the world of studies.

Consequences of Staying in the World of Studies

When a student studies all the time forcefully or by his choice, he becomes weak, stressed, or depressed. In the end, it may be seen that the people who enjoyed their life

along with studying also get the same marks as the students who just studied and ignored the enjoyment. This because of the fact that the brain gets tired and it needs refreshing. A student who stops enjoying his life will ultimately get depressed. Studying is important but study only that much which your mind and body can absorb or handle. Excess of anything is always harmful. There are some students which compromise their sleeping time for studying. This is very wrong. A good seven to eight hours of sleep is required for the human body. If this is not fulfilled, it will lead to restlessness, anxiety, stress, and depression.

Conclusion

Excess of anything is harmful. Excess of study and excess of fun and play both are harmful. Study only that much which will not harm you. Moreover, the students should be given the opportunity to choose their careers themselves. If this is not done, the students who forcefully study a subject in which they do not have any interest just because of their parents will put the blame of their failures on their parents. Parents should guide their children but over guidance is also harmful. Sometimes this becomes the reason for suicides in the case of teenagers or the sensitive youngsters. No one should be forced to study because if they do not want to study any force will not bring them good marks. It would be just wastage of money. The students should have some relaxation time in which they can play, go for outing or movies, or just hang around with their friends. This will not degrade their result but will up bring it. So, all those who think that studying is their only world should know that there is a world beyond studies which is also very essential and will be fruitful to them. So, everyone should find their world beyond studies.

People cruel to animals are dangerous to society

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



In the recent months it poured heavily during the winter season, while the hilly regions experienced too much snowfall.

The kind of rainfall that was expected in the rainy months, happened again and again in winters. Strange changes are taking place in the climate. The things that we used to read in the books and newspapers or hear in the radio programmes or seminars, about changes in environment and climate, are becoming a reality in our lives now. For example, winters witnessed unseasonal rains and too much snowfall; while we are experiencing rise in temperatures in April only. Even the multilayered snow has vanished from the Kedarnath Dham. No action was required to remove the snow from the Kedarnath temple premises, as it had already melted out on its own. There is a similar view of Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham also, where there is no snow in view. This is certainly the effect of global warming. Fortunately, the world is now taking interest in electric vehicles and people are turning away from organic fuels like petrol and diesel. Carbon emissions can be reduced only by adopting alternative and renewable sources of energy. By the way, many measures will have to be taken, like planting more and more trees, increasing forest area, promoting vegetarian food and choosing alternative sources of energy like solar energy, wind energy instead of coal and gases.

With the rise in temperature, birds and street animals have started having difficulty in finding drinking water and food. On the first day of Navratri, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people by tweeting that the worship of Maa Durga will be considered complete only when you offer food and water to at least nine needy families and street animals having no shelter. There is so much left over rice, bread and other food items in the kitchens every day that can be useful for the stray animals. You will get immense satisfaction if you give it to some hungry stray dog or cow. All living beings are created by God, so have compassion for all the voiceless creatures. Believe me, such good deeds can increase the points in your karma bank and you will feel happiness. Like always, famous standup comedian Kapil Sharma also appealed to his viewers at the end of his show to keep some water, grains and food in a pot for the birds and homeless dogs outside the house.

If birds do not find drinking water in summer, they start dying. Similarly, street dogs are dependent on humans for their survival. Remember, a person who is cruel to animals can be dangerous to humans as well. One needs to be aware of such cruel people. Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama says that "killing animals for sport, for pleasure, for adventure, and for skin or fur is a disgusting and disturbing act. There is no point in engaging in such acts of cruelty." Hollywood actor Richard Gere says that "As protectors of the earth, it is our responsibility to treat all species with kindness, love and compassion. Cruelty to these animals is beyond comprehension. Help stop this madness."

