

## Manipur celebrates Statehood Day Golden Jubilee; Commemorative Postage Stamp released

**“Manipur deserves peace and freedom from closures and blockades” - PM Narendra Modi**

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 21:

Manipur celebrated its Statehood Day Golden Jubilee today at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal.

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebration, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh released a commemorative Postage Stamp of the 50th year of Manipur's Statehood. PHED Executive Engineer Chamdanlung Rongmei was also awarded for his dedication and effort in the successful implementation of the Prime Minister's Jal Jeevan Mission in Kamjong District.

In a video message on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of the State. Prais-

### CM and colleagues greet people on Statehood Day

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 21:

Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh along with his cabinet colleagues greets the people of the state on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Manipur Statehood Day which falls on Jan 21.

In his message the Chief Minister said that the attainment of Statehood on 21st January 1972 was a landmark in the history of four people. It fulfilled a long-cherished dream to empower ourselves to shape our own destiny within the framework of the Constitution of India. Since then we have had an eventful journey of progress and development. We have ably emerged as a powerhouse of games and sports. Government is committed to making Manipur a role model of all-around progress in the country.

“On this day, let us resolve to work relentlessly towards building a progressive and peaceful Manipur. Let us also pledge to foster a greater sense of brotherhood among all communities,” the Chief Minister wrote.

Cabinet Minister Th Biswajit also extended warm greetings to the people of the state on occasion of the 50th statehood day of Manipur. In his message Th Biswajit extended the heartfelt greeting and best wishes to the people of Manipur on the special occasion of statehood day.

“On January 21 1972 Manipur attained statehood since then Manipur has not stopped a day and has made rapid strides in advancing towards development in every aspect. On this special occasion, day let us pledge to work collectively to bring peace, harmony, and prosperity in the state”, Biswajit added.



ing the people of the State, he said that resilience and unity of the Manipuri people in the face of ups and downs of their history is their true strength.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid his tributes to the sacrifices and efforts of each and every person who have contributed in the State's journey. Stating that Manipur deserves peace and freedom from bandhs and blockades, he further expressed happiness that the State and its people could fulfill this desire for peace.

Further stating that the government is committed to make Manipur the sports powerhouse of the country, he said that sons and daughters of Manipur have brought laurels in the field of sports. He also said that in consideration of the passion and potential of Manipuris in sports, India's first sports university was established in the State. The Prime Minister also spoke on the State's youth's success in the Start-up sector and handicraft sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the State has a key role in the vision of making the North-East the center of Act East policy. He said under the ‘double-engine’ government, Manipur is getting long awaited facilities like Railways. Thousands of crore rupees worth connectivity projects are underway in the state including Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway line, he added. He also maintained that connectivity of North-Eastern states with Delhi, Kolkata and Bengaluru has improved with Imphal airport getting international status. Manipur will also benefit from India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and upcoming Rs. 9 thousand crore natural gas pipeline in the region, he further added.

The Prime Minister said that obstacles in the growth journey of the State have been removed and the next 25 years would be Amrit Kaal of Manipur's development. He concluded by wishing for the state's double-engine growth.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the occasion, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh wished the people of the State on the Golden Jubilee Celebration.

He said the day is observed across the State in all districts, however, unfortunately, due to COVID, there are certain restrictions in the public gathering.

The Chief Minister said that the attainment of Statehood on 21st January, 1972 was a landmark in the history of our people. It fulfilled a long-cherished dream to empower ourselves to shape our own destiny within the framework of the Constitution of India. Since then, he said, we have had an eventful journey of progress and development.

Stating that the State is no longer lagging much behind the bigger States in the country, he said that all these have been made possible with the support and efforts of the people of the State.

contd. on page 4

## World Meitei Council reiterated stands for inclusion of Meitei/Meitei in ST list

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 21:

World Meitei Council (WMC) is observing the developments especially after the Biren Singh govt. refused to send the two reports regarding Meitei's aspiration to include in the list of Scheduled Tribes to the centre in spite of popular demand citing imbecile reasons.

However, an effort by the Biren Singh government to initiate a proposal to include Meiteilon/Manipuri in the list of classical languages of India has been noticed. This seems to be the follow up action of the MP Leishemba Sanajaoba's call in the Rajya Sabha in September 2020.

A statement said that the matter is inclusion of Meiteilon/Manipuri in the classical language of India and inclusion of Meitei in the ST list of India are two

contradictory things. One is antithesis to the other. Therefore either the Meitei has to choose classical language or Scheduled Tribe; they cannot have both. The reason is the Lokur Committee's criteria of ST is totally the antithesis of the premise of a classical language.

The statement further said that the Meitei people want ST status to protect the land and their political rights as shown by the two mass rally joined by lakhs of people first in 2016 and later in 2019 that took place in Imphal organised by the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee Manipur (STDCM).

The fact of the matter is that the Meiteis being bad economically keep on selling their pieces of lands to find some sources of income. And today Meitei are reportedly confined in less than 6% of the total area of Manipur. In

matters of population too, the migrant population from Burma, Bangladesh and Nepal had made a sea-change in the demographic picture of Manipur in the last 3-4 decades, it added.

The statement further said that the native indigenous people - Meitei, Tangkhul, Mao, Maram, Paomei, Thangal, Kabui, Zeliangrong, etc. had to bear the brunt. But all the indigenous people except the Meitei are protected by the provisions of ST and therefore only the Meitei are left in the lurch and they suffer the most. In the context of Northeast too being a small minority the Meitei suffer the most in the absence of any constitutional protection but for their hardworking sports persons they could bring laurels for the country, but otherwise Meitei are a sinking community.

contd. on page 4

## First list of BJP candidates likely to announce before Jan 26

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 21:

The first list of candidates to be contested in the upcoming 12 Manipur Assembly elections scheduled to hold on February 27 and March 3 for the BJP is likely to be announced before January 26, the Independence Day of India.

