

CLP leader O. Ibobi says, the result of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly was not the people's mandate

IT News
Imphal, April 6:

Congress Legislature Party wing leader Okram Ibobi Singh, who had held the post of Chief Minister of Manipur for 3 consecutive years today hit hard to the BJP, saying that the number that the party get in the just concluded 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election is not the mandate of the people but was elected using unfair means.

Talking during the felicitation function of the newly appointed President of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) K. Meghachandra at Congress Bhavan here in Imphal today, the former chief minister said that all sort of unfair means has been used by the BJP in the last election to win 32 seats.

"Even CWC member Gaikhangam, who is the former deputy chief minister and his families during congress rule,



was not allowed to vote at the polling station of his own constituency at Nungba by goons and other muscle power", Ibobi said.

He also said that every people knows how the election was conducted at Chandel and Tengnoupal assembly constituencies to make sure that the BJP candidate

won the election.

On the other hand, Okram Ibobi appealed the congress workers not to be discouraged with the recent election result as it was not a public mandate. He recalled on the up and down of the political journey of Congress party. He recalled on how former Chief Minister Rishang Keishing remain as

the lone congress member when every one of the congress MLAs had left the party for their own benefit. Later, When congress party retain to power in the post June Uprising, all those who left the party return back. He said that people of the state are being misled by the BJP saying that government with political

party who is in the opposition at the center will not get proper fund.

"Such information are misleading, everyone knows that when there was NDA government in the center, the Congress government in the state gets its state share", Ibobi said adding that there is no such provision that state share will be deducted if there is a different government in the center.

Ibobi further assured that he along with the congress party senior leaders will give all possible support to the newly elected President of MPCC K. Meghachandra and his team to strengthen the Congress party.

CWC member Gaikhangam, former MPCC president TN Haokip, former Lok Sabha MP Dr. T. Meinia, former speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Th. Lokeshwar among others were present in the felicitation function of K. Meghachandra.

The Editorial: Climate change – A challenge

Initiative taken up by the Directorate of Environment, Government of Manipur to bridge the gap of understanding between common people and those experts working in the field of controlling the climate change by utilizing media is perhaps a laudable effort. India's commitment to control the climate change across the globe has well been known.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated – "We want the world to act with urgency. We want a comprehensive, equitable and durable agreement in Paris, which must lead us to restore the balance between humanity and nature and between what we have inherited and what we will leave behind" – urging the leaders of more than 190 countries during the largest gathering of world leaders while speaking to World Climate Change Conference 2015.

The summit, popularly known as the COP (Conference of the Parties) 21 Climate Change Summit in Paris is the result of the realization that climate change is a very real and serious threat to the very existence of the world, and leaders of the world must come together and share responsibility in a united effort to reverse the impending catastrophe. The problems of environmental degradation have been on the rise, and the increasing threat to the very survival and continuity of the world has been staring us in the face for long. The manifestations can no longer be ignored- upto 17 degrees rise in temperatures in frozen Antarctica, floods in the arid Atacama desert of Chile, four concurrent cyclones in the eastern hemisphere, and closer home, the worst flood in more than a century in Chennai. The year 2015 saw the hottest year in the history of the planet, but will almost certainly be beaten by 2016. There had been reports of experts predicting droughts in the North-Eastern region of the country in the year 2016, and further deterioration in the amount of rainfall and availability of water with a concurrent rise in temperature. The warnings are dire and consequences unthinkable.

According to experts, a 2-degree Celsius increase in global temperature from the current level will be catastrophic, but at the current rate of emission, the world will be warmer by 3.6 degree Celsius by the middle of the century thereby making Global warming irreversible.

The vital question that begs an answer, then, is: what-if there ever is one- can we, as individuals do to mitigate and reverse climate change? The answer, unfortunately, is not so simple or straightforward. More importantly, we need to delve deep into the details and understand the genesis, the present scenario and the consequences of the rapidly changing climate and the increasing imbalance of nature and ecology. However, simple everyday acts do go a long way in reducing emissions which are the biggest cause of climate change and Global Warming. Some of them are: switching off unnecessary electrical and electronic appliances, reducing use of cooking gas, coal, fossil fuels etc, switching to LED bulbs, adopting solar energy harnessing equipments, planting trees and greeneries, reducing trash, using hybrid vehicles if affordable, buying energy-efficient gadgets and appliances, using public transport or bicycles whenever possible etc. We can sow the seeds of positive change if we consciously make small yet consistent efforts on our parts without waiting for the government or the authorities to act. In closing, the following line might just spur us to sit up and start acting today: "We don't have a Plan B to save the earth" - Prince Charles.

Not everything is losing. With the government stakeholders new initiative Manipur can now contribute something to the nation's dream in controlling the rise of temperature across the globe. Lets make every people aware of the climate change.

Rajya Sabha MP Sanaojaoba Leishemba moves to include Meetei/Meitei in ST list

IT News
Imphal, April 6:

Rajya Sabha MP Sanaojaoba Leishemba of Manipur has drawn the attention of the government to include the Meetei/Meitei community to the list of Schedule Tribes (ST) under Article 342(1) of the Indian Constitution.

Sanaojaoba Leishemba is the lone elected RS MP from Manipur. Legendary boxer MC Marry Kom who is also a member of the Rajya Sabha was nominated by the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition to her achievement in the field of Sports.

The Schedule Tribe De-

mand Committee for Meetei/Meitei community has been putting up the matters for a very long time. However, there are also sections of people in the multiethnic place of Manipur where the demand for inclusion of the Meetei/Meitei to the list of ST. Maybe the differences over the demand kept tight lip to almost all politicians who got elected.