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RBI has failed to check surging inflation India's financial stability is at risk

By: Nantoo Banerjee

Prices are bubbling up. Food, fuel and fertiliser costs are surging almost daily. Inflation seems to have got a free pass in India. The country's wholesale price index, which tracks goods at factory gates, rose almost 13 percent from a year earlier in January. The gauge has recorded double-digit increases for 10 straight months. The benchmark consumer price index, which also includes services, has breached the top of the Reserve Bank's tolerance range of two to six percent annual gains. The central bank is eerily silent or remains constantly reluctant to rising inflation. RBI seems to have forgotten the universal admitted principle that makes central banks play a very crucial role in ensuring economic and financial stability by controlling inflation.

RBI's long practiced low interest rate regime has benefited none — except probably overseas punters in the country's stock market. India's stock market is now bigger than Canada, Germany, and Saudi Arabia despite the fact that only around two percent of its population are known to invest in stocks. A very small percentage of these investors in stocks make any big money. Markets occupy a lot of mind space and no wallet space for the rest of the population. India's stock market is mostly controlled by foreign investors and US fund managers. And, as such, it reacts mostly to overseas cues. It seems that RBI has clearly moved away from its key function of controlling inflation and protecting the value of money, maybe to protect the stock market.

RBI's monetary policy and framework have also failed to control its another key area of operation — maintaining a stable foreign exchange regime. The average exchange rate

of Indian Rupee to US\$ in 2013 was 56.57. In 2019 it was 70.4059. Later, it reached a record low of Rs.77 against a Dollar. This is despite the fact that there has been a continuous increase in the FDI inflow in recent years. The FDI inflow increased from USD 45.15 billion in 2014-15 to USD 81.97 billion in 2020-21. In the absence of a proper inflation control regime on the part of the central bank, the real value or purchasing power of INR is constantly falling. For inexplicable reasons, RBI continues to defend an indefensible pro-inflationary low-rate policy. The policy has not helped the growth of either industrial investment or new jobs. The Indian economy has been pushed to brace itself with further rise in inflation and unemployment rate.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are more cautious about the Indian market. FPIs don't seem to be quite impressed with the financial performance of India's listed companies. Their investment today is much less compared to net inflows of Rs 1.03 lakh crore in 2020. Last year's quantum was lower than Rs 1.35 lakh crore invested in 2019. This year, FPIs have so far pulled out a net of Rs.1,14,856 crore from the Indian market amid inflation concerns and heightened geopolitical tensions. FPIs reportedly sold domestic equities worth Rs.48,262 crore in the first four weeks of March, this year. The FPI exodus is largely due to possible impact of inflationary pressures on the Indian economy and foreign cues. Historically, RBI has chosen a generally flexible exchange rate. Many countries do not fix the exchange rate. They still try to manage its level. That could involve a tradeoff with the objective of price stability. Generally, a fully flexible exchange rate regime often supports an effective inflation targeting framework. Unfortunately, it is not being deeply noticed in India.

In popular democracies, the roles of the central bank are quite clearly explained. The most important of them, according to both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, refers to the conduct of monetary policy to achieve low and stable inflation. Following the global financial crisis in 2008, central banks expanded their toolkits to manage volatile exchange rates as well. The Covid-19 pandemic made many central banks use an array of conventional and non-conventional tools to ease monetary policy, support liquidity in major financial markets and maintain the credit flow having eyes on inflation and exchange rate stability. In fact, the IMF supports countries around the world by providing policy advice and technical assistance to these ends. In conducting an appropriate monetary policy, central banks use methods to influence the amount of money circulating in an economy, interest rates charged on loans, and the rate of inflation.

Inflation takes place when prices continue to rise, making the real value of a country's currency continue to slide as it can't buy as much and causing the loss of purchasing power of its people. Although to a limited extent, inflation provides a sign of economic growth over a mid-term period (one to three years) in a developing country, high and long-term inflation is always dangerous. This type of inflation discourages investment and lending and wipes out people's savings as it erodes the value of money. It also causes unemployment. This is exactly happening in India since 2018. Central banks always work hard

to keep inflation in check irrespective of its influence on stock markets.

In the US, where more than 55 percent of adults invest in the stock market, its central bank, Federal Reserve, has never compromised on inflation control measures. The latest rate hike by the US Fed turned the spread between the yields of five-year and 30-year US Treasuries negative for the first time since 2006.