Source close to Imphal Times said that the central leadership had summoned the state BJP leaders along with the National Executive member of the BJP Th. Biswajit to finalise over the matter. As the notification for the election is for the phase is scheduled on February 1, the BJP felt it necessary to

announce the list of candidates who are to be contested in the upcoming election. However, due to some party matter affairs, the BJP may announce the name of the candidate that does not have a problem.

Another source told that the central BJP leaders had summoned important leaders of the state BJP including Chief Minister, President of the BJP Manipur BJA. Sarda Devi. However, as per information received from the Chief Minister office, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is not leaving the state today, but may likely leave for Delhi to meet the central BJP leaders to finalise the BJP candidate list for the first phase.

What is interesting about the report is that the

Center is unlikely to interfere with the selection of candidates by the state BJP authority. Even as there are differences of giving party ticket to candidates, it has been confirmed that the BJP state leadership have not problem in the selection of the candidate by the Chief Minister at some constituencies.

It is likely that the first list of candidates for the BJP contender maybe those who were selected by the National Executive member Th. Biswajit and the president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh A. Sarda Devi. This is being speculated as there is no differences of opinion between the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and the BJP party organization.

## Is Colonel Vijay Chenji trying to break up Manipur -KKL

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 21:

The recent release of the Book entitled The Anglo — Kuki War 1917-19, Victory in defeat” authored by Colonel Vijay Chenji said to be a book from a military perspective is fine but the title is misleading. For when he said “Anglo-Kuki” it implies that there existed a Kuki State in Manipur as a political entity or a Kuki Nation, a statement by the Kangleipak Kanba Lup (KKL) said.

The Book was released at the office of the Kuki Inpi in Churachandpur four days back.

A statement by the organization said that the bulk of the present day Kuki population came into Manipur from Burma or present day Myanmar and the Lushai Hills present day Mizoram. During the time when W. McCulloh was the British Political Agent stationed in Imphal between 1844-1862. They were allowed to settle down in Manipur by McCulloh under his plan to plug exposed frontiers of the

State. They were termed as the new Kukis as against the old Kukis comprising tribal groups such as the Anals and Lamkangs who are now classified as Nagas. The new Kukis consisted mostly of the Thadou and cognate tribes. They are collectively called Khongsais by the Manipuri Meiteis.

After 1891 the administration of the Hill areas of Manipur was vested in the hands of the British directly under control of the Political Agent who also functioned as the President of the Manipur State Durbar. Prior to the uprising by the Kukis in 1917 the British had decided to raise the Hill House Tax. Already annoyed with this economic hardship the Thadou Kukis took exception when the then Raja of Manipur Churachand was ordered by the British to muster up a 2000 strong contingent to serve in the Labor Corps to be deployed in France to aid the British war efforts during the first World War. Then on 17/March 1917, K. Sitlou on behalf of the Thadou Kuki chiefs fired the

first shots against the Britishers in defiance of their colonial policy.

The British first deployed the Assam Rifles and the Burma Military Police but later had to call in units of the regular British Indian army to assist in clamping down the uprising. This spoke volumes of the ferocity of the Kukis. It took three years for the British to crush the movement and soon its leaders were sent off to Sadiya Jail in Assam and the Cellular Jail in the Andamans.

In terms of human costs more than 4000 persons lost their lives. The Britishers had lost more men and officers during this 3 years long conflict than they suffered during the 1891 war with Manipur. But the Kukis had during the conflict had opened up new fronts when they began attacking the Nagas notably at Chingjaro in Ukhrul and in Tamenglong. Altogether 289 Nagas and four Meiteis were killed and 34 Naga Villages were burnt down in the process too.

contd. on page 4

## 2nd Balei Festival celebrated

IT News  
Chandel, Jan 21:

Chandrapoto Phantu Woman Society and Phantu United Sporting Association (PUSA) organised 2nd Balei (Yangkok) Festival at PUSA ground Chandrapoto Phantu Village, Chandel District today.

Yulhung Isaac Chothe President PUSA delivered the keynote address about the main celebration. Simther Chothe function President opined about the importance of the Yangkok in the Manipuri community.

Thongnaojam Sunder



Singh proprietor Ms. Sunder Oil Pump as Guest of Honour delivered the importance of Yangkok in our culture and day to day life in Manipur. Local Pastor Rimkung prayed for the blessing of the festival.

The local villagers displayed some stall related to handicraft and bamboo craft during the celebration. MK. Binarsore delivered the vote of thanks and concluded the festival.

# Why did the US fail to roll out a 5G network?

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



During my stay in Shimla, I used to pass through a narrow street to catch the city bus and it was a pleasure to see hundreds of sparrows resting and chirping on a huge bush. In the local language it is called Gauraiya or *gharelu chidiya* (house bird). There are many childhood memories when a little birdy used to fearlessly pick up the rice grains from my food plate. Sparrows used to make their nests in the verandah of the house and they used to sit around us on the terrace and in the courtyard. Sparrows are no longer seen in the metropolis nowadays. These lovely little birds have disappeared from big cities due to excessive use of pesticides in the agricultural fields, growing levels of air pollution in urban areas and the impact of harmful waves emanating from mobile communication towers. Who would have thought of the difficulties of the tiny birds in case of the mobile phone services, but in view of the safety of the aeroplanes, even USA had to suspend the plan to roll out its 5G mobile network recently. Pilots from many countries, including India, persuaded their airlines to cancel the flights in view of the emerging danger from the installation of 5G towers around airports in the US.

In fact, the waves of 5G networks and assistive devices in landing of some large aircraft are of almost the same frequency, which can threaten the safety of the aircraft and can lead to an accident at any time. Air India had to cancel several flights from the US after the Federation of Indian Pilots expressed serious concern over the 5G spectrum malfunctioning of aircraft's altitude metres. The Federation consists of 6000 pilots. Aeroplane radio altimeter measures the altitude of the aircraft above the ground. The C band of 5G systems operates around the same band on which the radio altimeter operates. US telcos who got C-band last year only after paying a huge \$ 81 billion are in trouble now. The C-band service offers faster internet speeds and wider mobile coverage and was scheduled to be operational from January 19 in the US. This would have caused the most problems for the Boeing 777 class of long-range and wide-bodied aircraft. Boeing had issued an advisory in this regard and warned of the danger.

