

## ERDO warns ATSUM – ‘We will demand compensation for the lost’

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

Economic and Resource Development Organisation, (ERDO) Kangleipak, a body of entrepreneurs today appealed the ATSUM and its subsidiary organization to stop imposing economic blockade on National Highways and warn of legal proceeding to demand compensation for the lost by the entrepreneurs.

A statement by Shanta Nahakpam, General Secretary of ERDO, Kangleipak elaborated the impact of economic blockade to the people of the state. It said that all people particularly those living on hand to mouth are affected by economic blockade irrespective of differences in community. The statement appealed to understand the inner meaning of the provision provided under the Article 371 C, for

promotion of the suppressed area and thus give some autonomy. It should not be misinterpreted as an weapon of some vested interested people as a tool that provide them power to demand more and more autonomy.

It said that ERDO with other traders and manufacturer will take the help of law and demand compensation for the lost if any economic blockade is imposed in the Highways.

## Jagdeep Dhankhar takes oath as 14th Vice-President of India

Agency  
New Delhi, August 11:

Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday took oath as the 14th Vice President of India.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office of Vice President to him at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi. The Vice President is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Dhankhar was elected as Vice President on August 6 after defeating the Opposition candidate Margaret Alva.

On August 7, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey jointly signed the ‘Certification of the Election of Jagdeep Dhankhar as the next Vice President of India’.

The BJP-led NDA candidate won the election comfortably with 528 votes against Alva’s 182. Dhankhar secured 74.36 per cent. He has the highest winning margin in the last six vice presidential elections held since 1997.



The returning officer of the vice presidential election said of the total 780 electors, 725 cast their ballots but 15 votes were found to be invalid. The turnout was 92.94 per cent, he said, adding that a candidate needed 356 votes to get elected.

Born on May 18, 1951, in an agrarian household in a village in Rajasthan’s Jhunjhunu district, Dhankhar completed his school education from Sainik School, Chittorgarh. After finishing his graduation in physics, he pursued LLB from the University of Rajasthan. Despite being a first-genera-

tion professional, he became one of the leading lawyers in the state.

Dhankhar, 71, has practised in both the Rajasthan High Court and the Supreme Court of India. He entered public life after getting elected as a Member of Parliament from Jhunjhunu in the 1989 Lok Sabha elections on a Janata Dal ticket.

He also served as a Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1990. His politics was initially influenced by former deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal.

Dhankhar, who belongs to the Jat community, later shifted

focus to state politics and was elected to the Rajasthan Assembly in 1993 from the Kishangarh constituency in Ajmer district. Dhankhar was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal in 2019.

He resigned from the post of West Bengal Governor on July 17 after his name was announced as the vice Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The Vice President of India, which is the second-highest constitutional post in the country, is elected through an electoral college consisting of members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

The Vice President is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dhankhar will preside over the proceedings of the Upper House of Parliament at a time when there are apparent divisions between the treasury benches and the opposition.

With Dhankhar’s election as Vice-President, the presiding officers of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will be from Rajasthan.

## US Consulate’s train-the trainer workshop underway in Imphal

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

A five day train-the trainer workshop for US Consulate’s entrepreneurship program Academy for women entrepreneurs (AWE) alumni and other entrepreneurs in Manipur was started at the JCWR Global College at Babupara in Imphal from August 10.

An English language specialist Dieter Bruhn from the US is conducting the training program under the initiative of the US consulate General Kolkata in partnership with the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the US Embassy in India.

In this training session, Dieter Bruhn will work with a group of the participants in Imphal to develop a curriculum where the workshop participants can use a key training tool with peers. The train-

ing aims at honing the business communication and presentation skills of the participants with a focus on networking, negotiating, elevator pitches and formal pitches for specific audiences. The program will prepare them to deliver a winning business pitch in front of a live audience including investors, industry leader, entrepreneurs and academicians.

On the first day of the training, 11 out of 21 registered participants took part in the training programme.

On August 16, the last day of the five-day workshop in Imphal, the participants will make presentation of their final pitches and Dieter Bruhn will hand over the certificates to the participants encouraging and motivating the women leaders to continue training other women entrepreneurs in their circle so that

they get noticed by investors and secure fundings for their ventures.

In his remark on the opening day of the programme, Deputy Director Mathew Bikoff of American Center Kolkata wished them well and said Language empowers and educates and this is what makes us different. For we are not here to teach you just English but attitudes, determination, networking, public speaking and effective communication which will enhance your skills and prepare you to present your ventures better. Language matters being visible matter, you and your work matter and make a tangible difference.”

Such training was conducted in Ranchi and Patna last month while in Dimapur last week. It will be conducted in Kolkata as well in the coming weeks.

## “Eat Right Walkathon and Eat Right Mela” held at Kakching, Chandel and Bishnupur District

IT News  
Kakching, August 11:

To commemorate 75 years of India’s Independence and as part of celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), Food Safety Administration, Kakching organised ‘Eat right’ Walkathon and Eat Right mela’ today at the Multipurpose Community Hall, Kakching Mayai Leikai, Kakching on the theme Eat right, Eat healthy and Eat sustainable.

A mass rally with placards and banners marched from the Irabot park, Kakching bazaar to Multipurpose Community hall, Kakching Mayai Leikai was flagged off by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kakching A. Adahrii Maheo.

In his Chief Guest speech, Adahrii said that the theme it-

self Eat safe, Eat healthy and Eat sustainable is very relevant in the present society. Eating the right food is highly essential for every citizen’s health. There are many vendors selling food without proper packaging in the market. Everyone needs to check the manufacturing and expiry date while buying food from the market or any food business operators.

The food safety department has a great role to make sure food selling in the market are safe to eat. Whether Food Business Operators have proper licence or valid licence should be checked. As a responsible citizen we must abide by the norms of Food Safety and inculcate in our life. He also urges the gathering, try to gain maximum information and awareness from the resource

persons for safety, he added.

In his keynote address, Y. Satyajeet Singh, Designated Officer, Food Safety Administration, Kakching/Thouba said that the programme was held as part of the celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate the 75 years of India’s Independence. In order to build a strong and healthy society, the people here need to consume the right food. The citizens should plan and choose what is good for health while buying from the market.

