

Chief Minister handovers cash reward to Kangpokpi Police



IT News
Imphal, June 14:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today handed over a cash reward of Rs. 10 lakh to Superintendent of Police, Kangpokpi District Amrita Sinha for apprehending large amount of drugs by Kangpokpi Police team on 9th May and 10th June, 2022.

The Chief Minister stated that the reward had been given to Kangpokpi Police in appreciation of their dedication and

commitment towards uprooting drug menace from the state, by conducting search operations at various areas of the district. He continued that the district police also took a crucial role in destroying poppy cultivations across the district. He also mentioned that the Government would continue to reward police personnel who perform their duties sincerely.

Director General of Police, P. Doungel stated the two incidents of seizure of large

amount of drugs on 9th May and 10th June, 2022 by the team of Kangpokpi Police had really boosted the morale of the Police Force as well as the War on Drugs Campaign. He also expressed the importance of drug seizure at Imphal-Mao highway as illegal drugs coming from Myanmar and other districts goes outside the State through this highway.

He congratulated the Kangpokpi Police under the leadership of SP Amrita Sinha for carrying out such a good

work and giving strength to the meaning of War on Drugs and also wished for more success in future.

It may be mentioned that on 9th May, 2022, a police team of Kangpokpi Police Station led by S.I. Hemjamang Khongsai and S.I. Raju Singh under the direct instruction of Officer in Charge, Kangpokpi PS and overall supervision of SP, Kangpokpi Amrita Sinha, ASP(L/O) Tholu Rocky, ASP (Ops) Abul Kalam, DSP (GSPM) Sheimang Khongsai recovered 212 numbers of soap cases containing suspected Heroine No. 4 weighing 2.131 kg approximately valued about Rs. 63 lakh in local market, which would be valued around Rs. 31 crore in the international market.

On another incident on 10th June, 2022, the Kangpokpi Police team recovered 181 soap cases suspected to be containing Heroine No. 4 weighing 2.140 kg valued about Rs. 54 lakh in the national market which will be valued around Rs. 27 crore in the international market.

Senior police officials were also present when the Kangpokpi Police team was rewarded at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Mission mode: Govt to recruit 10 lakh people in next 1.5 years

Agency
New Delhi, June 14:

The government is set to hire 10 lakh people in the next one and a half years in "mission mode" after PM Narendra Modi asked various government departments and ministries to undertake the recruitment.

The direction from PM Modi came after a review of the status of human resources in all government departments and ministries, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Tuesday. "PM Narendra Modi reviewed the status of Human Resources in all departments and ministries and instructed that recruitment of 10 lakh people be done by the Government in mission mode in next 1.5

years," the PMO said in a tweet.

PM's latest review meeting comes over two months after he recommended that urgent steps be taken to fill up the existing vacancies in the ministries and departments. During a meeting held with the secretaries on April 2, PM Modi had emphasised that employment should be the focus of all government interventions in public and private sectors.

Meanwhile, there were 87 lakh vacant posts in the Central government departments as on March 1, 2020, the government data tabled in the Rajya Sabha in February highlighted.

The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah has thanked the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for the instructions given to make

10 lakh recruitments in Mission Mode in one and half years in all government departments and ministries.

Through a tweet, the Union Home Minister said "The basis of New India is its youth power, to empower them Modi is working continuously. Modi's directive to make 10 lakh recruitments in mission mode in all government departments and ministries in 1.5 years will bring new hope and confidence among the youth."

The Union Home Ministry has taken steps to fill up the vacancies in Mission Mode as per the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make 10 lakh recruitments in all government departments and ministries in one and a half years.

CM inaugurates One Day National Workshop on Promotion of Oil Palm in Manipur



IT News
Imphal, June 14:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the inaugural function of One Day National Workshop on Promotion of Oil Palm in Manipur today at Hotel Classic Grande, Chingmeirong, Imphal East. The workshop was organised by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur under CSS of National Mission on Edible Oils and Oil Palm (NMEOP).

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh stated

that there had been apprehension in the public about degradation of soil, forest and nothing could be planted on the soil once the oil palm plantation had been taken up. As such, the workshop had been organised to discuss and make people aware of the scientifically proven facts that no harm had been caused by oil palm plantation, he added. He continued that other crops like pineapple, coffee etc could also be grown successfully within the premise of oil palm plantation areas.

Mentioning India as the

largest importer of edible oil in the world, the Chief Minister appreciated the talents and efforts of Oil Palm Manipur team and Officials of Agriculture Department for being able to produce saplings of oil palm in a short span of time. He expressed his opinion on the necessity for everyone to contribute in making our nation self sustainable and enhance its economic growth, as many items which we consume are being imported from outside the country.

He continued that the Oil Palm Project was virtually inaugurated in Manipur on 12th November, 2020 and potential areas of 66,652 hectares had been identified in six districts by verifying suitable areas through observation and had started the plantation. There had been delay in expansion of projects due to certain apprehensions in the minds of people about the adverse effect of oil palm plantation, he added.

contd. on page 4

NSF seeks sincerity in Indo-Naga Political issue

IT News
Imphal, June 14:

The Naga Students Federation (NSF) had appealed for sincerity in the process of the ongoing Indo-Naga political issue.

In a detailed letter to the PM, the NSF urged them to allow them to express specifically, based on ground realities, the divisive role played by various GOI agencies.

The NSF stated that the entire Naga homeland has been militarised during the last 75 years since India's independence. We are aware of two (2) ceasefires and peace negotiations between the government of India (GOI) and the leaders of the Naga National Movement. We have only heard stories about the first

ceasefire, but we, the Naga generation, are now living through the second. We've also heard and read about previous agreements and Accords that were imposed and superimposed to bring in so-called "peaceful solutions" that created more problems and conflicts rather than resolved them.

Following the departure of the British colonialists from Naga Country, the Government of India unleashed the "dogs of war" armed with the most draconian laws, including the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958 (AFSPA). The AFSPA was and continues to be harmful to human rights. This act has been and continues to be used against innocent Naga civilians, with the most recent examples being

the Oting massacre on December 4 and the Mon killing on December 5, 2021.