Rajya Sabha MP Sanaojaoba Leishemba is perhaps the first MP from Manipur to draw the attention of the members of the upper house of Parliament to raise the issue for inclusion of Meetei/Meitei in the Schedule tribe list as per the provision of the Indian Constitution.

Putting up the matter as a



special mention in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, MP Sanaojaoba Leishemba said that demand for inclusion of the Ethnic Indigenous Community - the Meetei/Meitei in ST list under Article 342(1) of the Indian Constitution is the need of the hour.

Giving reason the MP said that since 2013 Meetei/Meitei had made many representations to the Prime minister, Home Minister, Minister of Tribal Affairs, and other union leaders for Consideration of including Meetei/Meitei in the ST list under Article 342(1).

However, till today any positive or concrete action has not been come out from the union and the state government so far. He said unless they are provided with a constitutional Self guard by including in the list of S.T status without further delay, the Meetei/Meitei shall be reduced to the minority as the community is vulnerable to becoming refugees in their own ancestor land. Manipur perhaps is a proud nation-state for more than 5,000 years, Leishemba added.

The Manipur MP drew the attention of the Rajya Sabha and requested the government of India to kindly take up the necessary action and instruct the state government to do the needful as early as possible.

Bomb blast at CM's constituency

IT News
Imphal, April 6:

Unknown miscreant blasted a moderate intensity bomb at two hours today at the assembly constituency of CM N. Biren Singh in Imphal East district.

The bomb blast was reported from Achanbingei Mayai Leikai area in Imphal East district of Manipur.

The bomb blast took place outside the gate of residence of Adhyaksha of Imphal East Zilla Parishad, Pungsungbam Binola Devi.

The bomb reportedly went off at around 3 in the morning of Wednesday.

No casualty or injury to any person has been reported in the bomb blast.

Meanwhile, police have launched an investigation into the case.

BJP observes Foundation day

PM Modi hails India's 'Firm Stand' in divided World, takes a dig at '2 types of politics'

IT News
Imphal, April 6:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India stood firm with its interest while being viewed as a nation that can speak about humanity at a time when the world is divided into two rival factions.

Speaking on the occasion of the 42nd foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), PM Modi said: "Today, India stands firm before the world with its interests without any fear or pressure. When the entire world is divided into two rival factions, India is being viewed as a nation that can firmly speak about humanity."

He added that the founda-

tion day of the BJP was coinciding with the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' celebrations and given the "fast-changing world scenario", "many new opportunities are coming up for India".

Hailing the BJP, PM Modi said it is "continuously strengthening the resolve of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat". "From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Kutch to Kohima, BJP is continuously strengthening the resolve of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," PM Modi said.

The prime minister also noted the party's victory in the recently concluded assembly elections, saying: "The BJP has returned to power with a 'double-engine' government in four states a few weeks ago.

After three decades, the numbers of any party in the Rajya Sabha has touched the 100 mark."

PM Modi went on to say that there was a time when people had accepted that be it a government of any party, nothing will be done for the country. "There was despair. Today, every citizen of the country is proudly saying that the nation is changing and going ahead swiftly," the prime minister said.

In an oblique attack on the Congress party, PM Modi said "family parties have never allowed the youth of the country to progress". "They have always been betrayed," PM Modi said, adding that, today "we should be proud that today BJP is the only party

which is alerting the country of this problem".

He asserted that the BJP is dedicated to "rashtra bhakti" while its rivals stand for "parivar bhakti", and said every BJP member should be proud that the party made it an electoral issue and succeeded in convincing people of the dangers of dynastic politics.

In Manipur too the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Minister Biswajit, Minister Khemchand, Minister Govindas and other MLAs of the BJP and the organisation secretaries, state president A Sharda Devi celebrated the Foundation day at various places. The main celebration was held at Thamgabal Sanglen.

MSCW team paid inspection visit to victim family

IT News
Imphal, April 6:

A team of Manipur State Commission for Women (MSCW) led by its Chairperson (i/c) Thumlip Tiningpham Monsang visited the residence of Pukhrihongbam Amomcha Singh of Khongjom Samram under Khongjom P.S. on April 4, 2022 to investigate into the death of Pukhrihongbam ongbi Wahengbam Ningol Jasica @ Maimu Devi, aged about 28 years W/o, Pukhrihongbam Dineswar @ Naoba Singh, aged about 28 years of Samaram Mamang Leikai under Thoubal District, Manipur.

Deceased Jasica was found dead on April 3, 2022 at the kitchen of her matrimonial home at around 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson (i/c) is accompanied by two members and a legal advisor of the Commission. During the meeting, the visiting team met with the local leaders, neighbours and close relatives of the deceased husband's family. The visiting team also met with the 2nd O.C. of Khongjom P.S. in connection with the case.

The Commission has call a status report into the dead of Jasica from the S.P.—Thoubal District in order to ascertain the cause of the dead of Jasica.

Why such a shortage of skilled hands in IT?

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The last two years were difficult for employment as well as for corporate companies. Companies' offices were either closed or partially opened during the lockdown period, while most employees worked from their homes. Now that everything is in place, the work environment has also started to change. While qualified employees are changing jobs in search of better pay and working conditions, there is a shortage of skilled workers. According to a recent survey, 88 percent of IT firms are facing a shortage of qualified employees and a lot of difficulty in retaining them. A survey by a startup called Scalar revealed that 56 percent of IT companies feel that their industry is short of skilled and experienced hands. In the last few months, the annual rate of quitting from the IT sector has increased to 30 percent. Due to the increasing use of digital technology, the demand for IT professionals is increasing in the Indian markets. Employment opportunities are being created in technology, healthcare, e-commerce and manufacturing sectors. The job opportunities in the field of IT are much more than one can imagine. The way experienced and qualified professionals are in demand in the IT sector, qualified candidates are not much in supply.