The eight Air India flights that were cancelled included flights to and from Delhi to New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Newark. At present, three airlines including American Airlines, Delta Airlines and Air India operate these flights. This security dispute forced AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. to halt their fifth-generation 5G mobile rollout plans in the US midway. C-band is a part of the airwave spectrum and is considered popular for 5G connectivity. C-band is considered very suitable for 5G as it provides a wide spectrum range that can be used for faster connections than 4G networks. Worryingly, the signal emitted by the C-band of 5G would interfere with the radio altimeter receiving signals about aircraft altitude, which could affect landing in low visibility or inclement weather. While 5G has put USA into trouble, France and Japan have managed to avoid this problem.

Television is an electronic device that receives television signals and displays them on a screen. Since its invention during the 1920's Television Technology has gone under a drastic and constant change. There was a time when Televisions were Exclusive items affordable by the elite only; these were Black and White then. Soon Colour Televisions were launched, they had a further appeal as they brought colours in a picture. Then came the large screen sized T.V.'s, Digital Television (DTV) and High-Definition Television (HDTV). Television channels also expanded with the onset of Cable vices. Other equipment related with television-like Video Cassettes, Laser Discs, DVD's and now Blu-Ray Discs have resulted in the television being extensively utilized for various purposes in homes, businesses, and institutions. As more and more people purchased these, the more they got addicted and or dependent on it for various reasons. With adults getting influenced by the television, kids were not far behind.

The influence of Television in modern times is much more widespread as compared to the time when Television was in its initial stages. Earlier Television had less content and was predictive; nowadays the variety of programmes is far more than ever before. Internet television is another medium which affects a kid's behaviour – good or bad. Attachable Video Game Consoles like Nintendo, Sega, Playstation etc. took a leap from conventional T.V. viewing to a new level. With adults getting glued to their favourite Soaps or Sports programmes, kids found their own spots in Cartoon Shows and many times watching what their family was viewing. As a result, a bond

# Children and Television

developed between Children and Television and the outcome of that bond could be good or bad or both.

## Effects of Television on Children

TV affects kids in various ways, more than which can be imagined. Researchers have studied how TV affects kids' sleep, weight, grades, behaviour and more. 2009 findings from The Nielsen Company show that on average, children aged 2-5 spend 32 hours a week in front of a TV-watching television, DVDs, DVR and videos, and using a game console. Kids aged 6-11 spend about 28 hours a week in front of the TV. The vast majority of this viewing (97%) is of Live TV. These are old figures and by the time you would be reading this article, these figures would have Tripled or Quadrupled and so will the Effect of Television on Children. Effects of Television on Youth are almost the similar in nature with certain exceptions. To assess the Television Influence on Children one can see both sides of the coin and analyze the topic at hand.

## Positive Effects of Television

Education at an Early Age: Television is and can be a very powerful and effective learning tool for children if used wisely. Various educational CD/DVD's are available in the shops which teach maths, English and various other subjects in a very simple and interesting manner. These have poems, stories, alphabets, counting which stimulates the young mind into faster and better understanding of communication and relationships. Televised educational programs for preschoolers tend to produce kids with high grades, high achievement, and creativity. Studies suggest that those exposed to negative role models suffered while those who were exposed to positive models behaved better. TV also has the potential to educate teens and foster discussion with parents about sex. Television can be used very effectively in the much debated 'Sex Education'. Sexual content on TV can be used as an excuse to talk with young ones about sex, responsible behaviour and safety. In this way, T.V. can be an excellent educator in all aspects of life.

Provides Entertainment: Entertainment is one thing which all ages of kids love. It provides them with a variety in their life and provides a wider outlook towards life. Various entertainment programmes teach them that it is O.K. 'To let your hair down every now and then'. It also encourages cheer and glee and breaks the monotony of everyday life.

General Knowledge: Television is one medium which not only increases general knowledge of adults but it also opens the minds of kids as well. Televised programmes open up a new world for kids, providing them with a chance to travel the globe, learn about different cultures, wildlife, history etc. which they would otherwise never be able to do. Apart from T.V. programmes, the medium of knowledge is also available in other easy to access formats like CD/DVD.

Induces Positivity: Television provides a variety of channels which not only provide education, entertainment and General Knowledge they also acquaint kids with positivity. Health and sports channel display a positive attitude towards life through various programmes. Similarly, there are channels that have a schedule for spiritualistic and holistic broadcasts which inculcate positivity amongst the teens.

Teaches Etiquettes: Manners



By: Vijay GarG

and attitude are also influenced by watching television. Often shows or movies depict dining scenes where the correct usage of eating and related etiquettes can have a positive effect on kids' behaviour. Programs with positive role models can influence kids into doing things which their parents had been asking to do.

Exposure of Talent: Reality-based Talent Shows have become quite a rage. And amongst the major beneficiaries are gifted children who have a Talent which has not been discovered or polished. Such T.V. shows provide a platform for them to show the world their talent and get the acknowledgement for what is rightfully theirs.

Income Generation: Certain kids have the look, the attitude or just happen to be lucky when they are chosen for a certain commercial campaign or a contest etc. The concerned companies may offer income to such prodigies. Similar is the case of young athletes and other achievers for whom television becomes a source of income generation. In this way, television is good for children.

Reduces Tension: There is no doubt that today's world is far more filled with worries and tensions as it was before. Apart from tension generated by their immediate kin, they have to study more and perform par excellence in this competitive world. To break the monotony of this regime and get a diversion, television serves this purpose no better than other. So be it Tom and Jerry or Mr Bean it gives them the comic relief which they require on daily basis.