In light of this, the Naga Students' Federation (NSF), which represents the aspirations of the Naga youth and student community, arbitrarily divided by colonial forces into four Indian states and two international countries, would like to state categorically that it is the government of India's insincerity of approach that has resulted in this dire situation.

The NSF appeals to PM Modi to allow them to state unequivocally that, in the current situation, the NSF fears that the GOI will fail to honor its commitment and demonstrate its utmost sincerity by ensuring the rights and dignity of the Naga people. The NSF strongly believes that a

lack of commitment to solving the problem be disastrous.

NSF further stated that the younger generation of Nagas has faith in you as the tallest leader of the world's largest democracy to bring about lasting peace and justice in our Naga homeland through your solid political will to resolve the protracted Indo-Naga political issue. We respectfully request that your office intervene to prevent such elements from exacerbating the crisis, which will only exacerbate the ongoing peace process, by taking direct control of the situation in the letter and spirit in which the ceasefire and political talks were declared and initiated, and that the talks be held without conditions and at the highest level.

In a transformative reform, Cabinet clears 'AGNIPATH' scheme for recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces

PIB
New Delhi, June 14:

The Union Cabinet today approved an attractive recruitment scheme for Indian youth to serve in the Armed Forces. The scheme is called AGNIPATH and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as Agniveers. AGNIPATH allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.

The AGNIPATH Scheme has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed

Forces. It will provide an opportunity to the youth who may be keen to don the uniform by attracting young talent from the society who are more in tune with contemporary technological trends and plough back skilled, disciplined and motivated manpower into the society. As for the Armed Forces, it will enhance the youthful profile of the Armed Forces and provide a fresh lease of "Josh" and "Jazba" whilst at the same time bring about a transformational shift towards a more tech savvy Armed Forces - which is indeed the need of the hour. It is en-

visaged that average age profile of Indian Armed Forces would come down by about 4-5 years by implementation of this scheme. The national stands to immensely benefit by infusion of highly inspired youth with deeper understanding of self-discipline, diligence and focus who would be adequately skilled and will be able to contribute in other sectors. The dividends of a short military service to the nation, society and the youth of the nation are immense. This includes inculcation of patriotism, team work, enhancement of physical fit-

Year	Customised Package (Monthly)	In Hand (70%)	Contribution to Agniveer Corpus Fund (30%)	Contribution to corpus fund by Govt
1 st Year	30000	21000	9000	9000
2 nd Year	33000	23100	9900	9900
3 rd Year	36500	25550	10950	10950
4 th Year	40000	28000	12000	12000
Total contribution in Agniveer Corpus Fund after four years			Rs 5.02 Lakh	Rs 5.02 Lakh
Exit After 4 Year	Rs 11.71 Lakh as SevaNidhi Package (Including, interest accumulated on the above amount as per the applicable interest rates would also be paid)			

ness, ingrained loyalty for the country and availability of trained personnel to boost national security in times of external threats, internal threats and natural disasters.

This is a major defence policy reform introduced by the Government to usher in a new

era in the Human Resource policy of the three Services. The policy, which comes into immediate effect, will hereafter govern the enrolment for the three services.

Benefits to the Agniveers
Agniveers will be given an attractive customised monthly

package along with Risk and Hardship allowances as applicable in the three services. On completion of the engagement period of four years, Agniveers will be paid one time 'Seva Nidhi' package which shall comprise their contribution including accrued interest thereon and matching contribution from the Government equal to their contribution including interest.

The 'Seva Nidhi' will be exempt from Income Tax. There shall be no entitlement to gratuity and pensionary benefits. Agniveers will be provided non-

contributory Life Insurance Cover of Rs 48 lakhs for the duration of their engagement period in the Indian Armed Forces.

During this period of service to the nation, the Agniveers will be imparted with various military skills and experience, discipline, physical fitness, leadership qualities, courage and patriotism. Post this stint of four years, the Agniveers will be infused into the civil society where they can contribute immensely towards the nation building process.

contd. on page 4

★ Editorial The politics of “Corruption”

The greatest tragedy in Indian democracy is that – a citizen don't require a qualification to contest election. Many political experts interpreted the Indian system as the true picture of democracy. We almost all who knows A, B, C of politics and electoral system support the idea of granting right to contest election, if he is 25 years old beside being a citizen. The idea of granting rights to any citizens irrespective of his or her qualification was justifiable once upon a time. Today the new generation has mix opinions on whether a candidate should have an approved qualification or not. And there are debate going around among some politically educated people over the qualification. Will it be educational qualification provided by Indian University or any education department? Will it be a gold medal or silver medal or say bronze medal in either national or international sports events? Will it be writers of acclaim books? Or will it be conducting an interview just as it has been doing for selection of Administrators? Talking about qualification for contesting election will be never ending debate, however, discussion over this matter becomes a much with the present political trends.

India being a multi party system have over 1000s of political parties recognized by the Election Commission of India. Among the thousands only few comes up as majority and become peoples' choice. Since India became a republic Independent country the Congress party superseded all other political parties particularly the left leaning party. After around 25 years the falls of Congress began and another political party – the Janata Dal became the peoples' party. Early 80s Congress party under the leadership of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi return back to power and since then congress party continues with Indira Gandhi's son former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi replacing her after her assassination. And now the right wing BJP is in the power.

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

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

The Chief Minister had time and again announced to public that he will take all possible measure to ensure that ‘corruption’ is wipe out of the state. There are reasons to believe that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, in his second term will surely do something to wipe out corruption from the soil of Manipur. People now believe that he will also take up pending issues of corruption and take up appropriate measures to punish all the guilty, no matter the persons committed the crime when he or she was in service. Besides, it is also expected that all pending result for appointment various departments of the government of Manipur are declared.

World Blood Donor Day 2022 and status of Voluntary Blood Donation

By: Dr. A. Barindra Sharma



World Blood Donor Day is celebrated worldwide on June 14 every year, the day being chosen to commemorate the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner who discovered the ABO blood group system and was awarded Nobel Prize.. The aim is to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood components for transfusion and of critical contribution voluntary blood donors make to national health systems. The day also provides an opportunity to alert the national and state health authorities to support and expand the voluntary blood donation programmes.