To prevent employees from leaving their jobs, many companies have made up their mind to increase the salary and allowances of their qualified workers by up to 30 percent. According to a survey, 60 percent of the companies in the country are working on the plan to recruit new employees between the first quarter of the new financial year i.e. between April and June. A similar proportion is for companies that intend to increase their salaries to retain their qualified employees. The percentage of such companies is also around 60. One may ask, what happened that there was a sudden shortage of skilled workers in the IT sector? Actually, this is happening due to the rapid pace of progress in this industry. Startups are growing fast in the country, because the government is promoting startups and the number of unicorns has also increased. Due to these reasons there is a shortage of skilled workers.

Preparations are underway to make India the world's largest startup hub. At present, India is the third largest country in the world in this regard. Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in Abu Dhabi that India aims to develop the world's first largest startup ecosystem. For this, emphasis is being laid on synergy of investors and budding entrepreneurs. India is a country of 440 million youth. Such a huge young population does not exist in any other country. These include those who are born between 1981 and 1996. In US lingo, they are called Millennials. There is a need to make technical education accessible for them. Meanwhile, the process of issuing advertisements for recruitment to 20,000 government posts in Punjab is in the final stages. The Aam Aadmi Party government took this big decision as soon as it came to power, which is being praised. The number of unemployed in the state increases by more than one lakh every year. In such a situation the decision of recruitment is going to give relief.

Negligence towards children's education



By: Vijay Garg

As soon as the month of April comes, the school bells are ready to ring once again. After a long time the cries of children of pre-primary schools are ready to be heard from the school rooms. The most affected by the lockdown period in the country is education; And in education, the condition of pre-primary and primary education has been spoiled. In government schools, where the child is ready to go to school at the age of 5 to 6 years, education starts with admission in pre-primary classes from the age of 4 in private schools. Till now a full 2 years have passed. Some children who were eligible for admission in the primary class have not even seen the face of the school; And if somehow the children of these ages are admitted in the school, then the schools closed due to the corona epidemic have not been seen. For them, school education and the fun and learning there is like a fairy tale. As soon as the new session starts, the teacher will have a new challenge for the elementary education of the children, because understanding the learning gap of 2 years, planning the upcoming action plan and preparing for the session. The school has an integral relationship with the children. Yes, if a child learns something after his home, it is from school. In the school, along with studies, education is given to the children for all round development. While in school, children do not learn their cognitive knowledge, emotional knowledge, social knowledge, physical development, intellectual development, logical knowledge as well as life useful skills. The basic skills of the children need more attention from the beginning of the session. Children's classroom has developed in the last two years, but the development of their academic skills seems to lag behind their mainstream. For this learning gap, every school is preparing at its own level, how much mentally prepared children need to be in this preparation, it depends on the schools, there is a possibility of increasing responsibility on the parents as well. Without the co-operation and support of parents, the concept of positive results will prove to be a dream.

To bridge the learning gap of school children, schools are ready to be operated from April, while some schools have even started the next classes. There may be a need to start from the first page to bring the children into the general stream in the elementary classes and primary classes. First of all it has to be found out what is the learning level of the child now and in what level he should have been. After this is detected, appropriate efforts should be made to rectify the weak aspect. Now it comes to the process of group learning-teaching, in such times there is a need to delve into the progress report of the children one by one; Otherwise, once a child backward in studies will go backward in further studies as well and his learning will be affected.

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Chap of Corruption in Manipur

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwar Singh
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legalcourruption in which power is abused within the confines of the law-as those with power often have the ability to make laws for their protection. The effect of corruption in infrastructure is to increase costs and construction time, lower the quality and decrease the benefit. Corruption can occur on different scales. Corruption ranges from small favor between a small number of people (petty corruption) to corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption) and the corruption that is so prevalent that it is a part of the everyday structure of society, including corruption as one of the symptoms of organized crime (system corruption). According to R Klitgaard, corruption will occur if the corruption gain is greater than the penalty multiplied by the likelihood of being caught and prosecuted. Since a high degree of monopoly and discretion accompanied by a low degree of transparency does not automatically lead to corruption, a fourth variable of "morality or integrity"; has been introduced by others. The moral dimension has an intrinsic components and refers to a "mentally problem" and an extrinsic components referring to circumstances like poverty, inadequate remuneration, inappropriate work conditions and inoperable or over-complicated procedure which demoralize people and set them search for "alternative solution".

Based more on concept than on evidence, it is taken for granted that corruption is caused by few dominating factors; authoritarian rule, intervention in economy and pre-modern cultural values and institu-

tions. In this conception, corruption is a problem among poor states like Manipur. Certainly corruption in Manipur is conceived as a titanic challenge, causing damage to every aspect of social fabric, political instability and undermining confidence in public institutions. The popular concept of petty vs grand corruption suggests only a distinction about the amount of money or political and economic actors involved in corrupt transactions. For a long time, the abuse of public office for private gain also known as corruption is a part of public life in Manipur. Nepotism, embezzlement and bribes are business as usual, a natural component of political culture of Manipur. Influenced by this context, leaders, academics, politicians met the debate about whether corruption is controllable with pessimism and skepticism. Its prolific growth begs the question: is corruption omnipresent part of history, culture of state or are reforms strategies able to attack the problem systematically? The involvement of politics and reforms to address corruption poses an even greater question: how can corruption be controlled in the state? This has become the central question challenging policy makers, leaders, students, activist and analysts. The arguments of this question raises such as: whether corruption is just a moralist demand to government in the state or new version about home-made obstacles to development and whether corruptionought totackel by public policies and reforms demanding strategies beyond moralist discourse and lip service.