## Negative Effects of Television

Makes Kids Lazy: It is a well known and the most serious outcome of Television. Today's kids have developed a tendency to give more priority to their favourite programmes than conventional activities like playing outdoor games. The time and energy spent on watching T.V. drain them of energy and they will shrug off any extra work like throwing the garbage or going to a shop etc. Lack of physical activity also leads to other health problems as discussed in the below passage.

Health Problems: Excessive Television viewing has a major negative effect on a child's health, both physical and mental. This is largely attributed to not only laziness but also to Advertisers who target kids. It is estimated that on average, children see thousands of TV commercials each year which promote unhealthy snack foods and drinks.

## Few of the Major Health Problems:

Obesity: The number one problem that results as a result of watching T.V. is Obesity. Kids tend to munch on snacks and are more likely to be inactive while watching TV. This viewing time tends to reduce the metabolic rate to even lower rate than during rest. This by default means that very few calories are being used for watching as compared to when just sitting quietly, doing nothing.

Anaemia: Excessive and addictive T.V. viewing alters eating habits. Many kids will skip or eat less in anticipation of watching their favourite show. Busy parents get the excuse that they are not hungry or stomach is full. Eating later or sooner than routine causes a child to eat less food as the food routine has been disturbed, this may lead to anaemia.

Vision Impairment: In the absence of parents children have the habit of watching T.V. at close quarters or while lying on the bed. Such viewing exposes eyes to radiation

which leads to various eye problems – like dryness, redness, itchiness etc. Some may develop serious eye problems leading to vision improvement operations or high numbered spectacles.

Reduces Brain Development: TV can and does discourage reading. It may replace reading altogether. T.V. doesn't cause as much brain activity as compared to reading. Reading is universally accepted as a Healthy Brain Developer. It is a commonly observed phenomenon that kids from families which spend a lot of time on TV spend less time reading and being read to, and are thus less likely to be able to read.

Lack of Concentration: Television sucks up all the attention of teens and when the same is needed for studies, there is a lack or total absence of it. Thought watching TV for children is less calorie burner it doesn't reduce the burden on the brain. The concentration required to study has already been consumed whilst watching T.V. so there is not much left for one to study. Moreover, the thought process while studying is still absorbed in the thoughts related to it, not to mention tiredness of the eyes.

Development of Fear and or Phobia: Often families watch together all the programs irrespective of age and if such a show happens to be fear-based, it may result in the development of certain fears and phobias amongst the young ones. Sometimes kids may unwillingly happen to watch horror movies or shows which are full of blood and gore, this can have a long-term effect on the young viewer. He/she may develop certain fear and phobias and non-disclosure of such can hamper a child's intellect and unwanted/irrational behaviour. Children may start to view the world as a scary and dangerous place. They may see bad dreams, develop anxious feelings, being afraid of being alone, withdrawing from friends, and missing school. Fears caused by TV can also cause sleep problems in children. Children of 8-12 years may not be convinced even if they are told the difference between fantasy and reality by their parents.

Sleeping Disorders: Though horror programmes do induce sleeplessness, it is also caused otherwise and it may not become apparent immediately. This is because regular sleep schedules are an important part of healthy sleep. Studies have shown that Teens who watched 3 or more hours of TV per day had a higher risk of sleep problems by early adulthood. Watching Television especially when the show slot has been changed it causes altered sleep patterns and sleep disorders among children and adolescents.

Substance Addiction: Television is full of smoking, drinking, and consumption of illegal substances. And it goes without saying that if the adults cannot escape their influence, how come teens wouldn't be. TV ads are the number contributors in establishing the norm that it is normal to consume alcohol in the minds of children, adolescents, and college students. These advertisements portray people as being happier, sexier, and more successful when they drink. Movies show the Hero having alcohol or cigarette to ease himself and it sends a wrong message to the teenagers. Various sports shows and other events have sponsors who deal in beer and cigarettes', consistent appearances also establish the norm to be normal. Lobbying by such companies ensure that they remain in limelight and they might not be shown in a negative light. Consuming marijuana and other illegal substances in various movies and shows also lead to immediate or later addiction.

(to be continued)

# The Republic Day is a reminder of the spirit of federalism – and why it is under strain

By: D. Raja

On January 26, 1950 when the Indian Constitution came into force, it was a big step for the nation that had longed to achieve the ideals of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. Our Constitution tried to give a definite shape to the aspirations of the people for a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic through provisions like fundamental rights of all citizens. In a country of sub-continental proportions, it is necessary that the ideals mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution should extend to all levels of governance. The overall emphasis on equality in the Constitution is visible in all arrangements made around the federal spirit and ideas.

Conscious of the differential needs of the populations of different states, the drafters of the Constitution made provisions for an equitable share of powers and responsibilities among different levels of governments. The lists in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution – Union, state and concurrent – are an example of this division, wherein each level of government has its own sphere, enabling context-sensitive decision-making. Later, institutions for local self government were added through the 73rd and 74th amendments, which strengthened grass roots democracy.

Article 246 and Article 243 G provide for this division of responsibilities. Article 280 provided for the constitution of Finance Commission to define the financial relationship and terms between the Union and states. Apart from these institutions and the Rajya Sabha, the Constitution makers also left much scope for consultative and deliberative bodies so as to strengthen the spirit of cooperation and

federalism. Article 263 provided for the establishment of an Inter-State Council for smooth transition of business between the Union and states and resolution of disputes.

The Planning Commission always had space for discussion on issues concerning the federal nature of the polity and was sensitive to the different developmental requirements of states. The inter-state tribunals, the National Development Council and other informal bodies have served as vehicles of consultations between the Union, states and UTs. These bodies have been instrumental in tackling difficult issues democratically through deliberations while upholding the cooperative spirit between the Union and states. Unfortunately, we are now witnessing the worst assault on the federal system and on institutions.

The Planning Commission has been scrapped. The Inter-State Council has met only once in the last seven years while the National Development Council has not met at all. The tenure of the 15th Finance Commission was mired in controversy and many states expressed apprehensions about devolution. The misconceived GST has already taken away much of the autonomy available to states and has made the country's indirect tax regime unitary in nature. Many important and politically sensitive decisions are taken without reference to, and consultation with, the concerned states. Article 370 was removed without consulting the state legislature.