The theme for 2022 World Blood Donor Day is “Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives”. The message highlights the roles voluntary blood donors play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities. It reinforces the global call for more people all over the world to donate blood regularly and contribute to better health. Blood shortages are particularly acute in under-developed and developing countries including our country.

The covid-19 pandemic has severely stressed the health care system in the last two years including blood services. There have been restricted blood donation camps with limited number of donors. In spite of all these difficulties, many social organizations, student bodies, paramilitary forces and individual donors have contributed to meet the crisis. We express our gratitude to all. The extraordinary effort during a time of unprecedented crisis highlights the crucial role of committed voluntary blood donors in ensuring blood supply to meet the demand.

Why should we donate blood?

Safe blood and blood products are critical in modern health care system..Every second there is someone who requires blood. In India, every year about 13 million (1% of 1.3 billion population) units of blood are required, out of which only about 11 million units are available from the blood centres, a shortfall of 2 million blood units. There is no substitute for blood. It can neither be manufactured nor available as a drug/com-

modity in the market. It can't be used from other animals. The only source is from human beings. The demand is ever increasing because of accidents/ emergencies or complicated surgeries or childbirth or natural disasters. Many patients of cancer, blood disorders like thalassemia, sickle cell anaemia, aplastic anaemia, etc. require repeated blood transfusions. In many countries including India, the demand always exceeds supply, and the blood services face the challenge of making sufficient blood available while also ensuring its quality and safety.

Blood donation is harmless:

The blood volume in male is 76ml/kg body wt. and in female 66ml/kg body wt. Body requires about 50ml/kg body wt. for all normal physiological functions, the rest is surplus. We are donating a fraction from this surplus volume. No extra diet is required after donation. Any individual of 18- 65 years with Hb 12.5gm%, body wt. 45 kg, normal BP and Pulse can donate blood every 3 months (male) and every 4 months (female) without any harm to the body. By donating blood you are saving 3 lives, besides keeping you physically and mentally healthy.

Status in Manipur:

Voluntary blood donation is low in our state coming to about 30% as compared to other states and the national average of approximately 84%. The main reason is lack of awareness, fear and myths among the general public. Notwithstanding the difficulties, there is an increasing trend in awareness and voluntary

blood donation in the state in the last 4-5 years with support from National Health Mission and MACS, Manipur. The major burden of blood supply in the state is borne by RIMS. The monthly requirement in RIMS is about 1000 blood units. To mitigate the shortage, more than 90% of blood units are separated into components (Packed RBC, Platelet and FFP) and supplied to the patients. In 2021 (Jan –Dec), the total blood collection was 10,005 units and the total supply was 15,120 (RIMS).

Benefits of blood donation : Medical science says

1. Regular blood donation decreases the excess amount of iron in the body which is very toxic, thereby reducing the risks of heart and liver diseases particularly in males.
2. The excess of cholesterol associated with risk of heart disease and hypertension can also be cut down with regular blood donation.
3. Blood donation allows synthesis of new blood physiologically, which is functionally more efficient, besides improving the body's immunity.
4. Blood donation also burns calories and helps in body weight control
5. Blood donation also improves the mental status and morality. It imparts the sense of self satisfaction that your blood will save three lives.
6. Every donated blood is tested for Blood group and TTI (HIV, HBV, HCV, Syphilis and Malaria) free of cost in addition to physical medical check-up. A donor card is also issued to every donor.

sued to every donor.

Some suggestions for increasing voluntary blood donation:

* Inclusion of voluntary blood donation in school syllabus to generate awareness at the fundamental level for the future eligible donors.

* Incentives to voluntary blood donors in the form of preference in academic admission and hostel accommodation, free parking fee, free bus travel, etc.

* Awareness through media and news channels by emphasizing the importance of blood donation.

* Involvement of public leaders and celebrities in the awareness campaigns to show as role models and to spread the message of importance of blood donation.

* Incentives and financial assistance to Voluntary Blood Donor Groups for awareness and motivation at the community level.

* Recognition of regular Voluntary Blood Donors as heroes.

Blood Safety and Quality

The safest blood comes from the regular voluntary blood donor in whom the rate of transfusion transmissible infections (TTI) is much lower. To provide an additional layer of safety to the recipients/ patients, RIMS has started NAT screening from 1st January, 2021 which is supposed to be the best method available in the world at present. Even family/relative/replacement donor is not safe because he is compelled to give blood and may conceal some of the facts in pre-donation counseling. It is reported that any blood transfusion has 1% risk of complications including TTI. Honest self declaration by the donor is also equally important. Your involvement and support will help to ensure availability of safe blood and blood components for the needy patients.

Let's remember: “Tears of a mother cannot save her child. But your blood can”

“Among flowers- the ROSE. Among human beings- the BLOOD DONOR”

“A few drops of your Blood can help a life to Bloom”.

(The writer is Prof. & H.O.D., Transfusion Medicine, RIMS, Imphal)

Development Anchored in Sustainability

By: Hardeep S. Puri

The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2022 resonated with two themes that have assumed indisputable prominence in global discourse. One, the imperative of addressing the looming and real danger of climate change and the collective actions needed to move towards a sustainable path of development. Amid the ongoing global uncertainty around energy availability, the sustainability debate has snowballed into an even more urgent movement. Two, the growing consensus that India will play a central role in driving global growth. It was particularly noteworthy to see the forum reverberate with the India story, reinforcing Prime Minister Modi's pronouncement of “when India grows, the world grows; when India reforms, the world transforms”.

These two themes dovetail perfectly when one considers that India is among the leading nations to have adopted large-scale sustainable development practices. India is building resilient and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure that is reducing our carbon footprint even as it is uplifting millions of citizens from poverty. Through tangible

impact on the ground, the honourable Prime Minister has convinced the nation that ecological sustainability and economic progress can go hand-in-hand.