In Manipur the capacity to re-

spond on the policy level to these utmost demands is still weak and produces evasive reactions like discourse on morals and good intentions. Transforming corruption control and consolidation of good governance into public policy and institutional reforms in Manipur is still a herculean challenge. Growing awareness about the problems link to corruption resulted from either deterioration of moral standards of all stakeholders of government or a higher sensitivity to the public or both. Local institutions like police, bureaucracy, courts and legislative are deeply involved in the network of corruption and organized crime. The state political system lost its capacity for self-recovery. The expectations of walking scot-free set strong incentives for corrupt behaviors in the state. Citizens of state may commensensically concludes that corruption pays of economically while integrity depends exclusively on a firm stance on moral and values. The dimensions of systematic damaged by corruption is difficult to measure but nonetheless has relevant consequences and includes the impact on citizen's trust in public institutions. Sadly, there is no concerted effort or campaign in the state to fight against the menace of corruption. So the common people are in tight spot, the state forces unleashing bedlam on the people, while at the same time non-state actors (insurgent groups) generating mayhem in the lives of the people who have no resources and power. **The power of the gun and thirst for money and power make Manipura moribund society.**

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New India: Making Next 10 years its Techade

By: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

The world is slowly emerging out of the worst ever pandemic witnessed in the history of mankind. It widely disrupted lives, livelihoods & economies across the globe. India too, home to almost 1/6th of the world's population, faced enormous challenges over the last 24 months.

It is said that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. India, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, garnered Global respect for its remarkable Covid Management & resilient response during the pandemic. Our Prime Minister led from the front, stood firmly with the frontline warriors, encouraged scientists in their efforts in developing Made In India vaccines and gave this country a new vision, a new economic thought - Atma Nirbhar Bharat or Self Reliance. The threats and beligerence at the borders by China too was responded with determination and confidence. This sets the tone for Amrit Kaal - India's journey for the next 25 years towards the centenary Independence Day celebrations.

This resilience was in no small measure due to the reforms and policies of the Govt during the years before the Pandemic. Programs like Digital India, cleaning up the financial sector etc were big factors in ensuring India's resilient response. As a result of reforms and well calibrated stimulus packages announced during the pandemic, India is now the fastest rebounding economy in the world, receiving its highest ever FDI inflows and setting new records in exports of goods & merchandise. India is also one of the most vibrant and fastest growing startup ecosystem with over 60,000 registered Startups including 88 Unicorns. In

the year 2021 alone, India created 42 Unicorns and the trend continues in 2022. India's 'bounce back' - as the world now calls it, is largely due to the early investments made by the Narendra Modi Govt in Technology sector. The Prime Minister had launched the Digital India Programme in 2015 with three clear objectives :

- o To transform lives of Citizens.
- o To expand economic opportunities &
- o To create strategic capabilities in certain technologies

India has become one of the world's pre-eminent nations in the use of technology not just in conventional areas of R&D, tech development & innovations, but in the use of tech to empower & transform citizen's lives.

With World's largest Digital identity programme - Aadhaar (132 crore enrolment), World's largest technology driven Covid Vaccination programme (over 180 crore shots delivered), World's largest Direct benefit transfer (DBT) programme & being a global leader in Digital Payments (Rs. 76 lac crore in FY 22) & Fin Tech technology, we can clearly say that the first two objectives have been largely met.

It is clear that Post Covid , the rate and acceleration of digitisation of economies, of consumers' lives, of Government are only going to intensify. Technology, innovation, and supply chains are witnessing deep changes and represent a significant opportunity for India's goal of building and crossing over \$1 Trillion Digital Economy.

To capitalise on this window of opportunity & to give further impetus to the Digital India Programme, Ministry of electronics and IT has chalked out an elaborate 1000 days vision plan with 6 clearly defined goals. The first

PM Narendra Modi has rightly called the coming years as Indias Techade. It is the right time to reimagine technology in Government and Governance. The Government is soon going to roll out the Next Wave of Digitalization in Governance to take public service delivery to a new level. Platform level initiatives have delivered major impact. It is time to adopt "Digital Government" approach, which will make Government even more efficient, minimise papers and files, make Governance more responsive and citizen's experience with Government improved.

An important goal envisages connecting all Indians to Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet. India has 82 crore internet users, 60 crore smartphone users making it the largest connected democracy in the world. We intend to continue expanding Digital Infrastructure (viz. cloud, data centre, etc), broadband speed, availability, and accessibility that shall pave the way for 650,000 villages to become Aatma Nirbhar.

Our Digital Economy expansion are being driven by large Tech companies and our Startup Innovation Eco-system pursuing opportunities around the Internet and consumer Tech on one hand and a number of emerging new areas like Data , Block chain, AI, Electronics design, Semiconductor, Super computing etc. Under PM Modi, India has become the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world. India has bigger ambitions in Electronics and Semiconductor manufacture as the post-Covid world order seeks new trusted value chains in Electronics. The Govt so has reimagined its Electronics ambitions with broaden & deepen strategy which will increase electronics manufacturing from USD 75 Billion today to expand it to \$300 billion by 2025/

26. In addition, PM Modi has sanctioned a 76,000 Crore package to build a semiconductor ecosystem in India. These are big opportunities for India that we are pursuing strongly and state Govts are partnering to pursue the same.

In the coming decade, the competitive advantage of countries will hinge on technology prowess and speed with which it develops and deploys futuristic technologies. The strategic technology areas where India seeks leadership include Block chain, AI, cyber security, Web3.0 (Block chain), Semiconductors, Next Gen Electronics systems, supercomputing, quantum computing, etc.