Parliament legislated on "agriculture", entry no. 14 in the state list, to enact the three contentious farm laws,

overstepping its jurisdiction and imposing a law on the states. Students in Tamil Nadu have committed suicide over the discriminatory nature of the NEET examination. Other centralised examinations are also indifferent to languages spoken in different parts of India and education boards of different states. The New Education Policy has been flagged as encroaching on the federal nature of the polity. The BSF's jurisdiction was extended in Assam, West Bengal and Punjab without any consultation with the concerned states. The constitutional office of governor has come under scrutiny several times for encroaching on the powers of state executive and legislature. Recently, the rejection of the Republic Day tableaux of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal by the Centre prompted protests by the respective states.

These developments stem from an ideology that has disregard for the diversity of the country and a contempt for constitutional values. These are rooted in a monolithic conception of the country, which is the hallmark of the RSS and the BJP. Their obsession with Hindu-Hindutva is the idea of "Hindi-Hindu-Hindushan" and blinding. The philosophy of uniformity and flattening out diversity has disastrous consequences for our republic, society and ways of life. The obsession with homogeneity can escalate and destroy the progressive ideals of secularism, tolerance and mutual respect. It should be underlined that Article 1 of our Constitution declares that "India that is Bharat is a union of states", and that devolution of powers is necessary in such a setting. A conscious recognition of the federal character of our polity is essential to protect our national character. A struggle at all levels against the Union government's moves to usurp federal rights has to be waged.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.



# Fever, muscular weakness among common COVID-19 symptoms during third wave: Centre

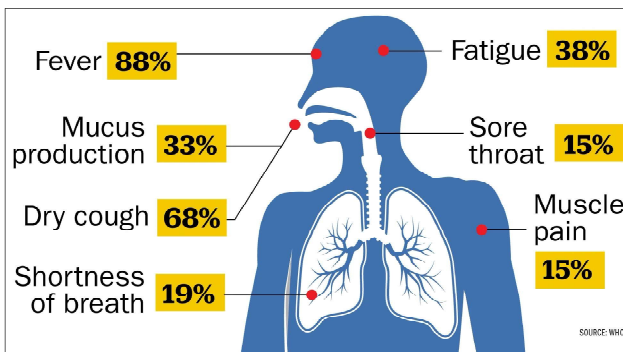
Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

Amid a surge in daily COVID-19 infections driven by the new Omicron variant in the country, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has presented a comparison between the second and the third wave of the pandemic in India and specifically Delhi.

According to the Union health ministry, fever with or without rigors (shivering), cough, irritation in the throat, muscular weakness, and tiredness are the five common symptoms of COVID-19 during the third wave.

During the weekly briefing, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had on Thursday stated that the study has been done in the national capital but it is believed that these are the most common symptoms during the third COVID wave.

The health ministry data has revealed that around 99 per cent of patients in Delhi complained of these symptoms.



However, fever, cough, throat irritation generally subside after day five.

The MoHFW further stated that among children between the age of 11 and 18 years, fever is the common symptom along with upper respiratory tract infection, while COVID pneumonia was less this time.

'COVID vaccination coverage crosses 160 cr'

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the country has crossed 160.32 crore with 94 per cent of India's adults having received the first dose, while 72 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

A total of 52 per cent of adolescents in the 15-18 age group have received the first dose with Andhra Pradesh topping the list with 91 per cent, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 83 per cent and Madhya Pradesh at 71 per cent, said the Union Health Secretary.

As many as 12 states and union territories including Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to 100 per cent of the eligible adult population, he added.

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi tops the list of most popular world leaders

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has topped the list of most popular world leaders. According to the global approval rating released by Morning Consult Political Intelligence, PM Narendra Modi has a 71 per cent approval rating. Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Mexico) is second in the list with a 66 per cent approval rating.

Among other prominent global leaders, US President Joe Biden has a 43 per cent approval rating, while UK PM Boris Johnson has a 26 per cent approval rating.

"The latest approval ratings are based on data collected from January 13-19, 2022. Approval ratings are based on a seven-day moving average of adult residents in



each country, with sample sizes varying by country," Morning Consult said on its website.

70 per cent of surveyed Indians believe that country is heading in the right direction

In a detailed trend displayed on the website of Morning Consult, PM Narendra Modi's approval rating was the

highest (84 per cent) in May 2020. It dipped to 63 per cent in May 2021 and is currently at 71 per cent. This is not the first time PM Modi has topped the global approval ratings. In November 2021 as well, PM Modi was the most 'approved' leader in the world.

Another section, Country

Trajectories, which, according to the website, shows respondents' views on 'whether their country is going in the right direction', shows that 70 per cent of surveyed Indians are of the view that India is heading in the right direction, while 30 per cent believe that it is on the 'wrong track'.

# 'Mera chehra hi hai na har jagah': At 'Youth Manifesto' launch, Priyanka drops hints of being Congress' face for UP polls

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched the Uttar Pradesh Youth Manifesto at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in Delhi on Friday.

"The youth in Uttar Pradesh need a new vision, only Congress can give that vision to the state. The Congress party consulted the youth of Uttar Pradesh and their views reflect in our party's 'youth manifesto'," Rahul Gandhi said at the launch.

He said that the Congress party "does not spread hatred, but united people".

"We want to create a new Uttar Pradesh with the strength of youth. The enthusiasm of the youth is broken. We want to assure the youth that how we will restore their confidence, how we will help them in providing employment," he said.

He said at the launch that India needs a new vision and only Congress party can give that vision.

"The biggest problem in UP is of recruitment...the youth are disappointed. We have given vision of how their problems will be solved," she said.

When asked on the Congress party's face for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections, Priyanka Gandhi just said, "Aapko kisi aur ka chehra dikha raha hai? Mera chehra hi hai na har jagah? Bas. (Can you see anyone else's face on the posters

around? It's just me, right? That's it.)"