About 100 students from Class VI to VIII and IX & X categories took part in the painting competition as part of the event on the theme. As many as 23 stalls consisting of Food Business Operators and line department were opened in the venue displaying various food

items.

The gathering was also enthralled by Yoga demonstration by E. Premkumar Singh and his party, presentation of Herbal life by Basanta Nutrition Club, Kakching Khunyai and Pena Cholom performed by Poirei Enat Pena Ashei Lup, Heirok.

As part of the programme, Managing Director & Senior Advisor, Sangai Youth Tobacco Free & Educational Organisation, Dr. S. Binola Kumari Devi, Co-founder & President-Tobacco Control/Education, Sangai Youth Tobacco Free & Educational Organisation Premjit Thokchom and Thongsuanmung Vualnam, spoke on various topics as resource persons.

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## Meitei Leepun warns

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

The Meitei Leepun warns of countermeasures against any Economic Blockade on the National Highways of the state. This was stated in a Press release sent out by the organisation yesterday. The press release said the frequent imposition of Economic Blockade along the National Highways has brought about hardships and miseries to the

people residing in the valley districts. There had been loss of lives, merciless instances of arson and destruction of vehicles ferrying essential items, intimidation, and assault of innocent truck drivers who are securing the daily needs of the people due to such economic blockade.

A befitting reply will be given to those who impose

such Economic Blockades and are fully prepared to retaliate against any such form of blockade along the National Highways and to impose counter Blockade within the state. Such countermeasures will also be taken up by Joint Committee Assam and Manipur on Atrocities Against Manipur Valley, the statement added.

## Portraying Paona Brajabasi as Tribal Leader: Reflection of Indian Psyche

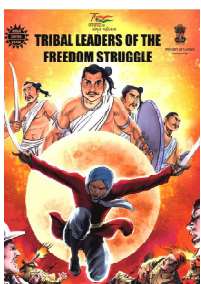
By: Sh Ajit  
Imphal, August 11:

Was the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 a tribal revolt? Was it a war fought by the Kingdom of Manipur against the British invasion? Was it a war between two sovereign states? These questions are crucially linked with Manipur’s homage to her fallen heroes in the war. Before the War of 1891, Manipur was an independent state in the Indo-Burma Region. This is not an exaggeration. The State was invaded by the British Empire from two ends: British Burma and British India. Though the state was a tiny force against the imperial power, Manipur did not surrender to the mighty force; she fought with her limited military resources and boundless spirit

of nationalism. The history of Manipur witnesses the heroic acts of her warriors. They were killed in front of their friends, but they showed the world the value of independence for a country.

Historically speaking, the heroic fight of Manipuri heroes in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 was not less than that of the war fought by Jhansi Rani or Tipu Sultan. The Battle of Plassey of 1757, or the Anglo-Burmese War of 1824-26, or name any war which was fought to defend one’s sovereignty against the colonial expansion, is the war fought to safeguard one’s sovereignty. These were not tribal revolts or rebellions. These were wars to protect their sovereignty.

One of the brave hearts of Manipur, the then Independent



Country is Paona Brajabasi. He was a Meitei. Not a tribe. The battle of Kongmang was part of the 1891 War fought between the Independent Kingdom of Manipur and the British Crown. History tells us Paona Brajabasi was neither a tribal leader or a tribal warrior. He was

a brave heart who fought for his motherland and her sovereignty. Keeping this in our mind, let us analyze the motive of depicting Manipur’s hero as a tribal hero in the Indian psyche. India’s psyche does not like to recognize others than their own as national heroes. This psyche is reflected in the latest volume published on August 2022 of *Amar Chitra Katha* under the title *Tribal Leaders of Freedom Struggle*, in the page 80 which is Paona Brajabasi is depicted as one of the tribal heroes and categorized in a group of Indian tribal leaders. The value of our heroes is belittled by denying the political status of Manipur as an Independent Kingdom which was outside the Ancient or Medieval or even Modern Indian till it was merged in

1949. Paona Brajabasi who was conferred rank of Major by the State of Manipur in her regular army was projected as tribal hero, meaning fought for a few villages having no central authority. The historical affairs of Manipur in 19th Century are reduced to a tribal affair. In any historical documents, Manipur was not considered as a tribal land, even by the British colonialists. Then the conscious move of the Indian middle class to reduce the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 to a tribal revolt or rebellion should not be taken lightly; it has a serious political implication. It hurts the sentiments of the Manipurians.

We can remember how N. Biren, Chief Minister of Manipur was angry over the historical misinformation of

Brig. Sushil Kumar Sharma by saying the area of Manipur at the time of merger with India was only the valley region having 700 square miles. The Kingdom of Manipur which became a Princely State during colonial period was merged with India with the signature of a sovereign King of Manipur. Manipur, at the time of Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 and when the Merger Agreement was signed, was not a tribal chiefdom, but a sovereign state. Brig. Sushil Kumar Sharma who said Manipur is only the valley area, was wrong; so also the *Amar Chitra Katha*’s latest edition of *Tribal Leaders of Freedom Struggle* by including Paona Brajabasi in its list of tribal leaders.

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## Dead body found

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 11:

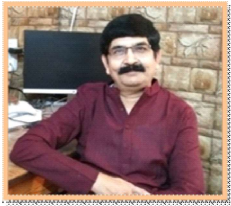
A dead body was found floating at Imphal River today afternoon at the northern side of Singamei bridge.

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Balmiki (17) son of Papu Balmiki from Madhya Pradesh, presently staying at a rented room at Mahabali Awang Khul, Imphal East.

Family source said the deceased has been missing since the last four days.

A police team which rushed the site picked up the body and deposited it at RIMS morgue for autopsy.