This approach is at variance with the traditional success stories of many Western and some Asian economic power houses which were propelled by carbon-intensive industries. For years, climate change geopolitics was predicated on developed economies bearing the lion's share of mitigation, and rightfully so, as they have been the largest emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG) historically. It was considered unfeasible to impose the same burden on developing economies. India has fundamentally altered that understanding by pledging comprehensive targets while also meeting its socio-economic objectives. This transition from a follower to a leader has been eight years in the making.

Nowhere is this truer than in the economics of energy. Despite the fact that our per capita energy demand increased by over 60% in the last two decades, India's energy use and emissions have remained less than a third of the global average.

According to the World Bank, India had per-capita emissions of 1.8 tonnes CO2 equivalent in 2018 – well below the global average of 4.5 tonnes. Owing to a rich civilisational legacy that has promoted ecological harmony, we are acutely aware of our environmental responsibilities towards future generations even as we aim to reach high levels of economic growth. Much like steering a ship, transitioning towards decarbonisation will take time and require calibrated, nuanced measures that ensure India's current developmental targets are not compromised even as we look towards a net-zero future.

Last year's COP-26 Summit in Glasgow provided an apt demonstration of why India will succeed on the vitals of sustainability. Prime Minister Modi stunned and inspired the world when he announced India's aggressive agenda against climate change through the *Panchamrit* Action Plan which envisages India becoming a net-zero emissions country by 2070. This is one of the shortest time spans proposed between peak emissions and net zero status by a developing economy – reiterating India's firm belief that the roadmap to prosperity lies in sustainability. The Prime Minister also committed that by the end of this decade, India will meet

50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy: installed capacity of non-fossil-fuel energy in India will stand at 500 GW; emissions intensity of the country's GDP will drop by 46-48 percent from 2005 levels; and that its carbon emissions will be lower by one billion tonnes.

The Prime Minister has held environmental protection as an article of faith since his days as Chief Minister of Gujarat. It explains why he conceptualised the 102-member International Solar Alliance (ISA) in 2015, and why India embarked upon an ambitious path of sustainable development through the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) under the Paris Agreement of COP-21 as well as the commitments at COP-26. I have no doubt that India will achieve these targets alongside economic imperatives. My optimism stems from the fact that I have had the good fortune of closely observing his vision in two vital components of India's sustainable growth paradigm: urban development and energy transition.

India's flagship urban programmes were launched almost a year before the SDGs were adopted globally. Even as we approximate towards the targets of SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), I am confident that the improved urban ecosystems will result in posi-

tive impact on other SDGs related to poverty, health, education, energy, and industry and innovation. Most of the housing developed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY) utilises sustainable and energy-efficient methods which incorporate advanced practices of land-use planning and green technologies. TERI has estimated that this will mitigate approximately 12 million metric tonnes (MMT) CO2 equivalent of GHG emissions. In the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) mission, more than 49MMT of CO2 equivalent of GHG emissions are being reduced even as basic civic amenities are provided. Additionally, there has been an emphasis to transition towards public transport and mobility options – more than 12.65 MMT of GHG emissions are expected to be reduced through the 773 kms of metro line that are already operational in 18 cities as well as a network of 1,006 kms which is under construction in 27 cities.

While India is optimising its energy consumption through targeted interventions in urban areas, it is also maximising its energy production efforts by working towards doubling the share of natural gas – which is much less polluting than fossil fuels – in our energy mix by 2024. India's aggressive policy of

adoption of natural gas has led to GHG emissions mitigation of 566 MMT between 2014-15 and 2021-22. Aligned with this is the National Hydrogen Mission which will create an ecosystem for the production of Green Hydrogen. By 2030, India aims to produce 4 metric tonnes (MT) of Green Hydrogen annually and accrue more than Rs. 1 lakh crores of fossil fuel import savings. We have also increased ethanol blending in petrol from 0.67% in 2012 to 10% in 2022, and recently advanced the target of ramping it up to 20% by 2025-26 instead of 2030. The Ujjwala scheme has become a global case study for access to clean energy. It has freed our rural women from the shackles of the fireplace and given an entirely new dimension to the concept of “gender justice”.

As we celebrate the World Environment Day today, it is worth taking pride in how far India has come in balancing economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability. We have progressed from energy scarcity to energy justice, and are now moving towards energy security through collaborative and integrated action. In doing so, we are setting a new standard for the collective fight against climate change.

(Writer is Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Petroleum and Natural Gas)

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India's daily Covid tally dips with 6,594 new cases but Mumbai & Delhi see surge; Centre issues warning

Agency
New Delhi, June 14:

India logged a slight decrease in daily Covid-19 cases with 6,594 new coronavirus infections taking the active cases to 50,548, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday. An increase of 2,553 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate dipped to 2.05 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was also recorded at 2.32 per cent, according to the health ministry.

With some states witnessing a spike in Covid-19 cases, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday that the pandemic was not over yet and stressed on being vigilant and observing Covid-appropriate behaviour. The minister appealed to states and union territories to continue and strengthen surveillance and focus on genome sequencing for identifying new variants in the country.

Mandaviya's appeal to remain alert comes as Delhi reported 614 fresh Covid-19 cases on Monday as the positivity rate increased to 7.06 per cent,

according to data shared by the city health department here. This is the highest positivity rate since May 4, when 7.6 per cent of the people tested turned out positive for Covid-19. Also, this is the fourth consecutive day when Delhi has recorded more than 600 cases.

The number of active Covid-19 cases in Delhi increased to 2,561 from 2,442 on Sunday, the bulletin said. As many as 1,825 patients are under home isolation, up from 1,613 the previous day, it said, adding that there are 191 containment zones in the city.

Experts said that people lowering their guard and travelling during the vacation season are the main reasons behind the latest uptick in coronavirus cases in Delhi.

Mumbai, meanwhile, reported 1,118 new Covid-19 cases, about 38 per cent less than the previous day, while no fresh death due to the infection was registered in the metropolis even as the active tally shot up to 11,331, the local civic body said.

The metropolis reports less number of infections on Mondays, mainly due to fewer tests conducted on weekends.

The city logged four-digit

coronavirus infections for the seventh day in a row though it reported 685 fewer Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours compared to 1,803 infections on Sunday which also saw two fatalities linked to the infection.

The positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 11.61 per cent.

Mandaviya, in a meeting with health ministers and senior officials of states and union territories via video conference, highlighted the increased case positivity rate in some districts and states and reduced Covid-19 testing. He stated that increased and timely testing will enable early identification of cases and help curb spread of the infection in the community.

Stressing on importance of COVID-19 vaccination among the vulnerable age groups, he urged the state health ministers to personally review the status and progress of the special month-long drive — Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 campaign — which started on June 1. "Let us accelerate our efforts to identify all beneficiaries in the 12-17 age group for the first and second doses, so they can attend schools with the protection of the vaccine," Mandaviya said.

Protests were staged by Congress workers across the country in which over 450 Congress leaders and workers were detained. They included Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, P Chidambaram, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, K C Venugopal, Chowdhury, Venugopal, and Chidambaram were stated to have suffered injuries when the police allegedly shoved them inside a police bus in Delhi. A video to substantiate this claim was also circulated by Congress later.

In Maharashtra, protest demonstrations were held in front of ED offices in Mumbai and Nagpur. In Mumbai, State Congress President Nana Patole, Ministers-Balasaheb Thorat and Ashok Chavan,

officers from the three services, including those who retired in the last two years, will be eligible for consideration. The government, however, has put an age limit of 62 years. Since service chiefs retire at the age of 62, the three service chiefs who retired in quick succession since September 2021 are ruled out.

General Bipin Rawat, the first CDS, died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021. Appointed on December 31, 2019, he was to have a three-year tenure until the end of this year.

Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff will be made soon: Rajnath Singh

Agency
New Delhi, June 14:

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday said that the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff will be made soon.

This comes six months after General Bipin Rawat, India's first Chief of Defence Staff, died in a helicopter crash in December 2021. Now the government has amended service rules of the armed forces, making all serving and recently retired three-star officers — Lt General, Air Marshal and Vice Admiral — under the age of 62 eligible for the post

of CDS, according to notifications brought out by the government.

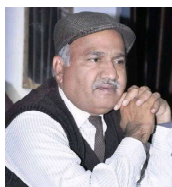
The new rules mean that the recently retired chiefs of services will not be considered. The amendments also indicate that an announcement on the new CDS is imminent.

The CDS is the most senior uniformed officer in rank, the first among equals — the only four-star officers in the country are the CDS, the chiefs of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.

But according to the new rules, all three-star and four-star

Career Guidance

Tricks to learn mathematics subject



By: Vijay GarG

Tricks to learn maths for weak students

I am not good at mathematics or 'how to solve trigonometry questions?' Such are the questions raised in the mind of students with the 'maths fear' giving them nightmares of failing the subject. If Students could not prepare well for mathematics then they start doubting their chances of success in the paper. The common problem faced by students is, solving the difficult questions and doing quick calculations which can only be possible with regular practice. Moreover, if a student is already

getting bad grades in maths then their fear of failing the subject comes to its peak.

Every student who has to appear for mathematics exam gathers the courage to face the tough questions. The common problems faced by the students for mathematics are discussed here —

Common problems of students for mathematics paper — They go blank and confused on seeing mathematics question paper

They make minor mistakes while solving the questions

Analysis and Preparation Tips

Difference between weak and brilliant students —

A student who is brilliant in mathematics gets to know about the type of questions and prepares a strategy accordingly by just solving one or two questions from a chapter. And students who are weak in mathematics get confused and, soon give up solving the questions halfway through.

Weak students need to refer the basic concept for each and every question. However, students, who are quick in mathematics, pick the questions quickly after understanding the concept at once only.

Self-study tips
How to deal with maths like toppers

Do more practice— Mathematics is the only subject where learning theory is not so important as solving the variety of numerical. So, the students who are weak in mathematics need to solve as many questions as possible to increase their speed and accuracy in mathematics.

Use mental calculations — The students should use mental calculations or aptitude to solve basic parts of the questions. It is commonly observed that students get stuck with complex calculations but with the mental calculations of even simple arithmetic, they will be able to save their extra time and efforts. Topper students ac-

cept this fact that for mathematics subject they do mental calculations to play with numbers and get quick and accurate.

Divide the concepts — Students who are weak in mathematics should take small steps to master maths. For this, they need to divide the questions from a concept into three parts —

Easy — questions directly based on the theorems and formulae.

Moderate — The questions based on 2 or more concepts.

Tough questions — The lengthy and time taking questions which need to be solved with different strategies; for example questions in probability chapters.

Don't adopt new tricks for solving questions — Students need to understand that maths is the only subject where changing methods and techniques of learning to solve the questions are rare. We have been adapting to the methods

which the math experts have taught us over the decades. However, there are interesting and fun tricks to learn mathematics such as Vedic mathematics, but if students who are not well aware of it then they should not try it during their exams. Such methods of learning maths should be practice when students have enough time to spare and they want to learn something new and interesting.

Effective tips to deal with exam fear and excel in board exams

Conclusion: Students, who fear mathematics but have to appear for the subject in examinations, need not worry rather they should develop a plan and strategy to overcome this challenge. Mathematics is a subject where students can get marks easily if they implement correct formula and method. Use the tips mentioned here to do away your maths fear and get good marks on the subject.

Protests by Congressmen against ED action in National Herald Case



(Left): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi proceeding to ED office in Delhi. (Right): The Congressmen holding protest demonstrations in Mumbai.

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, June 14:

Even as the swords have been crossed between the Congress and BJP over the action by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was quizzed by the ED in connection with the National Herald illegal assets transfer case, on Monday.

While Rahul Gandhi will be questioned again by ED on Tuesday, the agency has summoned the Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi for questioning on June 23.

Protests were staged by Congress workers across the country in which over 450 Congress leaders and workers were detained. They included Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, P Chidambaram, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, K C Venugopal, Chowdhury, Venugopal, and Chidambaram were stated to have suffered injuries when the police allegedly shoved them inside a police bus in Delhi. A video to substantiate this claim was also circulated by Congress later.