Last month, the US Fed raised interest rates for the first time since 2018, as the central bank struggled with soaring inflation, mainly because of the impact of the Ukraine war and coronavirus crisis. The Fed raised rates by a quarter percentage point. This is expected to be the first in a series of interest rate hikes planned for the coming months. In a statement, the Fed said economic indicators and employment figures had "continued to strengthen", but noted that inflation remained elevated and the invasion of Ukraine was not only "causing tremendous human and economic hardship" but was "likely to create additional upward pressure on inflation and weigh on economic activity" in the US. The Fed has two primary goals or a dual mandate. That's to maximise employment and keep prices under control.

Unfortunately, India's Reserve Bank is still non-committal on inflation control. The public savings are fast eroding their value. There is little sign of fresh large industrial investment as high prices have put demand under pressure. Unemployment is sharply rising. Under such circumstances, economic growth is bound to fail the target. RBI must explain why it is dithering on inflation control measures and protection of the value of Rupee.

(IPA Service)

795 new coronavirus infections reported, active cases dip to 12,054

Agency
New Delhi, April 5:

With 795 new coronavirus infections reported in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,30,29,839, while the active cases dipped to 12,054, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 52,141 with 58 fresh fatalities including 56 from Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national

COVID-19 recovery rate remained at 98.76 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 543 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.17 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was 0.22 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,24,96,369, while the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses ad-

ministered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 184.87 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

A total of 5,21,416 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,789

from Maharashtra, 68,130 from Kerala, 40,055 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,154 from Delhi, 23,496 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,199 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

PEC expresses concern over sharp rise in journo-murders

IT Correspondent
Geneva/Guwahati, April 5:

Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), the Geneva-based global media safety and rights body is alarmed by the large number of journalists killed in different parts of the world in the first 100 days of 2022. Till date 38 journalists have been killed globally since 1 January, which is a sharp rise with over 150% increase compared to 15 deaths during the same period last year. The year 2021 witnessed the murder of 79 media workers and 2020 recorded 92 casualties.

"This dramatic rise is very worrying as the number of journalists killed had decreased in previous years. The war in Ukraine and the rampant criminality in Mexico are the main reasons of this appalling deterioration," said Blaise Lempin, president of PEC (www.presseemblem.ch), adding that with the worrying deterioration the global forum renews its call to the United Nations for the adoption of an international convention

strengthening the protection of journalists with investigation and prosecution mechanisms.

In Ukraine, the conflict triggered by Russia has already claimed nine victims among media workers, and nearly 20 journalists have been injured. In addition at least 10 others were detained. PEC urges the belligerents to put an immediate end to the war, to avoid a Syrian-style scenario with dozens of casualties in a protracted conflict. Russian and Ukrainian authorities must ensure that journalists are not targeted while covering the ongoing fighting and that they can work freely. The circumstances of each death must be independently clarified and those responsible must be brought to justice, added the PEC president.

Meanwhile Mexico with nine journalist-casualties has almost reached its toll for the whole of last year (10 killed). The Mexican authorities must fight much harder against impunity and search more actively for those responsible for

these murders and their sponsors, asserted the PEC statement. Haiti has seen an increase in violence with three journalists killed. India and Pakistan also recorded three media casualties each, where two media workers were killed in Yemen. One victim is reported in Myanmar, Brazil, Tshad, Guatemala, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Turkey and the United States.

"Pakistan has lost journalists namely Hasnain Shah, Murtaza Shar and Athar Mateen to assassins during the first three months of 2022, where India witnessed the killing of Rohit Kumar Biswal, Sudhir Saini and Juned Khan Pathan during the same period," informed Nava Thakuria, PEC's south & southeast Asia representative, adding that India's other neighbours namely Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet (China), Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka have not reported any journo-murder this year, except Myanmar which lost Pu Tui Dim to military atrocities.

Uproar, protests by Opposition in Lok Sabha over rising fuel prices; House adjourned

Agency
New Delhi, April 5:

The Opposition's protest over increasing fuel prices and demand for uniform paddy procurement policy Tuesday stalled the proceedings of the Lok Sabha. The Lower House was adjourned for half an hour following noisy protests by the MPs who came down to the Well of the House.