We are living in Interesting times - the world around us is undergoing technic changes post Covid and post the recent Russia - Ukraine conflict. India that is emerging post-Covid is a more confident country and its new ambitions are being energized by the energy and passion of crores of young Indians. PM Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and India's Techade is spotlighting this bright future runway of opportunities for Indian youth. These opportunities and his impetus on skilling means that we can be confident that every young Indian has a very good opportunity to realize these opportunities and build a brighter future for themselves and their community and India. This is the time - for India to emerge as a global Technology and Trade power - a New India that provides global standard digital products and services to the world and uses Technology to transform Indian Democracy and Governance to the best in the world.

(The writer is a Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India)

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India logs 1,086 new Covid-19 cases

Agency
New Delhi, April 6:

With 1,086 new coronavirus infections being reported in a single day, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,30,925 while the active cases dipped to 11,871, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The death toll climbed to 52,147 with 71 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 rate remained at 98.76 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 183 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.23 per cent and the weekly positivity rate as 0.22 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,24,97,567, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 185.04 crore.

India's Covid-19 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.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 71 new fatalities include 66 from Kerala.

A total of 5,21,487 deaths have been reported so far in the

country including 1,47,793 from Maharashtra, 68,196 from Kerala, 40,055 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,154 from Delhi, 23,497 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.

44 AR organises Ghar Ghar Aayush at Kahulong Village



IT News
Imphal, April 6:

44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 sector IGAR(East), carried on with its unique health care initiative to reach out among local populace of Tamenglong district. Contributing towards 'Fit India Movement' and as a part of "AZADI KAAMRIT MAHOTSAB", 44 Assam Rifles medical team organised a free "Door to Door" HealthCheckup cum Covid Awareness camp in Kahulong village of Tamenglong district. "GharGharAyush" wellness

camp medical camp was aimed to provide basic health care facilities and free medicines to the local residents with special focus on old age and ladies with infant children. It holds importance as these old age persons and young mothers cannot travel long distances for receiving medical aid. A basic medical testing lab facility was also setup. The battalion medical team examined various age group patients. Free general medicines were also distributed to the local villagers of Kahulong and nearby villages. A total of 119 persons were benefited.

Inaugurating the wellness cum health checkup camp, the Commandant, 44 Assam Rifles requested Community Leaders and youth organisations of the area to come forward and motivate people of their respective area for COVID vaccination and contribute towards fight against pandemic. He also highlighted the various projects undertaken by the Battalion for improving overall health and wellbeing of the people. He urged attendees to support battalion in improving the overall hygiene of the people and constructively contribute towards development of region.

Its Enforcement Directorate Versus Maharashtra SIT Now

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 6:

While the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been conducting raids on the premises of a couple of Maharashtra politicians in the last few months, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA-2002), the Maharashtra government set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of extortion against some of the ED officers, on Tuesday.

Maharashtra Home minister Dilip Walse Patil told the media on Tuesday said that an SIT under Additional Commissioner of Police Viresh Prabhu will conduct a probe into the allegations of extortion against ED officers. The investigation will be completed in due course and the decision over the action to be taken will be taken after the report is received, he added.

The decision to set up an SIT was taken based on the complaints of extortion received. Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut had alleged that some ED officials were involved in an extortion racket with one Jitendra Navlani, operating from Mumbai and New Delhi. He was threatening builders and corporate houses of Ed's action against them. In 2017, after ED raided 7 companies, Rs 25 crore was deposited in Navlani's bank account. Subsequently, additional Rs 15 crore was deposited in his account, as the ED raids continued, Raut had stated. The Mumbai police has lodged a formal complaint based on the application made by Shiv Sena leader Arvind Bhosale against ED.

The Maharashtra Minis-



The properties of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut were attached by ED under PMLA on Tuesday.

ters Anil Deshmukh, Nawab Malik, and other leaders of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) (Maharashtra Development Front), are already facing ED's action. On Tuesday, the ED issued a provisional notice to attach eight land parcels at Kihim in Alibaug (Raigad district) and a flat in Dadar in Central Mumbai, totally valued at Rs 11 crore linked to Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut and his family members. The Alibaug plots attached by ED are in the name of Varsha Raut (wife of Sanjay Raut) and Swapna Patkar (wife of Sujit Patkar) another associate of Sanjay Raut.

The money-laundering case against Sanjay Raut and his associates and family members is linked to a Rs. 1,034 crore land 'scam' related to the redevelopment of "Patra Chawl" at Goregaon in North Mumbai. Pravin Raut, an associate of Sanjay Raut, was a director of Guri Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd (GACPL), entrusted with the work of the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl, housing 672 tenants, spread over 47-acre land, belonging to the Maharashtra Housing Area Development

Authority (MHADA). GACPL is a subsidiary company of the Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

GACPL never completed the redevelopment and Pravin Raut through the HDIL directors- Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan, sold the floor space index (FSI) (maximum permissible floor area that a builder can build on a particular plot of land), to various builders for Rs 1,034 crore, harming the tenants' interest, the ED's statement said.

Pravin Raut, who received the money from HDIL, transferred it to his relatives and close associates. Out of this, the proceeds amounting to Rs 83 lakh, were allegedly received by Varsha Raut from Madhuri Pravin Raut, the wife of Pravin Raut. Varsha Raut utilized this amount to buy a flat in Dadar. After the ED investigation began, she transferred back Rs 55 lakh to Madhuri Raut.

Incidentally, the groundbreaking ceremony for the redevelopment of Patra Chawl was held on March 01. Now the work is being carried

out by MHADA at an estimated cost of Rs 143 crore, after 13 a year-long wait.

Eventually, Pravin Raut was arrested by the ED on February 2, 2022, under the PMLA and he continues to be in jail. The HDIL director Sarang Wadhawan and his father Rakesh Wadhawan earlier arrested by ED in connection with around Rs 4,300 crore fraud caused to Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) bank are at present in judicial custody at Mumbai's Arthur Road jail.