Rahul Gandhi further said that the "BJP is turning demographic dividend into demographic disaster".

**Key Highlights:**

1. New opportunities will be provided for the employment of youth. A world class institute will be set up for backward communities, such as Mallahs and Nishads, in which they will be trained.

2. An examination calendar will be issued, in which recruitment advertisement, examination, appointment dates will be recorded and strict action will be taken in case of violation.

3. If Congress comes to power in Uttar Pradesh, 1.5 lakh teachers will be employed in primary schools. There will be severe punishments for pa-

per leaks. The education budget will be increased.

4. Party said it will provide 40% reservations for girls in government jobs. A job calendar will be made and strictly followed for better employment opportunities in the state. "We will provide Rs 5,000 crore for startups, and 1 lakh vacant posts will be filled in the police department," Priyanka said.

5. Congress leaders and workers spoke to youth of Uttar Pradesh and have asked about their problems to frame the recruitment legislation. This recruitment legislation has emerged from those discussions.

6. The party has announced to give employment to 20 lakh youth in Uttar Pradesh.

# President Kovind, PM Modi extend greetings on Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted the people of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura on their Statehood Day.

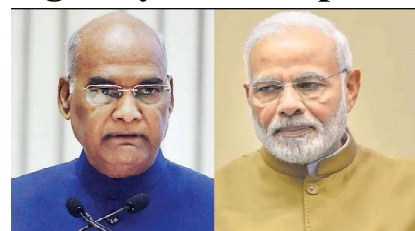
President Kovind said that these states, full of natural riches, represent the vibrant culture and unique traditions of the northeast.

"Greetings to the people of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura on Statehood Day. These states, full of natural riches, represent the vibrant culture and unique traditions of our northeast. My best wishes to the citizens of these states for a happy and prosperous future," tweeted the Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

PM Modi also extended his greetings to the three North-east states on their statehood day.

"Greetings to the people of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura on their Statehood Days. These states are making vibrant contributions to India's development. Praying for their constant progress," the Prime Minister said in a tweet today.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday greeted the people of Manipur,



Meghalaya, and Tripura on the occasion of their Statehood Day and said the Narendra Modi government is committed for the all-round development of the region and brought peace there. The three states were formed on this day 50 years back in 1972 with the enactment of North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.

"Manipur is blessed with vibrant culture & rich heritage. Today on the state's foundation day, I extend my warm wishes to the people of Manipur. The state has witnessed an unprecedented era of peace & development under the leadership of PM @NarendraModi Ji and CM @NBirenSingh Ji," he tweeted. In another tweet, Shah wished the people of Meghalaya.

"Warm wishes to my sisters and brothers of Meghalaya

on their Statehood Day. PM @narendramodi Ji and CM @SangmaConrad Ji are working relentlessly towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Meghalaya. I pray for the continuous progress of the state," he said. The home minister also greeted the people of Tripura on the occasion.

"Greetings to the people of Tripura on their Statehood Day. May this beautiful land of Maa Tripura Sundari continue to move ahead on the path of progress. Our govt under the leadership of PM @narendramodi Ji and CM @BipBiplab Ji is committed to Tripura's all-round development," he said.

Under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya attained statehood on January 21, 1972.

# AR apprehends PLA associate

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 21:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) apprehended an active Over Ground Worker (OGW) of terrorist group PLA in Moirang Lamkai, Bishnupur

district on January 19.

Based on specific input from reliable sources, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension.

The associate was work-

ing under a PLA terrorist namely Self Styled Capt Kora and was actively involved in subversive and sabotage activities in the past.

The apprehended OGW was handed over to Moirang Police Station for further investigation.

# Not aware, says China on 'abduction' of Arunachal boy by PLA

Agency  
Itanagar, Jan 21:

China has denied any knowledge about the whereabouts of the Arunachal boy, who was allegedly 'abducted' by the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson in Beijing said, "I don't know the situation."

However, he added that the PLA controls the Chinese borders and cracks down on "illegal entry and exit activities".

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army controls borders in accordance with the law and cracks down on illegal entry and exit activities," the spokesperson said in response to the allegations of 'abduction' of the Arunachal boy by the PLA.

This statement from the Chinese foreign ministry came on the day, the Indian Army contacted the PLA of China in regards to the 'abducted' Arunachal boy.

The Indian Army has sought assistance from the PLA to 'locate' the Arunachal

youth and "return him".

"17-year-old youth - Miram Tarom of Zido in Arunachal Pradesh was reportedly captured by Chinese PLA across the LAC. Indian Army immediately contacted PLA through hotline, assistance from PLA has been sought to locate and return him as per protocol," Tezpur Defence PRO said.

Miram Tarom was reportedly 'abducted' by the troops of China's PLA from inside the Indian Territory in Arunachal Pradesh.

# Tripura reports 1,185 fresh COVID-19 cases, 7 new fatalities

Agency  
Agartala, Jan 21:

Tripura's COVID-19 tally rose to 95,388 as 1,185 more people tested positive for the infection while seven new fatalities pushed the death toll to 852, a Health department official said on Thursday.

The state had reported 1,242 new COVID-19 cases and four fatalities on Wednesday.

A total of 8,709 samples were taken up for Covid test of which 1,185 people tested positive for the infection,

state's surveillance officer Dr Deep Debbarma said here.

West Tripura district logged the highest number of new COVID-19 cases with 483 cases followed by South Tripura district (150) and Gomati district (144).

The state's average test positivity rate touched 13.61 per cent, he said, adding that a total of 86,849 COVID-19 patients have recovered so far.

Tripura currently has 7,619 active COVID-19 cases.

We are monitoring the

Covid situation on a day to day basis because of spurt in COVID-19 cases in the entire district. Besides providing vaccines and treatment facilities, police and the administration are working with a focus on strict compliance of Covid protocol to check the infection level, said District Magistrate, West District, Debapriya Bardhan.