# A brother is a friend God gave you; a friend is a brother your heart chose for you



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Literally translated, *raksha* means protection while *bandhan* means bond. Raksha Bandhan, therefore, signifies the bond of love out of which comes a sense of security and protection. It falls on Purnima or full moon day in the month of Shravan according to Hindu Calendar. The festival is most common among the Hindus. However, it is also celebrated by the Sikhs, Jains and other communities. Regional celebrations may be different but Raksha Bandhan has become an integral part of those customs. The festival has been celebrated

in the same way with the same traditions for centuries. Only the means have changed with the changing lifestyles. In Indian tradition, the frangible thread of rakhi is considered even stronger than an iron chain as it strongly binds a brother and a sister in the circumference of mutual love and trust. There are several historical evidences, which remind us about the significance of this festival and every time, this festival emphasizes the same values which have been mingled along with the festival. Raksha Bandhan is mentioned in our epics as a festival of Gods. It is said that once Indra, the God of Heaven was about to go into battle and was feeling a little apprehensive. When his wife tied a sacred thread to his arm for his protection and assurance all his fears vanished and he was successful in all his endeavors. The most ancient incident refers to the invasion of Alexander the Great. Accordingly to the another story, Puru was a mighty king. Alexander had to face a great resistance from him. Worried about her husband's safety, Alexander's wife sought audience with King Puru. She requested him to accept her as his sister. Puru obliged her and promised not to harm Alexander. The Rakhi on Puru's hand is said to be the savior of Alexander.

On Raksha Bandhan, the sister ties a rakhi, comprising sacred threads, on her brother's wrist and performs an *aarati*. While tying the rakhi, the girls chant

**"Yena baddho Bolee raajaa daanavendro mahaabalah tana twaam anubaddhnaami rakshhe maa chala maa chala"**

Means "I am tying a Rakhi on you, like the one on mighty demon king Bali. Be firm, O Rakhi, do not falter." It is the duty of every brother to protect his sister. The sister prays for the well-being, success, and safety of her brother. The brother promises to safeguard his sister under all circumstances. It helps to build a healthy family relationship. Today, the festival goes much beyond real brothers and sisters to any two individuals who enjoy a deep relationship. So you are likely to see a woman tie a rakhi to her cousins, neighbours and close friends. The love and self-actuation towards a novel cause between a brother and his sister is the theme of this great Rakhi festival.

Thus Raksha Bandhan, like all other Indian festivals, is a call to the Divine Self within. So let us pledge, on this day, to commit ourselves to dedicating our actions to our goal of self-betterment, harbouring finer emotions and developing the clarity to see the permanence in and through the transience of the world.

Raksha Bandhan is the day when people perform the grand pooja or the worship of the three eyed God, Lord Shiva. The sacred thread was apparently mentioned in several Hindu legends.

We have to place Raksha Bandhan in this larger context to realise that it is not just a simple function of tying a love band, applying a tilak on your brother's forehead, offering him sweets and accepting his gifts. The rakhi is not a band of love; it is a knot of subordination. The finer points of Raksha Bandhan is to bring people together just like the true spirit of all other Indian festivals.

# India @ 75 and the saffron surge in Indian politics



By: M.R. Lalu

The Indian National Congress has always been a momentous political force in India. Except for some occasional convulsions against the party and its rule by leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, the Congress predominantly remained a powerful platform which could successfully withstand successive storms and sail the country through political whirlwinds. Its growth as a dominant political entity in India remained relevant until a political wind began to blow against it from the Sangh Parivar courtyard. The BJS (Bharatiya Janata Party), as that was the political outfit sprung from the stem of the parivar known as, was chiefly to propagate a new political ideology based on nationalistic principles and traditions. It consistently flapped its wings to fly beyond the terrain of power occupied by the Congress but failed to do anything significant until its new avatar, the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) came into being. India's political spectrum turned topsy-turvy almost permanently for the Congress soon after the advent of a chaitanya from Gujarat. Its hope to come back as it did in the previous periods did not fructify, and Modi in his full-fledged second term seems to have tightened his grip further and the Congress has almost become a boat without a rudder.

With more than 2700 registered and recognised political parties, India should be enlisted as first among the countries with a complex political environment. The BJS came into existence on 21 October 1951 with a view of changing the political narrative in India. The idea that the BJS put forth was to probably give India a political leadership based on the values of Bharatiya Sanskriti. This

was the reason the BJS (later the BJP) did not enjoy public support in the beginning with a sizable population of the country keeping them under the carpet with a strange denial and suspicion. Though the RSS was active, its political clone the BJS failed to make inroads in its journey but its transmuted version the BJP could later bring about the ideological transformation the founders of the BJS dreamt about. The journey of BJS to BJP reveals the inexorable efforts that it carried out for the last 70 years. Why could such an ideology spring and flourish in a secular political setting in India? The answer probably indicates a decision that culminated in chiselling a large landscape into two fragments; one a secular democratic country and the other an Islamic Republic on religious lines. A silent discontent among the majority remained rock-solid and sedimented while the Nehruvian model of administration and its successive governments represented an alienated version of democracy that kept a large chunk of India's populace under a surreptitious denial.

Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee an agitator and nationalist had to resign from the Nehru cabinet for the ideological differences he sensed in the beginning itself. With the second RSS chief rendering enough functional backing, Mr. Mookerjee was quick to begin the new political outfit the BJS. From Atal Bihari Vajpayee's mild and inclusive Hindutva to the aggressive version of Hindutva propelled by Narendra Modi, the BJP's journey to power was phenomenal. A genuine ineptness that the Congress and other national parties have swooped in could reveal the quantum of damage that the Modi upsurge was capable of causing. The present dispensation under him is blamed to be authoritarian and the queue that the opposition parties are slowly inching against Modi with their ideological contradictions is probably leading them to an ultimate political irrelevance. A growing disenchantment with the Nehruvian politics and the minority appeasement carried out by the Congress could help

the saffron ideology to flourish and the Ayodhya movement was a milestone, a detonation point for the BJP. Not to forget, an umbilical connection between the RSS and its political avatars remained consistently visible since 1951. Deen Dayal Upadhyay an RSS veteran codified the ideology which the BJS and BJP continued to embrace all through their political operation. 'Integral Humanism' propounded by him became the Bhagavad Gita of the saffron legion in 1960.