Reacting to the ED action, Sanjay Raut said that the Alibaug land was purchased in 2009 for which a loan of Rs 55 lakh was taken from Pravin Raut's wife. This was also reflected in his election affidavit. The loan was subsequently repaid. He claimed that he did not know where the Patra chawl was located.

"This is a vindictive action since the BJP failed to destabilize the MVA government. The properties seized were self-earned, and if it was proved that he and his wife had even a rupee in black money, he would donate all his properties to the BJP. Such low-level politics was never seen in Maharashtra," he added.

Raut said he is not scared and will fight and expose everyone. "I am not one to get scared, seize my property, shoot me, or send me to jail, Sanjay Raut is Balasaheb Thackeray's follower and a Shiv Sainik, he'll fight & expose everyone. I'm not one to stay quiet, let them dance. The truth will prevail," he tweeted. In another cryptic tweet, he said, "Asatyameva Jayate" (untruth alone triumphs).

The task is cut out for the CPI-M at its 23rd Congress

Debate on Cooperation with the Congress Party will be crucial

By P. Sreekanth
Thiruvananthapuram, April 6:

All eyes are riveted on Kannur in Kerala, where the 23rd Party Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is set to begin on April 6.

Strengthening the party at the national level to make it politically more relevant. That will be accorded top priority at the Congress. For that to happen, the party must regain the mass base and lost space in national political landscape. And all energies will be bent to attaining that prime goal. The Congress will discuss and debate the strategy to be adopted to see that the marginalization of the Left becomes a thing of the past. For realization of that goal, the

CPI(M) must rebuild the party in West Bengal and Tripura, which were its strongholds in the past. Without regaining its past glory in the two states, the CPI(M) cannot hope to play the key role it played in the Left-United Progressive Alliance (UPA). All Party Congresses have tried to expand the party's base into the Hindi heartland. But for some success in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and parts of Himachal Pradesh, that task has remained unachieved.

The only exception is Kerala, where the party created history by winning two successive terms in office – the product of political pragmatism. The party has to build on the gains made in Kerala. And the Party Congress will work out long-

term strategies to realize that goal.

Another issue which is bound to be in focus is the electoral understanding with the Congress. But, unlike in the last Party Congress, where the major point of discussion was ties with the Congress, this time around, the issue has not caused any major division within the party. True, the CPI(M) has identified the BJP as the main enemy to be defeated, But there is still lack of clarity on the issue.

There are two streams of thought on the matter. A section led by CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury favours a broad alliance of secular, democratic forces, including the Congress. But the Kerala unit is in no mood to toe that line.

Contd. from Page 2

Negligence towards children's....

It has also been seen in most of the children that if they know how to read, understand and speak in the elementary classes, then they start completing any studies easily, on the other hand, a child has difficulty in reading, understanding and speaking. If so, he falls behind his syllabus, and is not able to keep pace with his syllabus and he lags behind in studies. The children around him start judging himself more and less than himself, due to this he starts disinterested in studies himself. The disinterest in children towards their studies affects their academic life. Teachers will have to pay good attention to these things as well as maintain constant contact with the parents so that proper coordination can be done in the studies of the children.

From the beginning of April, the heat has started showing its attitude. The heat is spewing fire directly during the day, in such a situation, going to school and studying in summer will be no less than any challenge. At present, in remote and rural areas where there is a lack of basic facilities, only time will tell how the children sitting on mats in the classroom in the scorching heat will be able to concentrate on their studies, but by running the school in April, the gap of education will be bridged. First is the purpose.

Parents of children teaching in private schools are worried about the expenses of the school along with the education of the children, in the preparations for the new session. Due to the question mark

on the quality of education in government schools, there is a migration of parents to private schools. Government schools, which are said to be a strong read of education, are seen fighting for their existence today. In many government schools, schools have been closed due to low enrollment of children or in some schools it is the condition that there are as many or more teachers as there are children. Government schools should pay special attention to raise their standard so that the expenditure on government education can show the right results. Government teachers will have to focus on teaching only and only children. Doing work other than studies before or after studies will need to be strictly adhered to. Teaching

children should be the first responsibility of the teacher, for this steps will have to be taken to help the teachers by creating a proper monitoring system in the education system.

To start the education of children, it is necessary to give full emphasis on teaching according to their learning, not by teaching according to the class, but by forming groups according to their learning level. After a long gap, there must have been fluctuations in the learning level of the children, there is a need to work in a planned manner on understanding this. Now parents need to pay full attention in bridging the gap of children's education, now parents may have to pay a lot of attention towards the education of children need to contribute.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE DIVISION NO. II

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Dated, the 4th April, 2022

On behalf of the Governor of Manipur, the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Maintenance Division No. II, Water Resources Department, Manipur invites item rate tender through open tender from eligible contractors for 8 (eight) nos. of works at a total estimated cost of Rs. 385.61 lakhs under Irrigation Maintenance Division No. II jurisdiction.

The tendering officer is Executive Engineer, Irrigation Maintenance Division No. II, Water Resources Department, Manipur. The tender details and documents shall be available from 5th April, 2022 to 21st April, 2022 at the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Maintenance Division No. II, Lamphel, Water Resources Department, Manipur.

Bid submission start date: 6th April, 2022
Bid submission end date: 22nd April, 2022
Date of opening of Bid: 25th April, 2022 till end 11.30 a.m.
Time: 11.30 a.m.
Venue: Office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Maintenance Division No. II, Lamphel, Water Resources Department, Manipur.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Maintenance Division No. II
Water Resources Department, Manipur

Petrol, diesel prices hiked by Rs. 10 in 16 days, 80 paise up today

Agency
New Delhi, April 6:

Fuel prices were hiked once again on Wednesday by 80 paise a litre, the 14th price hike in the duration of 15 days. Petrol and diesel prices have gone up by Rs. 10 per litre each in the past 16 days, after a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision ended on March 22.