While members belonging

to the Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party and Left parties staged a protest over rising fuel prices, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) MPs were agitated over the issue of paddy procurement. The party MPs were seen holding placards demanding a uniform procurement policy.

Speaker Om Birla tried to run the question hour amidst

the slogan shouting but had to adjourn the proceedings for half an hour to meet again at 12 noon.

Earlier on Monday, TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee slammed the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre over the frequent fuel price hikes, saying that India's condition has become worse than that of neighbouring Sri Lanka.

Addressing a press conference at the state secretariat in Kolkata, Banerjee said the central government should convene an all-party meeting to discuss the economic crisis in the country instead of using central agencies like the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) against its political opponents.

Also on Monday, the Congress held a protest against the Union government over rising fuel prices.

Revoking AFSPA will take time; partial lifting a test: Nagaland CM

Agency
Kohima, April 5:

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio said that the total removal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from the state may take time, and that partial lifting of AFSPA is a test.

During a consultative meeting with the Tribal Hahos and organizations at the Rhododendron Hall in Chumoukedima, Rio said that at this crucial period, if the law and order situation cannot be controlled, AFSPA

may be reinstated.

The CM sought cooperation from the civil societies to ensure that no untoward incidents occur across the state. He also appealed to all the stakeholders to seriously ponder how to maintain law and order in Nagaland.

Rio also said that Nagas should harbor a sense of unity and oneness and should not be selfish in their demands.

With the partial lifting of AFSPA, he said that the cry of the people to repeal the draconian law has finally been heard

by Government of India. The public outcry to repeal the Act gained momentum following the killing of 14 innocent civilians in Mon last year.

Rio told the gathering that following the incident, the Nagaland government had formed a 22-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the Oting incident. He acknowledged the members of the SIT for their prompt action in conducting investigations and submitting their preliminary reports.

Once the report is submitted and a case is filed, the

contents of the report will be made known to the public, he said. The Centre also formed its SIT and they have also submitted their report, Rio added.

Chief Secretary of Nagaland J Alam briefed the gathering saying that after almost three decades, AFSPA was lifted from certain areas of Nagaland. AFSPA has been removed completely in three districts and partially removed in four districts. The CS expressed hope that further progress will be seen in the days to come.

Assam Rifles constructs Rain Water Harvesting System



IT News
Imphal, April 5:

Selhon Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) provided 'Rain Water Harvesting System' for the villagers of Mojol, District Chandel under Assam Rifles Civic Action Programme yesterday.

Project was constructed under Civic Action Programme and handed over to the village

authorities by the Assam Rifles in a small function. The villagers lauded the efforts of Assam Rifles towards alleviating the water problems faced by the locals in the bordering areas of Manipur.

True to its spirit of being 'Friends of the NE', the Assam Rifles is committed to provide its support for the local populace in getting access to basic amenities.

A Pact Between the Military Station and AVBRH for In situ Medical Facilities

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 5:

An MoU was signed between the Indian Army's Pulgaon Military Station (PMS), and the Acharya Vinoba Bhave Rural (Super Speciality) Hospital (AVBRH), Wardha, in Maharashtra, to provide in situ medical facilities and conduct health education sessions for all personnel of the PMS, on Monday.

The MoU was signed by Station Commander, PMS, Brigadier Vinay Nair, and Dr. Chandrasekar Mahakalkar, Chief Medical Superintendent, AVBRH, Sawangi, Wardha. Other army officers and representatives of AVBRH were present.

Under the agreement, the AVBRH will provide medical specialists to conduct free OPD in the Station as well as medical and paramedical teams and ambulance evacuation facilities in case of any large-scale emergency or accident in the Military Station. Besides, the hospital will organize health camps in the villages



and towns surrounding the Military station, an official statement said.