From thirteen days to thirteen months to a full term in the government, the BJP under Vajpayee tasted the compulsions of coalition politics and its possibilities as well. On April 17, 1999 the veteran leader in Vajpayee became emotional in the parliament as his side of the ruling coalition lost the required margin by one vote in the parliament as AIADMK decided to unfasten the knot. But the organisational growth of the BJP was rapid and the Congress and many other parties in the opposition failed to learn from the means and methods that the BJP adopted for its exceptional expansion. Now the party under the leadership of Modi can be negligent of any coalition drama as it enjoys a clear mandate to rule. The main question is should the expansion of the BJP be seen as an outcome of the charisma of Prime Minister Modi alone? Probably there are various factors that contributed to the celebrated expansion of the party. The cadre system that the BJP could establish in line with its base organisation the Sangh was perfect and the discipline it could infuse among its workers was worth studying. Secondly, most of the renowned parties in India are family enterprises and their history is evidently full of rampant corruption of dynasties. BJP for that matter was a new entrant into a modern political scene with its grass root workers rising to hold prominent positions in the party. This garnered a great amount of respect and attraction and the Modi factor of good governance was an added feature that the party was strengthened with. The large organisational base of the Sangh

Parivar has always been an accelerating force helping the BJP's prospects mounting manifold.

The Bharatiya Janata Party could successfully mobilize its resources for winning elections and expand its electoral base. It is not only Hindutva that the party was trying to fit in but also responding to the incompetence of the opposition with severe arrogance and institutional involvement. With the investigative agencies behind the opposition parties, the BJP is all set to further damage their prospects and busy framing narratives on its consistent efforts to fight corruption. A divided opposition, more divided than ever before, is crumbling further with many of its heavyweights facing the wrath of investigation against corruption. Towards the last leg of its second term, the Modi government is seen to be marching unhurt as no corruption charges could be established against it. The Gandhi family's desperate gimmick to gain relevance in Congress was the Black Friday drama the country witnessed in the national capital recently. It is a now or never battle for the party and its family enterprise. Except for the South Indian states the BJP is a significant force everywhere in the country. The strategies that the party devise frequently put the opposition in a hazardous situation. Elections for the post of President and Vice-President proved the diplomatic stretch that the BJP was capable of and the results were evidently throwing light on the confusion engulfing a scattered opposition. From the three seats it won in its first Lok Sabha elections to the mammoth number of seats it won in the last general elections - from BJS to BJP, the saffron ideology has passed various tests and tribulations. When its leaders decided to scrap the BJS in 1980, they would not have thought that the new version of their party, the BJP would politically capture India. The moot point of the moment is; does this saffron surge hold the key to the future?

(The author is Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

# Digital Transformation of Transport Sector

By: Pawan Kumar Joshi

All over the world, the transport sector has seen phenomenal growth due to technological innovations, the increased purchasing power of citizens, and improvements in the road infrastructure. Like every country, India too has an elaborate Governance mechanism to control, regulate and manage the transport sector. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) to modernize the management and operations of the Transport Sector. It is a comprehensive digital platform created with technical support from National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) facilitating all transport-related services through a centralized, web-based system operational across the country. It has successfully transformed the service delivery mechanism of various transport-related activities (vehicle registration, driving license, enforcement, taxation, permit, fitness, etc.) and has also empowered multiple stakeholders by ensuring improved delivery of services.

Some of the key applications developed and implemented under this project include Vahan (for vehicle registration), Sarathi (for driving license), mParivahan (mobile app), e-Challan (enforcement solution), PUC (pollution compliance system).

Vahan and Sarathi have extended their reach to 1300+ RTOs, 30,000+ Dealer points, across 33 States/ Union Territories, covering

their diverse systems and processes under a unified, common system. More than 100 online, citizen/trade services are operational and facilitate online service requests, document upload, ePayment, appointments, etc. Many of them are completely contact-less eliminating the need for visiting RTO by citizens. On average, 60,000 vehicles are registered, 80,000 licenses issued, 25 Million SMS/OTP generated, 100,000 online applications, and 100,000 online appointments are booked daily.

After the core activity of process automation at the RTOs and other transport establishments has been achieved through the adoption of basic digital technology, the emphasis has now moved to citizens and other stakeholders in the sector. Applications and Services are being offered through online, contactless manner to ensure ease in getting services. Stakeholders in the ecosystem are connected through sharing of data and integration of services.

Online Check Post Application provides a convenient option for payment of inter-state entry tax without any barriers. Several mobile-based initiatives have also been launched under the eTransport project. e-Challan is a comprehensive Traffic Ticketing Solution that has been adopted by Transport Enforcement Officers and Traffic Police in 26 States. The

solution equips the traffic police officers with hand-held devices running e-Challan app for easy and quicker issuance of challans and accepting ePayments. The system is also linked with speed detection cameras which allow the issuance of traffic violation notices without human intervention.

PUC is a web-enabled application used by around 30,000 Pollution Checking Centres across 24 states for certifying vehicular emission compliance (Pollution Under Control Certificates) as per standards and norms set by the Motor Vehicle Act/ Rule. It facilitates real-time integration of the pollution status with various allied systems and stakeholders.

For citizens, a handy mobile app to cover various transport-related services and information has been developed and launched under the eTransport Project. mParivahan is a widely popular app for the citizens that allow multiple services and tools related to Transport Sector, including Virtual Driving License and Vehicle Registration Certificate, etc. to be available through a common platform.

Another mobile app - mVahan - has been launched to facilitate departmental officers to carry out various functionalities, starting with vehicle fitness and inspection conveniently and efficiently.

Manufacturer-specific solutions include

Homologation application for Automobile and Component Manufacturers, to ensure smooth execution of Type Approval of vehicles, Speed Limiting Device (SLD) application for approval and fitment of speed limiting devices in transport vehicles; CNG Maker application for fitment of genuine CNG Kit in vehicles.

There are other recent initiatives like IRAD (Integrated Road Accident Database) for quick and accurate collection and processing of accident data from the field level. The World Bank-funded project aims at compiling detailed accident parameters for better accident management and analysis and engages all stakeholders on a single platform.

VLTEAS (Vehicle Location Tracking and Emergency Alerts System) with GPS enabled tracking device fitted in public service vehicles aims to enhance Road and Passenger safety. Under the eTransport project, the VLT Device fitment process, as well as the tracking and monitoring through Command & Control System are facilitated to different states in India.