Rates vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxation, with Mumbai having the highest fuel prices among the metro cities.

In Delhi, petrol can be bought for Rs. 105.41 per litre, while diesel now costs Rs. 96.67 per litre, according to the latest notification by state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, petrol and diesel prices per litre were listed at Rs. 120.51 per litre, increased by 84 paise, and Rs. 104.77 per litre, increased by 85 paise.

The Centre has been facing the heat from opposition parties over the non-stop rise in petrol and diesel prices. On Tuesday, Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh took a jibe at the Centre over the

rising fuel prices saying that by "80-20" the BJP meant that they will increase the price of petrol-diesel by 80 paise each for 20 continuous days.

"During the entire election in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP kept saying that we are contesting on 80-20. They were trying to say that we will continue to increase the price of petrol and diesel by 80-80 paise continuously for 20 days. That's what they do, giving sweet poison," Singh was quoted as saying.

Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that

the fuel price hike in India was only 5 per cent between April 2021 and March 2022, despite the Russia-Ukraine war having impacted crude oil prices across the world. Fuel prices have increased over 50 per cent in some other developed and developing nations in the aftermath of the war, he added.

"We are not the only country impacted by the war," the minister said, adding that petrol prices have gone up by over 50 per cent in countries like the US, the UK, Canada, Germany, and Sri Lanka.

Renowned Filmmaker, Lyricist L. Banka Sharma to be conferred with prestigious MSFDS Lifetime Achievement Award

IT News
Imphal, April 6:

The 14th Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) Lifetime Achievement Award, 2022 will be conferred upon renowned filmmaker and lyricist Laimayum Banka Sharma.

Laimayum Banka has been nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of his immensely valuable contributions towards the growth of Manipuri Cinema. The award carrying a Maibi memento, citation, shawl and a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/-.

Hailing from Uripok Machin Khwai Brahmapur, Banka was born on December 11, 1945 to late L. Rajbapu Sharma and Laimayum ongbi Ibemphishak.

Banka who is 76 years of



age, has been associated with Manipuri films since the first Manipuri feature film 'Matangi Manipur' though he was not a part of the film crew. He even assisted the Director Deb Kumar Bose through suggestions for particular scenes of the film to capture the right emotions especially in the classic number "Eigi Punshi Nangga".

Banka was at his peak of popularity after he took on board 'Nightingale of Bollywood/India' Lata Mangeshkar, as a playback singer for his 'Meichak' and later 'Madhabee'.

Always with an aura of self-esteem, Banka said that he always wanted to be "The Captain" in production of a film. So far, he has directed

several timeless films such as Wangma Wangma, Yairipok Thambalnu, Meichak, Madhabee, Poppy and Laman. He also made short films including 'Carpenter and his wife' and 'Mitsna'.

He was also among the early Manipuris who went to Mumbai to receive professional film schooling. He was trained in editing from Film and Television Institute, Mumbai in 1971 where he acquainted various Bollywood personalities though he did not complete the entire course.

Banka is now living with his wife Vaikholling Gangte, 3 sons, 3 daughter-in-laws and 4 grandchildren.

The seasoned filmmaker is now eyeing to make the legendary 'Khamba-Thoibi', digitally remake 'Madhabee' and write a book sharing his years long experiences

Floral Tribute paid to the Martyred war heroes of Anglo Manipuri War 1891

IT News
Imphal April 6:

Justice Committee on Anglo Manipur War 1891 along with Sanakhya Yaikhullakpa, Sanakhya Sengoisana Memorial Committee today paid floral tribute to the martyred war heroes of Anglo Manipur War 1891 while observing the 131st deaths anniversary at Thoubal Athokpam.

A press statement said that

British declared war on Manipur after the British Jamandar Birbal Nagarkanta informed the news about the killing of five British Soldiers by Manipuri Armies in March 1891 to Lieut. Grant who was staying in Burma. They send Yengkhoba Major General along with 100 armies after heard news of attacking by the enemy at Manipur Palace. After that Angousana, Sanakhya Lokendrabirjit, Chongthamcha Ayapurel

Major, Wangkhei Meiraba Poila with 300 armies when to the battles. First the two rebels meet up at Arongkhong, later at Tomjing hill, and ends at Thoubal Athokpam. At the battle, Yaikhullakpa and Sengoisana end their lives.

Later on, the committee mentions that they wanted State Government to build memorial sites for the Martyrs who end up their lives in Anglo Manipuri War 1891.

NSCN slams ex-Nagaland CM Jamir over suggestion to PM Modi on Naga issue

Agency
New Delhi, April 6:

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim, better known as the Isak-Muivah faction of the NSCN, has slammed former Nagaland Chief Minister S.C. Jamir for urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to go for a solution to the "Indo-Naga political issue" minus a separate flag and constitution.

The NSCN (I-M) has been insisting on a separate Naga flag and Yehzabo or Naga Constitution as part of the final peace deal. It also claimed that New Delhi had agreed on granting these two demands in the Framework Agreement signed in August 2015.

The Centre denied agreeing to these two demands.

Mr. Jamir on Tuesday met the Prime Minister seeking an early solution to the Naga political issue since the talks concluded officially on October 31,

2019. The former Chief Minister also allegedly made light of the issue of separate flag and constitution.

In a statement issued late on Tuesday, the NSCN (I-M) said Mr. Jamir was campaigning for a solution based on the Agreed Position that "favours his political dream." The Agreed Position was signed between the Centre and the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs).