The AVBRH is stated to be a forerunner in integrated healthcare and has over 10 super specialties in the healthcare spectrum. It is one of the trusted integrated healthcare providers in Central India and treats patients across the country. It has ICUs for Medicine, Surgery, Paediatric, Neonatal

care, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CVTS), a Dialysis Unit, and Specialty-wise Separate Operation Theatres.

Ex-servicemen's rally at Nagpur

In another development a rally was organized at Army Recruiting Office, Nagpur, located near Nagpur Railway Station for the Ex-Servicemen by Vidarbha region by Station Headquarters, Kamptee, under

the aegis of Headquarters Uttar Maharashtra and Gujarat (UMANG) Sub-Area on Sunday.

A total of 620 Ex-Servicemen and 10 Veer Naris (brave women) from Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli districts attended the Rally.

Major General Dinesh Hooda, General Officer Commanding (GOC), UMANG

Sub-Area, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, he highlighted the need to take care of the Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, and Widows and to resolve their grievances on a priority basis. He also assured them that UMANG Sub-Area was committed to this crucial issue and will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, and Widows are well looked after.

The GOC also highlighted several welfare measures initiated by UMANG Sub-Area like special financial assistance to distressed Widows, Veer Naris, and disabled Ex-Servicemen, the creation of Samik Aramgarh (rest house) near Nagpur Railway Station, Sanction of money through State Govt for comprehensive special repairs of Boys and Girls Hostel at Nagpur for children of Ex-Servicemen and establishment of dedicated Police Helpdesks in Nagpur, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts in efforts to reach out to Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris and Widows staying in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 1st April, 2022

No. 8/28/2020-SNP(SW)Transporter: Tenders are invited for appointment of transport contractors for transportation of WBNP (rice) as well as Micronutrient fortified food under SNP. All details of the Tender are available on the website of the Government of Manipur i) www.manipurtenders.gov.in and intending bidders/tenderers may download the same from the website.

Sd/-
(Ngangom Uttam Singh)
Director (Social Welfare),
Manipur

Nagalim 'invaded' by India, Myanmar: NSCN (IM) chief Muivah

Courtesy: NE Now
Guwahati, April 5:

"Nagalim", the land of Naga tribals, had been "invaded" by India and Myanmar and the Nagas have neither been a part of either by consent or by conquest, NSCN (IM) general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah has said.

Addressing the General Assembly of Unrepresented Nations and People's Organisations (UNPO) in Washington DC, he said that the Nagas had been living in their own free country till the British forces occupied a part of it in 1832 while the rest called the free Naga area remains as free as ever.

"On the eve of the departure of the British, the Nagas of the British-occupied Naga territory declared their independence on August 14, 1947,

and joined with their brothers in the free Naga area. In 1950, the Indian Constituent Assembly invited the Nagas to join the Union of India, but it was rejected by the Naga people," Muivah said.

He alleged that with a view to legalising its military occupation of "Nagalim", the Indian government "imposed its will" upon the Nagas in the form of the so-called 16-point agreement in 1960. However, it was rejected outrightly by the Naga people.

Muivah reportedly delivered the address at the UNPO, a 44-member organisation, last week, but the speech was released to the media by the NSCN-IM on Monday.

The NSCN (IM) leader said that realising that seeking a military solution to the political problem is a futile exercise, the Indian govern-

ment invited the NSCN leadership for political talks leading to a cease-fire agreement between the government and the NSCN signed in August, 1997.

"After 22 years long intensive negotiations with the government involving six Prime Ministers, the historic Framework Agreement was signed on August 3, 2015, in the presence of the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)."

Muivah claimed that the government also recognises the legitimate right of the Nagas to territorial integration of all Naga areas under one political roof.

"Since the unique history of the Nagas and the sovereign right of the Nagas are recognised, it is understood that the Naga flag and constitution are ingredients of their sovereignty," he stated.

However, the former government interlocutor and then Nagaland Governor, R.N. Ravi, currently Tamil Nadu Governor, had, on a number of occasions, rejected the separate Naga flag and constitution.

On this, Muivah said that in spite of all facts, commitments and agreements, the Indian government has started misinterpreting what has been mutually agreed upon and going back on its word.