Any technology-led initiative or scheme is aimed at ensuring efficient delivery of services to the citizens. The computerization of various operations has transformed the traditional cumbersome processes, thereby ensuring increased transparency, ease of use,

and readily available online services. The need for citizens and transporters to visit RTOs has been significantly reduced with the widespread adoption of the digital payments system, web-based service requests, online document upload, document verification, online appointment, etc. Transport Officials and Staff across the country now have the benefit of working with a modern, integrated system which has given a boost to their productivity. These IT-led initiatives have also contributed to the revenue of the states by provisioning new revenue streams (for example Fancy Number Auction) and reduction of leakages (through ePayment etc.). Compliance with rules and acts has increased significantly due to the adoption of applications like e-Challan Traffic Enforcement Solution, Integrated Pollution Control System, Vehicle Tracking System, etc. The top authorities comprising the Ministry, State Transport Departments are making use of the data-driven dashboards which will help them make informed decisions and thereby formulating better policies. With multiple stakeholders, the transport ecosystem has emerged as a Public Digital Platform where the exchange of data and services has grown tremendously, thus creating a constructive synergy.

(The writer is Scientist-G, pawan.joshi@nic.in)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# Over 16,000 coronavirus cases, 53 deaths; active cases decline to 1,25,076

Agency  
New Delhi, August 11:

India registered a single day rise of 16,299 new COVID-19 cases, pushing the coronavirus tally to 4,42,06,996, the Union Health Ministry stated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 52,687 as 53 more people lost their lives due to coronavirus. The fresh coronavirus deaths were reported from Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Punjab, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Manipur,

Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha and Sikkim.

Active Covid cases decline to 1,25,076 from 1,28,261, the data released by the MoHFW said. Active cases constitute 0.28 per cent of the total infections.

The data updated at 8 am showed that 19,431 recoveries were logged in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 4,35,55,041.

The health ministry informed that the daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.58 per

cent, while the weekly positivity was 4.85 per cent.

25,73,389 doses of COVID vaccines were administered in the last 24 hours.

Under the nationwide vaccination drive, 207.29 crore total vaccine doses (93.69 cr second dose and 11.49 cr precaution dose) have been administered so far, the Union health ministry informed.

Some cities like Delhi and Mumbai have been witnessing a surge in COVID cases in the last few days. Notably, 40 coronavirus patients have lost

their lives in the national capital so far in August.

Delhi on August 10 reported 2,146 fresh COVID cases with the positivity rate rising to 17.83 per cent. The national capital registered eight fatalities, the highest in nearly 180 days.

Mumbai reported 852 coronavirus cases, the highest daily rise after July 1, pushing the tally to 11,29,285.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) informed that tally of active cases surged past the 3,500-mark to reach 3,545.

# DFO Kangapokpi inspects Kanglatongbi Kangpokpi Reserved Forest



IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

DFO Kangapokpi, N. Ganesh IFS along with Forest Officials and staffs conducted a route March along the boundaries of the Kanglatongbi Kangpokpi Reserved Forest. Patrolling of around 20 Sq.km. area was covered alongside route-march, to assess the anthropogenic pressures across the reserved Forests.

Route march is conducted to show the presence of the Department and it is also planned to conduct more such exercises in the near future. It is proposed to put more check posts on the boundaries of the RF for checking of such illegal activities in and around the RF.

It was found many small scale mining were being done inside and along the RF boundary. Some of the stones quarried were seized along with a truck loaded with full of stones

and cases will be initiated against those. Range Forest Officers were directed to make a fresh assessment of encroachers. DFO has issued strict warning to those who were involved in small scale Mining from the rivulets of KK RF.

It may be noted that the Joint Survey of Kanglatongbi Kangpokpi RF is still under progress. ACF Kangpokpi and Range Forest Officers were also present in the Route march and patrol.

# Veteran lawyer Kapil Sibal is angry with Supreme Court and Judiciary

*Rajya Sabha MP sees endorsing by Judges of official views as ominous*

By Sushil Kuttu  
New Delhi, August 11:

Veteran lawyer Kapil Sibal isn't a happy lawyer. It was only a few days ago that the Supreme Court had asked him to be the court's friend, help it understand the "freebies culture", and what ought to be done with the pettifoggery that some political parties do to win sweeping electoral victories.

Sibal says the top court is no longer the place to go seeking justice. You won't get it, he said, suggesting other proactive avenues. In Sibal's book, justice cannot be snatched from the judge's gavel and cannot be knocked out of the court's attitude! As it happens, cases are assigned to select judges and then what would happen everybody knows beforehand.

In Sibal's book, victory is all that counts, and without victory nothing is sporting. A few recent judgments haven't been fair in Sibal's reckoning. To be fair, there's a reason for Sibal's resentment. He and his ilk know the Supreme Court judges by far more than any elephant in the room.

To state it without much fanfare, Kapil Sibal has no

hope left in the Supreme Court. Those are his words, not that of any Tom, Dick or Harry. He was talking on the "Judicial Rollback of Civil Liberties" and he did not like the top court's conclusion in the Zakia Jafri case which gave Prime Minister Narendra Modi a clean chit.

Sibal was Zakia's counsel. And it must rankle. Sibal is also not impressed with the verdict upholding the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Sibal failed the Opposition by losing in court. Read right, Sibal appeared to advocate street justice, but an ED with vast powers isn't Kapil Sibal's kind of ED.

Actually, Sibal more than anybody else has reason to be angry. He has served 50 years in the Supreme Court. Worse, he knows things will not change even after the "landmark judgement", like when the court struck down Section 377 and the ground reality for the LGBTQ remained unchanged.

"Independence is only possible when we stand up for our own rights and demand independence," the veteran lawyer suggested a way out. It is good that Sibal is not the charismatic Nehru or the firebrand

Netaji, or there would have been crowds in the streets of Delhi and Mumbai, asking why wasn't the Fire-Brigade called when Gujarat was burning in 2002?

Documents that survived the rioting and the arson showed the Fire Brigade was not called to extinguish the fires. And yet the SIT appointed by the Supreme Court gave a clean chit. Sibal's grouse is that the Supreme Court chose to ignore the evidence. An entire regiment of people agree. But does that mean, everybody should be in the streets fleeing the government of positive action?