The NNPGs comprise at least six extremist groups ideologically and militarily opposed to the NSCN (I-M). This agreement does not mention a separate flag and constitution.

"During his chief ministership in Nagaland, he attempted to finish the NSCN by employing every available means at his disposal. He raised forces like Nagaland Youth Front, 9th Brigade, and 6th Brigade to go all out against the NSCN," the statement said, underscoring Mr. Jamir's "inherent

tendency to stoke the fire of controversy".

Earlier, NSCN (I-M) general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah accused New Delhi of going back on its words and misinterpreting the Framework Agreement aimed at ending the decades-old "Indo-Naga" conflict.

He said the Framework Agreement is clear about the co-existence of "Nagas and India as two entities sharing sovereign power, which broadly means Nagas will not merge with the Union of India. He also said the Centre recognised the legitimate right of the Nagas to territorial integration of all the Naga areas under one political roof.

A separate flag and constitution for the Nagas are considered untenable for New Delhi, especially after the revocation of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir and allowed it to have its own flag and constitution.

Sports

I-League: Sweden Fernandes, Sergio Mendigutxia on Target as NEROCA Edge Past Kenkre FC; Khanngam brace helps TRAU edge past Aizawl 2-1

Agency
Naihati (West Bengal), April 6:

Sweden Fernandes and Sergio Mendigutxia Iglesias were on target for NEROCA FC as they defeated Kenkre 2-1 in the Hero I-League on Tuesday.

With the win, NEROCA moved up to fourth place in the Hero I-League standings with their fourth victory of the season. Meanwhile, it was Kenkre's seventh defeat of the season.

Khanngam Horam netted a brace as TRAU FC overcame a tough Aizawl FC challenge, defeating them 2-1, to snap their three-match losing streak in I-League, here, in Kalyani on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Lalthakima Ralte netted the solitary goal for his side as they succumbed to their seventh defeat of the season.

NEROCA and Kenkre kick-started the first match of the day with high intensity as they looked to control the ball in the midfield early in the game. A

couple of chances were created inside 10 minutes, including Dhananjay Singh's efforts to set the ball for Mendigutxia in the ninth minute through a cross from the left side.

NEROCA thoroughly dominated their bottom-placed opponents and looked like favourites to break the deadlock with their high pressing and tackles. They were almost awarded for their efforts as Sweden Fernandes came close to opening the scoring in the 18th minute. The ball was set up by Mendi after receiving a left side cross from Khaiminhang. However, Sweden failed to connect with the header.

Two minutes later, Khaiminhang almost found the back of the net but Tenzin Samdup denied him the goal by outstretching his foot and after that, it was just a matter of time before NEROCA scored the opening goal, through Sweden Fernandes as the winger netted an outstanding goal after beating the goalie at the near post.

Kenkre created their first chance of the match in the 42nd minute through Ranjeet Singh Pandre after NEROCA defenders fumbled but the striker was not able to put it past the goal line. Three minutes were added at the end of the first-half regulation time and it was all Kenkre needed to level the contest, courtesy of Pandre's perfect finish in the 45th minute.

Following Mendigutxia's goal, the game gathered pace as Kenkre players were not ready to bow down without a fight. Khaiminhang made two back-to-back attempts in the 63rd minute but his efforts went in vain as he failed in penetrating Tenzin's wall.

TRAU were dealt a significant injury scare early in the game when their captain Netrajit Singh fell on the field in the third minute with a shin injury and underwent medical assistance. TRAU and Aizawl both relied on their defences to keep their cool and deny the opponent any scoring chances early on.

The People's Club drew first blood in the match after Lalthakima put his side ahead in the 25th minute. Samuel aided him by setting him up with a peach of a delivery from the opposite half of the field.

TRAU increased their attacking play after Aizawl broke the deadlock and were rewarded for their efforts as Khanngam scored the equalizer in his third attempt of the game, smashing the ball in the bottom right corner.

Khanngam scored his second goal of the night three minutes later, giving TRAU the lead by toying with Anuj Kumar with a sloppy touch and slamming the ball past the goal line just as the goalkeeper rushed forward to collect it.

As the game progressed, TRAU sought to play possession-based football while patiently waiting for opportunities to present themselves. Aizawl won a free-kick just outside the box in the 71st minute but Samuel failed in converting the shot.

Sumit advances into semi-finals at 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament; Gaurav exits



India's Sumit poses along with the coaches after beating Kazakhstan's Timur Nurseitov in the men's 75kg quarter-final at the 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament in Phuket.

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, April 6:

India's Sumit put up a dominating performance to enter the semi-finals while Gaurav Chauhan suffered a defeat at the 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament in Phuket on Tuesday.

Playing his first match after having received a bye in the opening round, Sumit looked in good touch throughout the match as he comfortably secured a 5-0 win over Kazakhstan's Timur Nurseitov in the men's 75kg Last-8 bout.

On the other hand, Gaurav (91kg) gave his all against another Kazakh opponent Aibek Oralbay, the 2018 Youth Olympics champion. However, his campaign ended with a 1-4 loss in the quarter-finals.

Sumit became the fourth Indian semi-finalist at the ongoing tournament, which has been witnessing high-voltage competition in presence of 130 top boxers, including 74 male and 56 females, from Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa. Monika (48kg), Ashish Kumar (81kg) and Manisha (57kg) are the other three Indians who

have already progressed into the Last-4 stage.

Six Indian pugilists will be seen in action on Wednesday. While Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg), Amit Panghal (52kg) and Rohit Mor (57kg) will play in the quarter-finals, Govind Sahani (48), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Ashish Kumar (81kg) will fight for a place in the finals.

In the last edition of the Thailand Open, held in 2019, the Indian contingent signed off with eight medals—one gold, four silver and three bronze.