"In the event of breaking down of the current negotiations, we foresee serious human rights violations again in Nagaland."

Muivah also told the UNPO "to look into the fragile situation of the Indo-Naga political talks and take a positive role from your end so that the current peace process is brought to a logical conclusion."

Manipuri Meitei Association, Bangalore organized a Yaosang Sport-2022



IT News
Imphal April 5:

The Manipuri Meitei Association, Bangalore, organized Yaosang Sport festival on April 3, 2022 in Bangalore city.

A statement of the Association said that many youngsters, kids and families of Manipur staying in Bangalore spend quality time together playing various sporting events.

The statement further said that the football championship was lifted by Hebbal FC team

led by Johny Kom & their manager Wahenbam Ajanta; Runner was NEYFC team led Kh. Habib Mujibur and team manager Meiraba Pebam. Badminton Men's double winner was by Dylan Pangabam Thokchom and Thokchom Romenkumar and runner was Vicky Singh & A. Surjit Singh.

The association appreciated all the members and elders who give support & they like to thank Omprakesh Patsangbam for sponsoring the football prizes. They further extend their gratitude to Ksh. Rajeev for his guidance

and sponsorship, Yambem Hemar for sponsoring the best Goalkeeper award, R.K. Chanchal's mom for sponsoring the refreshment, Mainsam Shashikanta, Aribam Gunapriya, Umananda, Lenin L. Capt. N Charleswar (Retd.), Wahengbam Bolin for the fine artwork.

Manipuri Meitei Association, Bangalore also likes to express gratitude to their Guests of Honour Dr. Nongthombam Upendra, Col. NB Singh and elders for their presence and gracing the occasion.

CPI(M)'s 23rd Party Congress must help Unite Seculars against Saffrons

By: Nitya Chakraborty
New Delhi, April 5:

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] is holding its 23rd Party Congress in Kerala this month, from April 6 to 10. The delegates attending this five-day session will be deliberating on both the national and international situations, and, on the final day, will be adopting a document which will guide the party leadership in framing strategy and tactics for the next three years till the 24th Party Congress, possibly in 2025.

The draft political resolution (DPR) for the 23rd congress was adopted at the meeting of the central committee in Hyderabad on January 7 to 9 this year. Since then three months have passed and new developments have taken place at both international and national level. At the global level, Russia is in war with

Ukraine and even after 41s days, there are no signs of this devastating war coming to an end anytime soon. China is giving critical support to the Russian invasion. CPI(M) has condemned Russian 'invasion', though simultaneously the role of NATO and the West's moves to endanger the security of Russia have been mentioned. Globally, the communist parties are also taking position against the authoritarian Putin, while equally taking to task the West for its war-mongering.

At the national level, the assembly elections were held in five states, and in four states, the BJP retained its power. In Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party gave a good fight but Yogi Adityanath was finally winner with comfortable majority. The Congress, the main challenger to the BJP in four states, lost its ruling state Punjab to AAP in a humiliating defeat. AAP now

rules Punjab and Delhi, and the party has announced its decision to make a strong bid for Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, which will go for assembly elections by the end of this year. The massive roadshow organized by the two AAP chief ministers in Ahmedabad last week has given fresh confidence to AAP. Both the BJP and the Congress are worried, the Congress more.

The party draft has correctly focused on fighting BJP as the main enemy both at political and electoral level and reiterated the last party congress observation that BJP and the Congress cannot be equated at the same level. The main task is to isolate and defeat the BJP. So the party will cooperate with secular opposition parties in Parliament on agreed issues. Outside the Parliament, the party will work for the broadest mobilisation of all secular forces against

the communal agenda of the BJP.

The DPR has mentioned that the BJP has emerged as the principal political party of the Indian ruling classes and has spread its influence all over the country on the back of the RSS network that is rapidly expanding. The BJP currently leads the governments in 12 states and is in coalition in six others. It controls both the houses of Parliament.

All this information in the DPR document is fine, but not adequate enough to understand what a mammoth organisation the BJP is. In any war, real or electoral, one must understand the strengths of the main enemy and take follow-up measures to meet the challenge. The CPI(M) has declared the BJP as the main enemy in its DPR. So the delegates must know more about the political party they will be fighting.