In Maharashtra, protest demonstrations were held in front of ED offices in Mumbai and Nagpur. In Mumbai, State Congress President Nana Patole, Ministers-Balasaheb Thorat and Ashok Chavan,

Mumbai Congress President Bhaji Jagtap, and others marched from CSMT to the ED office at Ballard Pier in South Mumbai. In Nagpur, the Ministers Dr. Nitin Raut and Vijay Wadetiwar, MLA Vikas Thakre, and MLC Abhijit Wanjari were detained by police when they tried to force their entry into the ED office.

The Congress leaders said that the Gandhi family is being victimized by implicating them in false cases, despite utmost sacrifice in the freedom struggle by the Gandhi family. This "injustice" will not be tolerated. Ultimately we will win the legal battle, Nana Patole said.

However, the BJP leader Devendra Fadnis in a news conference in Mumbai, said that the Congress was playing a victim card despite the Nehru family being involved in the transfer of assets worth Rs 2000 crore contributed by over 5000 freedom fighters to set up the "National Herald" during the freedom movement. The inquiry is being held by the ED as per the judgment of the court given in 2019 in which the court had pointed out irregularities in the transfer of assets.

The Associated Journal Limited (AJL) was set up by Jawaharlal Nehru along with other freedom fighters in 1937 to have own mouthpiece the "National Herald" during the freedom struggle. They had contributed nearly Rs 2000 crore and all of them were shareholders of the AJL. AJL also published two other newspapers—

Qaumi Awaz in Urdu and Navjeevan in Hindi until 2008

In 2010 the AJL had 1,057 shareholders. In the same year, Rahul Gandhi floated a company—"Young Indian" with an authorized share capital of Rs. 500,000 and paid-up capital of Rs. 500,000. The company was founded with 76 per cent shares held by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. The remaining 24 per cent shares were held by Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes. The company was stated to have no commercial operations.

The National Herald Case

In 2008, the BJP closed down the National Herald with Rs 90 crore liabilities and Rs 2000 crore property. The Congress party lent Rs 90 crore to AJL to pay off its liabilities. The Congress party failed to recover the loan of Rs 90 crore from AJL. Then Congress transferred the loan of Rs 90 crore recoverable from AJL to Young Indian at a discounted rate of Rs 50 lakh.

Then Young Indian paid Rs 50 lakh to the Congress and the Congress wrote off the balance of Rs 89.50 crore and closed the loan account of Rs 90 crore. The Young Indian negotiated with AJL and agreed to accept repayment of dues of Rs 90 crore in the form of shares. As such the AJL transferred its holdings to Young Indian in 2011. By share allotment by AJL, Young Indian owned 99 per cent of AJL, effectively becoming the owner of Rs 2000 crore property by paying just Rs 50 lakh to AJL.

In 2012, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy filed a complaint before a trial court in Delhi alleging that some Congress leaders were involved in cheating and breach of trust in the acquisition of AJL by Young Indian. He alleged that Young Indian had taken over the assets of the National Herald maliciously.

In 2014, the ED initiated a probe to see if there was any money laundering in the case. On September 18, 2015, it was reported that the ED had reopened its investigation into the National Herald case. In the

meanwhile on January 21, 2016, AJL decided to re-launch National Herald, Qaumi Awaz, and Navjeevan.

Allegations by AJL shareholders

Many shareholders, including former law minister Shanti Bhushan and former chief justice of Allahabad and Madras High Courts Markandey Katju, alleged that they were not served any notice when Young Indian "took over" AJL and that the shares held by their fathers were transferred to AJL in 2010 without their consent.

Those named in the case

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Motilal Vora, Oscar Fernandes, journalist Suman Dubey, and technocrat Sam Pitroda are named in Swamy's National Herald case.

Timeline

November 2012: Subramanian Swamy files criminal complaint alleging land grab by Gandhis.

June 2014: Magistrate summons all accused and says prima facie evidence was against them.

August 2014: The ED launches a probe to see if there was any money laundering in the case.

September 2015: The ED reopens the investigation.

December 2015: Patiala House court grants bail to Sonia, Rahul Gandhi.

February 2016: The Supreme Court refuses to quash proceedings against accused.

April 2019: In a relief to Gandhis, the Supreme Court on April 5, 2019 stays the Delhi High Court order of February 28 which ordered vacation of 'Herald House' in Delhi housing the National Herald office.

May 2020: A portion of a nine-story building located at Bandra in North West Mumbai, valued at Rs 16.38 crore, attached by the ED in connection with its money-laundering probe against the AJL.

Feb 2021: BJP MP Subramanian Swamy moves the Delhi High Court against a trial court order declining his plea to lead evidence to prosecute Sonia Gandhi, Rahul, and others.

March 31, 2022: The Delhi Bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal allows an appeal filed by the directors of Young Indian, including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, against the Income Tax assessment of the properties of AJL.

April 2022: Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge reaches the ED headquarters to record his statement in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case about a land deal.

April 2022: The ED records the statement of senior Congress leader Pawan Kumar Bansal in a case involving AJL and Young Indian.

June 2022: ED summons Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi for questioning in National Herald Case.

Lost

I have lost my wallet in between Allu Gali at around 4 pm on June 13, 2022 which contain Service Card (Educations), Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, SBI ATM Card, UCO ATM Card, D/L issued by I/W, National Pension System Card and Cash Rs. 4,000/-.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Ps. Farmrida

D/o Ps. Samson

Anal Khunou Village, Chandel

Parliament must plug loopholes in present Anti-defection Law

Latest cross voting in Rajya Sabha Polls underlines its urgency

By: Kalyani Shankar
New Delhi, June 14:

Elections and defections go together despite stringent anti-defection laws in the country. The law proves ineffective as the legislators are lured by money and position. The lawmakers skirt around the rules, find loopholes to their advantage, and defy them.

In last week's Rajya Sabha polls, Rajasthan's BJP legislator Shobharani Khushwaha, Congress's Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, and JD(S) lawmaker from Karnataka Srinivas Gowda are classic examples.

Cross-voting occurs even in presidential and vice-presidential elections despite stringent anti-defection laws.