The DM added, around 34,000 children in the 15-18 age group have received jabs during the past 48 hours as the state rolled out a special vaccination drive.

# India reports 3,47,254 new Covid cases, 703 deaths in 24 hours

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

India on Friday recorded 3,47,254 new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), according to the latest data released by the Union health ministry. The country also recorded 703 fatalities in the last 24 hours, the ministry's data further showed.

The active cases of Covid-19 topped the two-million mark as the Omicron-led surge continued in the country. The active cases have increased to 20,18,825, the highest in 235 days, the ministry data showed. The active cases comprise 5.23 per cent of the total

infections, as per the data.

The overall caseload now stands at 3,85,66,027, according to the data published by the Union health ministry. While the related-death toll is at 488,396.

The number of Omicron cases reached 6,992, the ministry also informed. According to the data, Friday recorded an increase of 4.36 per cent since yesterday in daily Omicron cases.

The daily positivity rate surged to 17.94 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate is at 16.56 per cent, the ministry also added.

As many as 2,51,777 people have been recuperated from

the viral disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 3,60,58,806. Meanwhile, the country has administered 160.43 crore vaccine doses so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

# COVID-19 management in children: Steroids harmful in mild cases, no mask for kids aged 5 years or below - Guidelines

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued fresh guidelines for the management of COVID-19 in children and adolescents (below 18 years). The revised guidelines were issued in view of the current surge in coronavirus cases mainly attributed to the Omicron variant of concern.

COVID guidelines on mask usage for children

The government said that masks are not recommended

for children aged five years and below. The children aged 6-11 years may wear a mask depending on the ability of a child to use a mask safely and appropriately, while the children aged 12 years and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, the guidelines read.

In the 'Revised Comprehensive Guidelines for Management of COVID-19 in Children and Adolescents (below 18 years)', the health ministry stated that the use of antiviral or monoclonal antibodies is not recommended for children less than 18 years of age, irrespective of the severity of infection.

Antimicrobial use guide  
Antimicrobials are not recommended for therapy or prophylaxis in asymptomatic and mild COVID cases.

Antimicrobials should not be prescribed unless there is clinical suspicion of a superadded infection in moderate and severe cases.

In case of Septic shock, empirical antimicrobials (ac-

cording to body weight) are frequently added to cover all likely pathogens based on clinical judgement, patient host factors, local epidemiology and antimicrobial policy of the hospital, the health ministry guidelines said.

Guidelines on use of steroids and anticoagulants in children

On the usage of steroids and anticoagulants, the MoHFW categorically stated that steroids are not indicated and are harmful in asymptomatic and mild cases of COVID-19.

Corticosteroids may be used in rapidly progressive moderate and all severe cases, like Dexamethasone 0.15 mg/kg, maximum dose 6 mg once a day OR Methylprednisolone 0.75 mg/kg, maximum dose 30 mg once a day.

The guidelines further stated that steroids are indicated only in hospitalised severe and critically ill COVID-19 cases which can be continued for five to seven days and tapered up to 10-14 days, depending on clinical assess-

ment on daily basis. The health ministry said that steroids should be avoided in the first 3-5 days since the onset of symptoms as it prolongs viral shedding.

Post COVID-19 care instructions for children

In regards to post-COVID-19 care, children with asymptomatic infection or mild disease should receive routine childcare, appropriate vaccination (if eligible), nutrition counselling, and psychological support on follow up.

"Parents or caregivers of children, who suffered moderate to severe Covid, during discharge from hospital should be counselled regarding monitoring for persistence or worsening respiratory difficulty and explained the indications for bringing the child back to the facility," the guidelines stated.

Children who develop any organ-specific dysfunction during the hospital stay or subsequently should receive appropriate care, the guidelines further said.

# Burmese junta continues to arrest scribes, PEC condemns military atrocities

IT Correspondent  
Geneva, Jan 21:

As the military rulers of Myanmar (also known as Burma and Brahmadash) continue to arrest scribes in the south-east Asian country, the global media safety & rights body Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) condemns the Burmese junta (also known as Tatmadaw) and demands the unconditional release of all 45 journalists still behind the bars since 1 February 2021 coup that deposed the democratically elected Aung San Suu Kyi-led government in Naypyitaw.

Local media outlets in Yangon, Myanmar's former capital, reported that the Min Aung Hlaing-led military junta has lately arrested two reporters namely Ko Zaw and Ma



Ko Zaw and Ma Moe Myint

Moe Myint from Dawei, the headquarter of Tanintharyi region in southern Myanmar, on 19 January 2022. Along with them, a media employee Ko Thar Gyi, who also works for DaweiWatch Burmese news portal ([www.daweiwatch.com](http://www.daweiwatch.com)), was also detained.

Even offices of the media outlet, which primarily covers socio-political events taking place in the southern localities of Myanmar, were also

raised by the military personnel and they seized documents as well. The portal lately reported about the worsening human rights situation in Tanintharyi region as over 50 civilians were killed and nearly 900 have been imprisoned since the coup day.

"The Burmese junta continues to arrest media workers, raid news-desks and threaten media houses with brutal laws with an aim to silence the me-

dia. It arrested over 125 journalists in the last 11 months. Among them 45 scribes are yet to be released, which is shocking," said Blaise Lempen, secretary-general of PEC ([www.presseemblem.ch](http://www.presseemblem.ch)) adding that they must be released and allowed to perform their duties and media workers.

PEC's south-east Asia representative Nava Thakuria informed that three Burmese journalists lost their lives because of military atrocities within 30 days. Freelance photojournalist Ko Soe Naing lost his life on 14 December under military custody. Later journalist Sai Win Aung of FederalNews died of head injuries caused by the Tatmadaw-operated shells on 25 December. Khonumthung news agency editor Pu Tui Dim died in military firing on 9 January last.