(IPA Service)

Sports

Indian women's football team ready for Egypt challenge

Agency
New Delhi, April 5:

The Indian women's football team returns to action for the first time after the Asian Cup debacle earlier this year with an international friendly against lower-ranked Egypt here on Wednesday.

The national team was forced to withdraw from the group stage of the AFC Asian Cup, which India hosted in January-February, after it failed to field a team due to a COVID-19 outbreak inside its bio-bubble in Mumbai.

The match against 95th ranked Egypt at the Prince Mohammed Stadium will be the first time they will play after that disappointment. The team was hoping to qualify for the 2023 FIFA World Cup from the Asian Cup.

The Indian team is currently ranked 95th in the world. Indian women's team head coach Thomas Dennerby feels that putting up a good perfor-



mance after a break will be important for the team.

"It promises to be a good game, against Egypt, and all the girls are feeling ready to return to the pitch once again," said Dennerby.

"We have a lot of respect for all our opponents, but that does not change our approach to any game. We always want

to put in a good performance and play to win."

Captain and centre-back Ashalata Devi said the players were excited to be playing international matches again and a brief camp in Goa has helped the team gel together.

"It feels great to be back in national colours once again,

after a short break. We're all pumped up and ready to go," said Ashalata.

"We have had a good camp in Goa, and it has helped us assess ourselves before going for the two matches. Let's hope for the best."

India play against hosts Jordan, ranked 63rd, in their second friendly on Friday.

Contd. from Page 1

ZUF refutes allegations by NSCN.....

What if NSCN (Niki Sumi) were in the position of ZUF? The term, "common Nagas' land and Naga struggle" used by NSCN (Niki Sumi) does not mean that every tom and Jerry (tom dick n harry) can go about corrupting the wealth of the people in the name or pretext of the Naga National Movement in all the Naga inhabited areas or land.

The Zeliangrong people too as a Naga people having common Nagas' aspiration have been no lesser contributor to the Naga National movement and cause since its inception and is all out for inclusive and early settlement of the long-delayed

Nagas' issues. However, the Zeliangrong people too have a simultaneous movement of their own, alongside the Nagas' struggle since colonial period to the time of flourishing NNC and to this day under socialist pattern and system of Naga Government, the statement said.

The ZUF said that it never oppose or scheme against the Naga people's aspiration at any point of time or manner, rather supported the common Nagas' political talk for early, inclusive and acceptable solution and settlement. It is only a fear-psycho-sis or apprehensive assumption of some an-

tagonistic Naga politicians or UG groups, wrongly speculating or viewing the ZUF's demand as contradicting the Naga issues. The straight message of ZUF is that, the demand for Zeliangrong Homeland remains as an infallible historical fortitude under all circumstances.

The ZUF clarifies and reasserts that, every Naga have the right and responsibility to defend and protect their inhabited land. That no unscrupulous or self-claimed national worker/s shall be allowed to go free and unchecked in all Zeliangrong inhabited areas.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE DIVISION

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Dated, Imphal, the 5th April, 2022

On behalf of the Governor of Manipur, The Executive Engineer, Task Force Division, Water Resources Department, Manipur, invites item rate tender through open tender from eligible contractor for 11 (Eleven) nos. of works at a total estimated cost of Rs. 411.55 lakh under Task Force Division jurisdiction.

The tendering officer is Executive Engineer, Task Force Division, Water Resources Department, Manipur. The Tender details and documents shall be available from 08/04/2022 to 28/04/2022 at the office of the Executive Engineer, Task Force Division, Lamphel, W.R.D., Manipur.

Bid Submission Start date
Bid Submission End date
Date of opening of Bid
Time -
Venue -

11-04-2022
29-04-2022
02-05-2022
Till the end.

11:00 a.m.
Office of the Executive Engineer, Task Force Division (Lamphel), Water Resources Department, Manipur.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Task Force Division,
Water Resources Department, Manipur
Lamphel