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu recently commented that the anti-defection law must be amended to rectify the loopholes. Naidu, also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, said there was no clarity about the time frame for the Speaker or Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to decide on anti-defection cases. "There are certain loopholes in the anti-defection law. It allows wholesale defection. But retail defection is not allowed. Amendments are required to plug the loopholes," Mr. Naidu said.

The Vice President's comment is significant because elected representatives have been familiar with party-hopping tactics for decades. The defecting lawmakers have found a way to skirt the restrictions in the Tenth Schedule. Instead of formally "crossing the floor" or voting against their party in a confidence motion, they resign from the party. Some of them come back in the bye-elections.

In the past, there have been

some bizarre cases. Gayalal, an independent MLA in Haryana, first joined the Congress Party in 1967; by evening, he shifted to the United Front, and within 9 hours, he re-joined the Congress party. What was more, he returned to the United Front within a fortnight. This case is known as 'Ayaram, Gayaram' in political circles.

The 2003 amended law prescribed the penalty for shifting political loyalties: the loss of membership and a bar on becoming a minister. The law has been contested in courts multiple times.

Under the anti-defection law, unlimited powers are given to every political party to put down dissent or an alternative view. However, recent developments in many states show that it does not check defections.

To keep the flock together, parties often play resort politics by shepherding them to some resort, sometimes outside the state. Defectors have shown this trend many times—Rajasthan (2020), Maharashtra (2019), Karnataka (2019 and 2018), and Tamil Nadu (2017). In March 2020, Jyotiraditya Scindia and 22 Congress MLAs resigned, resulting in a government change in Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, six BSP MLAs merged their party with the Congress, and in Sikkim, 10 of the 15 MLAs of the Sikkim Democratic Front have joined the BJP in 2019. The list goes on.

Critics point out that the law's main issue has been the presiding officers' full authority to decide on the anti-defection petition. Initially, the decision of the Presiding Officer was not subject to judicial review. The Supreme Court struck down this condition in 1992. The Apex court intervened again in July

2019 when ten Congress MLAs and two Maharashtra Gomantak Party MLAs defected to the BJP and were rewarded with ministries. The court prescribed a maximum of three months for deciding on anti-defection cases in 2020.

How could the loopholes be plugged in? In the past, expert committees have recommended that rather than the presiding officer, usually a ruling party member, the decision to disqualify a defector should be vested in an independent agency. However, political parties oppose this change, mainly ruling parties at the centre and states.

Parliament needs to look at the law afresh because of the continuing trend of horse-trading. In recent times the Supreme Court also observed, "It is time that Parliament has a rethink on whether disqualification petitions ought to be entrusted to a Speaker as a quasi-judicial authority when such Speaker continues to belong to a particular

political party either de jure or de facto. Parliament may consider amending the Constitution to substitute the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies as an arbiter of disputes concerning disqualification under the Tenth Schedule."

The Presidential polls were announced last week, and there are apprehensions about cross-voting. The best way is to tweak the law. Defectors should be barred from holding public office for a reasonable period, and the vote cast by a defector should be considered invalid. The electorate should also have a right to recall the representative. Resort politics should also be banned.

The mass exodus of MLAs from the vanquished Congress to winning parties shows no respect for the anti-defection law. As long as givers and takers are there, the defection will not stop. What is needed is the political will, and all parties should come together and look at the law afresh. (IPA Service)

AR organised Voluntary Blood Donation Camp

IT News
Imphal, June 14:

Srikona Battalion of Headquarters 21 Sector Assam Rifles, under the aegis of Headquarter Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised a voluntary blood donation camp on the occasion of, "WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY" with assistance from Silchar Medical College & Hospital today at Unit Hospital.

A total of 26 personnel including a lady of the unit donated blood under the supervision of an expert medical team

following all universal precautions and guidelines. A total of 27 units of blood including 08 units of rare blood groups like O negative, A negative, B negative etc were also donated with special emphasis on this year's slogan "Donating Blood Is An Act Of Solidarity, Join The Effort And Save Lives". Certificates were also issued to the donors by the blood bank team from SMCH.

The Silchar Medical College Hospital team extended their heartfelt gratitude for this noble act of Srikona Battalion.

IMD predicts very heavy rainfall in NE till June 17

Agency
Guwahati, June 14:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday predicted spell of intense rainfall over Northeast till June 17.

The IMD stated that the current spell of intense rainfall is likely to continue over Northeast India and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during next 5 days.

Several places in Assam and Meghalaya are already receiving extremely heavy rainfall. The IMD has also issued an orange alert for Arunachal

Pradesh till June 17.

Heavy rain with daily rainfall of 150-200 mm across Northeast India has been predicted in this period. It may amount to even 500 mm, posing flooding threats and landslides over the regions.

As per the weather forecast, extremely heavy rain is expected over parts of Assam and Meghalaya, very heavy rain over parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim in the next 24 hours. Fairly widespread rain with thunderstorms is likely over Nagaland,

Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

On June 15, extremely heavy rain is expected over parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and Meghalaya, while widespread rain with thunderstorms are likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Meanwhile, taking to twitter, Special DGP Law and Order has requested residents of Guwahati to restrict road journey to essential only for June 14th, 15th and 16th.

Disturbance Free Zone Demand Day on July 5: Coordinating Committee

IT News
Imphal, June 14:

The Coordinating Committee on Disturbance Free Educational Zone Demand will launch a campaign on June 15 in advance of the Disturbance Free Zone Demand Day on July 5.

During a press conference at the Manipur Press Club on Monday, Leishangthem Lamyamba, Convener of the Coordinating Committee formed by 15 different organizations and President of DESAM, stated that the committee has been requesting the government for many years to make the education sector a disturbance-free zone.

The committee strongly condemns the bomb threat at schools and urges everyone involved to avoid causing any disruption in the education sector, he said.

Concerning the observance, he stated that a mega rally was held on July 5, 2008, demanding that the education sector be de-

clared a disturbance-free zone.

Since then, July 5 has been designated as Disturbance Free Zone Demand Day, and this year, the committee will mark the 15th anniversary of the observance with a large public meeting, he said.