Sibal also attacked the top court for making adverse remarks against Teesta Setalvad which led to her illegal arrest. Being a seasoned politician, Sibal saw a politically-sensitive case when one came along. And he has had enough of such cases going to predictably select justices.

Sibal called it compromising the independence of the court, the finger pointing at the Chief Justice of India. Point is, if a senior lawyer can state it so, then the rest of India can also voice the thought for no rhyme, and every reason: The

CJI is the one who "decides which matter will be dealt with by which bench and when."

Regarding the PMLA judgement of the Supreme Court, Sibal hit out at the ED in the "extremely dangerous" column and said it had "crossed the lines of individual liberty." The Supreme Court had no idea what it was adjudicating on. How could the top court conclude ED officers are not police officers? The Supreme Court can no longer be trusted if it upheld such laws.

The long and short of it, the SC as it stands now is untrustworthy, biased, squarely in the government's court and unfit to handle sensitive political cases that question the government and its actions. Sibal was particularly talking of Siddique Kappan who continues to languish behind bars for being in a car going somewhere.

Counsel Kapil Sibal is not the only person who seems to be urging the people to look beyond the Supreme Court for solutions to the vexed problems labouring the nation in these allegedly deadly times for a supposedly beleaguered nation. Top Opposition leaders have done so, and so have

# Bharat Vikas Parishad organised 'Raksha Bandhan & Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign'

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 11:

Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Manipur Prant in association with 25th Battalion BTRF, Lamphel, Imphal West celebrated 'Raksha Bandhan' in the name of Veer Jawans together with the jawans of the BTRF Battalion at its battalion at Lamphel.

Gifts and sweets were distributed to BTRF jawans on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. Talk on the importance of Raksha Bandhan and the role of Bharat Vikas Parishad in the upliftment of



the society to help build a strong nation were delivered by the presidium members. Indian tricolor flags were also distributed to the jawans of BTRF and members of BVP as a part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign' to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark the

75th year of Independence of our great nation, India.

Dr. H. Priyoshakhi Devi, President, BVP, Manipur Prant, B. Krishna Kumar Sharma, Secretary, BVP, Manipur Prant and Shri Roshan Lal, AO, 25th Battalion, BTRF, Lamphel were the presidium members.

## Career Guidance

# The Scent of Freedom



By: Vijay Garg

There is perhaps no need to mention the importance of freedom separately, because there have been so many ups and downs in its hunger all over the world. Its form has also changed according to the times and contexts. But what is the prevalent 'freedom' we talk about in today's era, and what is its meaning? Where does it begin... Whose freedom?

According to my opinion, it is necessary to know first that freedom is not a limited thing in a person freedom by connecting person to person a strand of flowers is formed. Our freedom is tied to someone else's freedom. If we are

free to speak, write and act according to our wishes, then the person in front should also be free. Only then will the concept of freedom blossom in its pure form. Exploitation, oppression, dishonesty etc. hurt the concept of freedom, because it gives birth to inequality, the biggest enemy of freedom.

The question is where does freedom begin. From the Parliament, from the Constitution or from within ourselves. The constitution is saying that we are citizens of a free country? but our What is Iman saying? If you are free, how much? Totally or a little? Or someone has taken away your freedom! Extremist, patient, lenient and intransigent man corrupts the spirit of freedom by encroaching not only in his own life but also in the lives of others. Such people break the rules or symbols of freedom from their extremism while walking on the road. Driving in the wrong lane on the road makes freedom a wrong turn.

Unnecessarily honking horns keep you sleepy about the concept of freedom. Their

work is most important. Secondly, to be able to do their work on time, so that they don't care. If we are also among these people, then the free winds of freedom cannot pass through these narrow paths of our thinking. If you want to realize the true meaning of freedom in your personal life, then one has to make one's personality complete. A personality, in which there is a combination of understanding and human consciousness, sociability, compassion and above all love. Real freedom teaches us to love each other.

Now one of us may wonder what the relationship between freedom and love is. relation. Now a jabra, hHe does not love anyone, neither man, nor animal, nor insect, nor earth, nor sky, what can freedom mean to him. Freedom demands restraint and reform. As a citizen of a free country, you should be aware of not only your rights but also your duties. You don't want on the road, let the law run. The system should work and in a densely populated country like

India, patience, restraint and a little understanding also prevail. Big old people and school children are standing on the other side of the road so what does our freedom say?

Will continue to gallop while sitting on the car or stop the car and allow them to cross the road Will give time Or our free thought also says that get out of the car and go hold that old woman's hand and make her cross the road. We must have often seen in many videos of social media that when a squirrel or duck is crossing the road with its family, the vehicles on foreign roads stop behind several meters. Why?

Sitting in an expensive car, man often stops looking at humans too and who are these people who are stopping to see squirrels and ducks. These are the same people who know that only man has the exclusive right to freedom. R no. Freedom is the fragrance that spreads in the air, from which the greatness rises every day. Our freedom is also in allowing the squirrels to cross the road safely. It is also in keeping

the plants on the roadside safe. Freedom is also in that sisters and daughters who came out of the house at night should be comfortable and safe. Elders living in the house can sleep peacefully at night.

Loudspeaker should not infringe on anyone's freedom. Don't let the smell of our house reach someone else's nose. Fly my kite with a string of responsibility and don't slit anyone else's throat. So the meaning of saying that freedom is some where Born under self control. Independence does not mean putting fire-crackers on the tails of dogs on the night of Diwali. Nor does freedom lie in shouting ho-ho while flying kites all day long on 15th August and cutting the feathers of voiceless birds with a manja. Freedom is a responsibility. There is a call to keep your behavior restrained. He inspires change in the society through his conduct. Indeed, freedom is a beautiful idea. Just like a flower. If this idea is not polished after washing it, then it becomes filthy and withers.

# As Covid cases surge, Delhi govt reintroduces Rs 500 fine for not wearing masks

Agency  
New Delhi, August 11:

The Delhi government on Thursday reintroduced a Rs 500 fine for not wearing masks in public places amid a surge in Covid cases.