# Statue of Subhash Chandra Bose to be installed at India Gate, says PM Modi

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 21:

Ahead of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that his statue will be installed at India Gate to honour his contribution to the independence movement. Until the installation is completed, a hologram of

Netaji will be projected at the site of the statue, the prime minister said. "I will unveil the hologram statue on 23rd January, Netaji's birth anniversary," he tweeted.

"At a time when the entire nation is marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, I am glad to share that his grand statue, made of granite, will be installed at India Gate," PM Modi tweeted on Fri-

day. "This would be a symbol of India's indebtedness to him."

The statue will be installed under the grand canopy near which the Amar Jawan Jyoti flickers in remembrance of India's martyrs. The eternal flame, which has not been extinguished for 50 years, will be put off on Friday, as it will be merged with the flame at the National War Memorial.

## Sports

# AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022: Profligate India fail Iran test in goalless draw

Agency  
Mumbai, Jan 21:

The inexperience of playing in a top-level tournament exposed as India missed a bag full of chances and were held goalless by a lower-ranked Islamic Republic of Iran team in their opening match of the AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022 at the DY Patil Stadium here on Thursday.

In the tournament's second match, India dominated the proceedings, created more than a dozen scoring opportunities off waves and waves of attacks but could not manage to score a goal in the match and trooped out dejectedly. India, hoping to qualify for the knockout rounds for the first time since 1983 had to win this match as Iran were the only team ranked lower than them in Group A. A win would have put them in a good position to at least get into the play-offs for the third-placed teams. But that was not to be as the profligate Indians just could not find the back of the net.

Forward Manisha, midfielder Pyari Xaxa, Indumathi, Sandhiya and substitute Dangmei Grace all came close to scoring the goal but either shot erratically or were thwarted by the Iranian defence. Iran goalkeeper Zohreh Koudaei pulled off three superb



saves that looked like sureshot goals.

Indumathi shot into the side netting in the second half while Grace's shot was miraculously blocked by the Iranian goalkeeper in the last moments of the second half as the hosts had to be satisfied with one point.

India enjoyed 64.1 per cent possession, had 24 shots at the goal with five of them on target but could not find the back of the net.

The goalless first half produced plenty of action after the two teams got off to a cautious start. India enjoyed more possession and had more chances but India had the two best attempts, both by Negin Zhandi — a header landing on the

crossbar and a deft shot going just wide of the far post.

India settled down into a rhythm early and it was forward Manisha who created the first chance in the seventh minute when she skipped past her marker in the left flank and floated a cross inside the box. Sandhiya meets with a header but commits a foul in the process.

India's next chance came in the 10th minute when off a tussle outside the Iranian box, the loose ball fell for Anju but she shot her first-time effort well over the crossbar.

Three minutes later, Iran had their best chance to score when the woodwork rescued India. Samaneh Chahkandi delivers a brilliant ball in from a free-kick and Zhandi attempts

a header which tips the crossbar and is cleared away by a defender.

India came close in the 24th minute when Indumathi drove a first-time effort inches over the bar. India had a couple of more chances in the first half played at a good tempo and in which both teams had their chances of taking the lead.

India had their two good chances in the second session when Pyari Xaxa and Indumathi missed from close range.

Pyari almost nudged India into the lead in the 51st minute. Manisha did the hard work as she advanced dangerously on the left wing and then put in a lovely cross for Pyari. The striker toe-pokes it just wide of the far post.

## Contd. from Page 1

# Manipur celebrates Statehood Day....

He observed that to bring a change in our society, we need to change ourselves, and said that if the public wants to erase corruption and make our society free of corruption, nepotism, we should start from ourselves. We should not encourage corruption, the Chief Minister appealed to the people.

If we want to take our State forward, we should start from ourselves, he said and added that with every Statehood Day celebration, we should assess our improvements and requirements. The Chief Minister also urged the people to resolve to work re-

lentlessly towards building a peaceful and progressive Manipur.

N. Biren Singh said that during inspection of scheme implementation in the hill districts during visits to the hill districts under the Go To Hills, Jal Jeevan Mission was found implemented successfully in Kamjong district by the concerned Executive Engineer of PHED. Considering his dedication and sacrifice to his duty, it was resolved to recognise him with an award, he said adding that, the government will continue to honour and award efficient, dedicated, duty and time

bound officials on Statehood Day.

The celebration was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar Singh, Ministers, MLAs, MPs, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, DGP P. Doungel, Post Master General NE-II Som Kamei among others.

Presentation of March Past by 10 contingents led by Parade Commander Kh. Sarma Devi, CO 9th IRB was the highlight of the celebration. Artists of the Shri Shri Bal Mukunda Dev Government Music College, Imphal presented the Closing Song of the celebration.

# World Meetei Council reiterated stands....

The Meetei have been divided by the Indian Constitution into Scheduled caste, OBC and General, as if they are different people, the statement said and added that Meetei according to our Mythology are the

descendants of our Godhead Ebudhou Pakhangba who gave birth to 7 sons that formed the "Salai Taret"; it is a big family in which all the Meetei people belong. Therefore division of Meetei into SC, OBC, General is rep-

rehensible. This cannot be accepted. There should be only one category and that category should be the Scheduled Tribe because we are indigenous native people like the Tangkhuls, etc.

# Is Colonel Vijay Chenji trying to....

"We respect and salute the brave Kukis who rose against the Imperial British colonial policies. We also know that earlier Kings of Manipur had utilized the services of the kukias as a Militia and when King Gambhir Singh raided Kohima his army consisted of the Kuki Militia also. And also

in 1949 when the Government of India had annexed Manipur it was only the Kukis that had rushed to the Palace to guard Maharaj Bodhchandra. But what the Meiteis called the Khongsai Lal and the Thadous themselves refer to it as the Thadou Gall be termed as "Anglo-Kuki" war has

larger and longer political implications and seeds have already been sown for a Kuki Homeland by Balkanizing Manipur, we suggest that the learned Colonel Vijay Chenji to change the title of his book", the statement by Ngamkheingakpa Luwang, Secretary General, said.