He urged the public to par-

ticipate and cooperate in advance of the observance day, saying that the committee would start organizing campaigns on June 15 with activities such as open debating competitions and awareness campaigns.

World Blood Donor Day held



IT News
Imphal, June 14:

World Blood Donor Day under the theme "Join the Effort and Save Lives" was organised by RIMS blood donors community and Golden Jubilee celebration committee

today. The function was attended by RIMS Director Prof A Santa, Prof Brogen Akoojam, Dean Academic, Prof A Birendra, HOD Department of Transfusion Medicine, Prof Sanjib Nepram, MS RIMS and Dr L Teinty, Advisor Blood donors.

Contd. from Page 1

In a transformative reform, Cabinet clears 'AGNIPATH'...

The skills gained by each *Agniveer* will be recognised in a certificate to form part of his unique resume. *Agniveers*, on completion of the four year tenure in the prime of their youth, will be mature and self-disciplined with the realization to become better version of himself/herself both professionally as also personally. The avenues and opportunities that will open up for their progress in the civil world after *Agniveer* tenure would certainly be a big plus towards nation building. Moreover, the Seva Nidhi of approximately Rs 11.71 lakhs would aid the *Agniveer* to pursue his/her future dreams without the financial pressure, which is normally the case for young people from the financially deprived strata of society.

The individuals, selected for enrolment in the Armed Forces as regular cadre, would be required to serve for a further engagement period of minimum 15 years and would be governed by the existing terms and conditions of service of Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks in Indian Army and their equivalent in Indian Navy and Indian Air Force and that of Non Combatant enrolled in the Indian Air Force, as amended from time to time.

The scheme will lead to much more youthful and tech-

nically adept war fighting force by ensuring a fine balance between youthful and experienced personnel in the Armed Forces.

Advantages

- A transformative reform of recruitment policy of the Armed Forces.
- A unique opportunity to the youth to serve the country and contribute to Nation Building.

- Armed Forces profile to be youthful and dynamic.
- Attractive financial package for the *Agniveers*.

- Opportunity for *Agniveers* to train in the best institutions and enhance their skills & qualifications.

- Availability of well disciplined and skilled youth with military ethos in civil society.
- Adequate re-employment opportunities for those returning to society and who could emerge as role models for the youth.

Terms & Conditions

Under the AGNIPATH scheme, the *Agniveers* will be enrolled in the Forces under respective Service Acts for a period of four years. They would form a distinct rank in the Armed Forces, different from any other existing ranks. Upon the completion of four years of service, based on organisational requirement and policies promulgated

by the Armed Forces from time-to-time, *Agniveers* will be offered an opportunity to apply for permanent enrolment in the Armed Forces. These applications will be considered in a centralised manner based on objective criteria including performance during their four-year engagement period and up to 25% of each specific batch of *Agniveers* will be enrolled in regular cadre of the Armed Forces. Detailed guidelines will be issued separately.

Enrolment will be undertaken through an online centralised system for all three services with specialised rallies and campus interviews from recognised technical institutes such as Industrial Training Institutes and National Skills Qualifications Framework, among others. Enrolment will be based on 'All India All Class' basis and the eligible age will be in range from 17.5 to 21 years. *Agniveers* will meet the medical eligibility conditions laid down for enrolment in the armed forces as applicable to respective categories/trades. The educational qualification for *Agniveers* will remain as in vogue for enrolment in various categories. (For example: For entry into General Duty (GD) soldier, the educational qualification is Class 10).

CM inaugurates One Day National..

As such, he appealed to experts and scientists, taking part in the workshop, to give a conclusion with a positive message after the workshop, so that the apprehension could be cleared.

Agriculture Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, while delivering his presidential speech, stated India is one of the largest importers of oil palm, draining a large amount of money from the country. Once the production of palm oil is started through large scale cultivation of oil palm, the huge amount spent on importing the same could be sideline for use in other developmental projects,

he added.

Expressing that cultivation of oil palm would provide much benefit to farmers, he appealed to take up the initiative of planting oil palm in a faster manner so as to make our country economically viable. He stressed the need for more funding to enhance the area of coverage for plantation of oil palm as the State had already identified large areas of potential land for such plantation.

During the inaugural programme, short video films on Past-Present & Future of Oil Palm Project Manipur and successful stories of oil palm farm-

ers of Arunachal Pradesh were also shown.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) and also Ex-Officio, Chairman of (SLSC), Oil Palm Manipur V. Vumlungmang, Commissioner (Agriculture) M. Joy Singh, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh Dr. R.K. Mathur, Deputy Commissioner (Oil Palm), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India B.K. Srivastava, Director, Department of Agriculture, Manipur N. Gojendro, Representatives from Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, Scien-

tists, Experts and other officials attended the programme among others.

It may be mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while delivering an address during the virtual foundation stone laying ceremony of Manipur water supply Project on 23rd July, 2020 appealed to the farmers in North-Eastern States to take up Oil Palm cultivation with an aim to make India self-sufficient in edible oils. He also recommended the State Governments of North Eastern Region to set up Oil Palm Missions in the respective States to promote cultivation of the Oil Palm.

Sports

Eyeing Asian Cup berth, India face Hong Kong in battle for top spot

Agency
Kolkata, June 14:

A Sunil Chhetri-inspired India would look to end the final leg of the Asian Cup Qualifiers on a high when they face Hong Kong in a battle for the group D top spot here on Tuesday.

With two wins each, both teams have six points but Jon Anderson's side are ahead of the hosts on goal difference, and the match would determine the direct qualifiers for

next year's 24-team continental finals.

Only the winners of the six qualifying groups are sure to advance to the tournament, where they will be joined by the five runners-up with the best records in the competition.

First place in the group would take the Blue Tigers into the finals for an unprecedented second successive time and fifth overall.

Hong Kong, on the other hand, are eyeing their first Asia Cup qualification since

1968.

Ranking wise India (106) may be ahead of Hong Kong (147) but the latter have displayed the best attacking and defensive play among the four group D teams so far in the competition.

WANTED BRIDE

34-year-old boy doing JOB in GOOD COMPANY seeks Educated, tall simple homely Girl for marriage.

Contact - 6239880087