The fine under this provision of the notification will not be applicable to persons travelling together in private four-wheeler vehicles. The national capital has been witnessing a rise in Covid cases for the past few days, raising the concerns of health department officials.

A study at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital in Delhi has found a new sub-variant of the Omicron variant of coronavirus. LNJP Hospital medical director Suresh Kumar

said that Omicron's new sub-variant — BA 2.75 — has a higher transmission rate.

On Wednesday, Delhi reported 2,146 fresh Covid cases and the positivity rate rose to 17.83 per cent. The national capital registered eight Covid deaths, the highest in nearly 180 days.

Delhi reported seven deaths from Covid-19 and 2,495 fresh cases on Tuesday. The spurt in cases ahead of the festive season is becoming a cause of concern for the government as well as residents.

Delhi on Monday reported 1,372 Covid-19 cases and six deaths. The positivity rate shot up to 17.85 per cent on Monday, the highest since January 21.

# Indian National Flag hoisted at Mount Koubru

IT News  
Kangpokpi, August 11:

The Indian National Flag was today hoisted at the Mount Koubru as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign which is celebrated under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrating the 75 glorious and historic years of India's Independence.

The event was organised by the District Administration Kangpokpi in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Kangpokpi and Kangpokpi Forest Division. The team comprising of various departments led by Deputy Commissioner Kengoo Zuringla, IAS, began climbing the mountain early in the morning today at the Kanglatongbi Kangpokpi Reserved Forest (KKRF).

Kengoo Zuringla, IAS,



said the idea behind hoisting the Indian National Flag atop the Mount Koubru is celebration of the spirit of freedom and to be grateful to our motherland. She called upon the citizens to participate in the celebration of Independence Week from August 11 to 17, 2022.

For the event, the Divisional Forest Officer Kangpokpi issued necessary guidelines which included not to litter the mountain, harm plants/animals and disturb the surroundings at the area.

Meanwhile, the Indian National Flags were hoisted at

various government department offices and schools in the district. Posters issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations in connection with the celebration of Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign were displayed at different locations within the district.

## JAC of AMTUC and AMGEO may resort to a cease work strike

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

Ch Chandramani, President, JAC of AMTUC and AMGEO submitted a letter to the Chief Minister of Manipur that reiterates its demand for even and timely disbursement of monthly salaries of working state gov-

ernment employees and for immediate payment of pension and pensioner benefits to retired state government employees. In spite of JAC's earnest and humble request to stop the preferential treatment in the matter of disbursement of salaries, the government still continues its practice of preferential and se-

lective disbursement of monthly salaries for select departments, offices, as to say for Manipur Secretariat Services and Home Department preferentially over other departments.

JAC of AMTUC and AMGEO further stated that the government will resort to a divide and rule policy among

state government employees.

JAC of AMTUC and AMGEO demand the matter be resolved immediately, otherwise the Joint Administrative Council (JAC) of AMTUC and AMGEO may resort to a cease work strike as intimated earlier without any further notice.

## SF apprehends KNLF insurgent

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

Based on credible intelligence input provided by Keithelambi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South), Manipur Police launched an operation and apprehended an active cadre of proscribed group KNLF from Jiri Parking Imphal West district yesterday.

The apprehended insurgent was actively involved in extortion activities on behalf of the proscribed group in the valley areas. The apprehended insurgent was handed over to Imphal Police Station for further investigation.

## 81st Birth Anniversary of former AK Langam observed

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

81st Birth Anniversary of former Minister late Akoijam langam was observed today at Manipur Press Club here in Imphal today. On the occasion

wife of late AK Langam, AK Santibala honoured the members of the AMWJU and EGM and extended monetary assistance to AMWJU for the welfare of the journalist community.

It may be noted that the

late Akoijam Langam was born on August 11th, 1941. He started as a pilot officer and later was elected as the MLA of Naoriya Pakhanglakpa assembly constituency and became Minister in the Government. He died in 2003.

## GC CRPF Langjing conducts 20 km run under "Har Ghar Tiranga Mission"

IT News  
Imphal, August 11:

GC CRPF, Imphal again conducted 20 kms. run from CRPF Camp to S.V. Getwell School, Haotal Thangjam, Khunou, Pangei Road, Primary

School Chingkhui and Pangaui villages for awareness campaign of Har Ghar Tiranga Mission in the Villages under the leadership of Madan Kumar, DIG, GC and distributed 1500 Tiranga flags to the villagers tomorrow.

Madan Kumar, DIG, L. Dinamani Singh, Principal of S.V. Getwell School, Haotal Thangjam all School Children, Somorani, Dy. Comdt., Martin Raju, AC, SOs and Jawans were participated in "Har Ghar Tiranga Mission".

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## "Eat Right Walkathon and Eat Right Mela" held at Kakching.....

The objective of organizing such Mela is to promote the theme "Eat Right, Eat Healthy and Eat Sustainable" under the direction of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Additional Food Safety Commissioner/Director of Health Services, Govt. of Manipur.

The function was graced by Dr. Th. Rajen Singh, CMO, Kakching as President while Yengkhom Achouba Singh, ZEO Kakching and Nongmaithem Nimai Singh, President of Senior Citizen Forum, Kakching as guest of honours. Many Students, line departments and stakeholders of Kakching district have attended the programme.

Meanwhile, as part of the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in connection with the celebration of 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence, the Food Safety Administration, Chandel, in collaboration with Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and District Agriculture office Chandel organized "Eat Right Walkathon and Eat Right Mela" and District Agriculture Fair, 2022 today at Multi Purpose Hall, Mini Secretariat, Chandel.

As part of today's programme, an Eat Right Walkathon was flag off from

the Indoor stadium, Japhou Bar by the Deputy Commissioner Chandel, Mayanglambam Rajkumar.

Today's opening function of the food mela was graced by the Deputy Commissioner Chandel, Mayanglambam Rajkumar, CMO Chandel, Dr. Serthani Serbum, ADC Chandel, MD. Firoj Khan, State Food Analyst (SFA), state public health Laboratory, Lamphel Shri. Ch. Sanajaoba Meitei as Chief Guest, President and Guests of Honour respectively.

During the function State Food Analyst (SFA), of state public health Laboratory, Lamphel, Ch. Sanajaoba Meitei interacted with the audience specially the students present in the function and spoke in length about safe and hygienic food.

The food Mela was organised with an objective to promote the theme "Eat Safe, Eat Healthy and Eat Sustainable" under the direction of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Additional Food Safety Commissioner/Director of Health Services, Govt. of Manipur.

Different stalls of food items ranging from packed food to fresh vegetables were displayed in the mela by different departments and SHGs of the district.

District Administration, Bishnupur organized a Walkathon under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign today to inspire the people of the district to hoist the national flag atop their homes.

Students in large numbers with the tricolor in hand marched from Moirang Multipurpose Higher Secondary School led by Deputy Commissioner Shri Lourembam Bikram, SP Bishnupur, Shri N. Herojit Meitei along with other district officials and NYK volunteers also joined the walkathon.

Addressing the gathering at INA Memorial Complex in Moirang, the culmination point of the walkathon, Deputy Commissioner Lourembam Bikram highlighted that Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is to evoke sense of patriotism in the hearts of the people while urging the gathering to hoist the National Flag at their homes from August 13 to 15.

Meanwhile, ZEO, Zone IV, Bishnupur also organized painting, slogan writing and quiz competitions for classes VIII to XII as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in the district. According to ZEO Bishnupur officials, as many as 700 students from 35 schools have participated in the competitions.

## Portraying Paona Brajabasi as Tribal....

Considering the patriotism of our Chief Minister, everyone would like to take some action towards banning Brig. Sushil Kumar Sharma's *The Complexity Called Manipur: Roots, Perceptions and Reality* for distorting historical facts as well as the latest edition of Amar Chitra Katha for wrongly depicting one of our brave hearts who died to protect the historical pride and political sovereignty of Manipur in 1891.

Both of them reflect the Indian psyche in which India is only the mainland India, outside of which is considered as tribal world. One will wonder how India classifies freedom fighters into tribal and non-tribal leaders. Moreover, the people of Manipur are highly insulted with the inclusion of Paona Brajabasi in the list of tribal leaders, while the entire people are paying homage to those fallen heroes in the month of August. The Chief

Minister should not target one professor who was co-guide of Sushil Kumar Sharma for his PhD degree. He should take up necessary steps towards banning these books that belittle our State and her heroes. The seriousness lies not in the role of Professor Amar in a PhD work; evils are in the mindset of these authors. Let us raise our voice for correcting these historical mistakes, committed by Indian elites.

## Sports

## FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to start a day earlier than planned, say sources

Agency  
Qatar, August 11:

The World Cup in Qatar could start one day earlier than scheduled with FIFA looking at a plan to let the host nation play Ecuador on Nov. 20, a person familiar with the proposal told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person said a decision could be made within days by a committee comprised of FIFA president Gianni Infantino and the heads of the six continental football bodies.

The proposal to create a 29-day tournament instead of the long-planned 28 has been favoured by Qatari officials and South American football body CONMEBOL, with talks also involving the Qatar and Ecuador soccer federations, the person said.

The World Cup is set to open on Nov. 21, a Monday, with the Netherlands facing



Senegal at 1 p.m. local time in Doha. Qatar and Ecuador are also in Group A but that match was scheduled to start six hours later on the same day.

The match schedule, with the official opening ceremony at the third match when Qatar was scheduled to play, was finalized after the draw was made in Doha on April 1.

A Sunday start for the World Cup had been ruled out

several years ago when a shorter, 28-day schedule requiring four games each day during the group stage was agreed to by FIFA after talks with influential leagues in Europe which will play club games through Nov. 13.

However, a Qatar-Ecuador game involves a few players who are with European clubs and would give the host nation an exclusive day to open

its tournament.

The opening ceremony could now actually be before the opening game, at Al Bayt Stadium, and open up the early evening slot on Monday for the Netherlands and Senegal.

The 2022 World Cup is the first in the tournament's 92-year history to be played outside of the traditional northern hemisphere summer. The previous 21 editions were all played between late May and the end of July.

FIFA finalized a decision in 2015 to avoid the searing heat in Qatar's summer and move to November and December, despite opposition from most of European football unhappy at shutting down their domestic leagues for several peak weeks.

The Nov. 21-Dec. 18 tournament schedule was agreed to so that European clubs could play on the Nov. 12-13 weekend before releasing their

players to the 32 World Cup teams.

The final will be played on a Sunday that is Qatar's National Day, allowing a full week for players to return to clubs before the Premier League plays its traditional Boxing Day games on Dec. 26.

Qatar bid to host in June-July promising innovative stadium cooling technology to overcome heat expected to reach 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) during the first World Cup held in the Middle East.

In December 2010, Qatar won a controversial contest beating the United States bid 14-8 in a final round of voting by the FIFA executive committee.

More than four years later, FIFA moved the tournament to be played on dates when temperatures should be around 25 to 30 degrees C (77 to 86 degrees F).

## Two Pakistani boxers missing in Birmingham after CWG

Agency  
Islamabad, August 11:

Two Pakistani boxers have gone missing in Birmingham after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games, the national federation said on Wednesday.

Pakistan Boxing Federation (PBF) secretary Nasir Tang confirmed the news that boxers Suleman Baloch and Nazeerullah disappeared a couple of hours before the team's departure for Islamabad.

The Birmingham CWG ended on Monday

"The travel documents including their passports are still with federation officials who accompanied the boxing team to the games," Tang said.

He said the team management has informed the Pakistan High Commission in the UK and

the relevant authorities in London about the disappearance of Suleman and Nazeerullah.

Tang said the documents of the missing boxers have been kept as per the standard operating procedure for all athletes who travel from Pakistan.

The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) has formed a four-member committee to investigate the matter of the missing boxers.

Pakistan failed to win any medal in the boxing competition of the Commonwealth Games where it ended up with eight medals, including two gold, won in weightlifting and javelin throw.

Akbar, however, didn't even bother to compete in the championships and went missing with his passport and other documents just hours after reaching Budapest. He could not be traced since June.