

Chief Minister flags off Imphal-Mao Bus Service

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today flagged off Imphal-Mao Manipur State Transport (MST) Bus Service from MST Complex, Moirangkhom. The Bus Service was launched with an objective of providing a safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable public transport service.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren stated that the bus service had been launched with the objective to maintain close relationships among people living in border villages and valley areas. The bus service was of utmost importance for people of the State as better transportation facilities could strengthen connections among people of hill and valleys districts.

He recalled that the Manipur State Road Transport



Corporation which had remained non-functional for a long time was revived as Manipur State Transport by the BJP led Government after its formation in 2017. Stating that around 28 buses were operating in the State providing transportation service, the Chief Minister added that the Government was in process of procuring another three buses. He continued that the State Government was planning to make the existing bus station at Dimapur functional considering

the importance of operating bus service till Dimapur for the people of Mao. He also stated that the operation of bus service would be increased considering the demand for transportation.

The Chief Minister mentioned that regular bus service between Imphal and Mao would facilitate the people of Mao in marketing their local products and enhancing the economic activities of the State in general.

MLA for Mao AC, Losii

rector (Transport) Dr. Nivedita Laitenlakpam and President of Naga People's Organisation, Mao Council and Mao Students' Union also attended the programme among others.

The Naga People's Organisation, Mao Council and Mao Students' Union expressed thankfulness to the Chief Minister for launching the bus service and also assured to extend their support and cooperation in operation of the bus service.

It may be mentioned that the bus plying from Imphal to Mao will depart from Nagamapal, RIMS Road Corner near Kasturi Thongat 7:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on every working day while the bus coming from Mao to Imphal will depart from Mao Bus Parking, near Traffic Island, Mao at 6:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Chingmeirong, eastern side of DM College, and took stock of the location where a temporary Mao Market would be set up.

New OPD timings in RIMS

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

OPD timing for all the Departments including Dental OPD of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences have been change from 8 am to 1pm on all working days with effect from April 1, 2022. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Heads of Departments with Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Imphal under the chairmanship of the Director, RIMS, Imphal, in view of the decision taken by the Govt. of Manipur to change working hours.

A statement by media advisor RIMS said that the emergency tickets for Paediatrics and Obstetrics patients are made free and indoor admission fee for all the departments of RIMS, Imphal shall be Rs. 100/- in words (one hundred) only with effect from April 1. However, indoor admission fee shall be free for BPL/CHMT/PMJAY card holders, the statement added.

Protest stages against bomb blast

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

Womenfolk of Kwakeithel Mayai Koibi in Imphal West today staged a sit-in protest against the hurling and blasting of bomb at the residence of Wahengbam Kameshwar Singh on March 28 evening.

Mention may be made that, unknown miscreants hurled and blasted a bomb at around 7.30 pm at the residence of Wahengbam Kameshwar Singh on March 28 under Lamphel Police station. The residence is located near Sishu Nistha Kiketan School. Nobody was injured in the blast.

The women folk demanded clarification of the blast by whoever committed and appealed to all groups or individuals not to commit such an act in crowded area.

ZUF cautions NSCN(NK) for abduction of a driver

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) has sent strong warning to NSCN (NK) over failure to respect their jurisdiction by abducting a driver of certain company on March 22 at around 9.30 am near Reangkiakulung Village in Tamenglong district.

A statement by John Pame, Secretary of Information & Publicity, Zeliangrong United Front said that The NSCN (NK), Nagaland based faction willfully collecting taxes and kidnapping for ransom or operating outside their covered areas

is unscrupulous and unacceptable. The ZUF also served a final notice to the high command of the NSCN (NK) to take care of the cadres to be confined within the respective area with respect to each other's jurisdiction. It said, if the NSCN (NK) fail to do so then the group shall be held total responsibility for any untoward eventuality.

The incident of abducting the driver was witnessed by some villagers and tried to intervene them but to no avail. Cautioned and called for immediate unconditional release of the abducted driver.

Base on a reliable source, the statement by the ZUF fur-

ther said that some cadres of the Nagaland base group are supposedly impersonating and professing to be cadres of ZUF, collecting money and intimidating the public and company workers in the name of ZUF in some strategic areas in Tamenglong District. The fact has provoked and compelled the concerned Front to dig and root out the miscreants without further warning.

The ZUF further said that any faction or group/s based in the state of Nagaland, infiltrating into the concerned jurisdiction shall not be tolerated. Public and all concerned Villages and areas authorities are

informed not to give any sort of taxes or collection to those infiltrators.

The ZUF appealed to the people to inform the concerned authority of the Front immediately of any information related to such activities. Publics and concerned village authorities and CSOs are also informed and appealed to raise a strong voice against such activities being willfully committed in the Zeliangrong areas. The Front shall exercise with deem fit action against all perpetrators and violators of public norms and order in the society, the statement added.

Indefinite blockade by SAPO is illegal, inhuman and against the law of the land – IPSA

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

Vice President of the International Peace and Social Advancement (IPSA), Khurajiam Athouba today said that the indefinite blockade imposed by the Southern Angami Peoples' Organisation (SAPO) which entered 9th day today is illegal, inhuman and against the law of the land, and appealed the government of Manipur to take up suo-moto case against the office bearers of the SAPO.

In a meeting with media persons here in Imphal, Khurajiam Athouba said that as resolved in the meeting of the Central Council, the IPSA is all set to urge both the government of India and Manipur to formulate a Manipur Socio Economic Security Policy to make sure that any agitation or band or blockade on the national highway does not affect the life of the people of Manipur. In connection with the bandh called by the SAPO, Khurajiam Athouba said that the SAPO is demanding for the removal of a

police station constructed by the government of Manipur in its own territory. He said that the interstate natural boundary of Nagaland and Manipur still is existed as per the report of the Survey of India 2011.

"There is no misunderstanding to the natural boundary between Manipur and Nagaland and the police station was set up inside the territory of Manipur", Athouba added.

On the other hand IPSA leaders had extended its solidarity to the counter blockade called by AMYA and AAMSO and said that the concern of the Manipuri people who have stayed outside the state is appreciated in the highest manner.

On the other hand, supply of fuel has been adversely affected in most retail outlets across Manipur as stocks of petroleum products depleted fast owing to non-arrival of oil tankers from outside the State as a result of the indefinite bandh called by Southern Angami Peoples' Organisation (SAPO). The

bandh entered its ninth day on Tuesday.

Most fuel stations opened as usual on Tuesday, but with the notice "Petrol stock nil" and provided only diesel. Long queues were seen at the few fuel stations that still had petrol in stock during the day.

According to some staff of the fuel stations, petrol stocks dried up due to non-arrival of oil tankers from outside. However, they added that diesel was still available.

It has been almost a week since the oil tankers reached the State Capital. Normal arrival of petroleum products in the State was severely hit owing to the indefinite bandh called given by Southern Angami Public Organization (SAPO), which led to suspension of plying of all kinds of Imphal-bound vehicles. The Manipur government had already made arrangements for procurement of petroleum products from Assam through Imphal-Jiribam section of NH-37.

Sources said loaded oil tankers and bullet tankers (bulk LPG carriers) escorted

TPO appeals SAPO to lift blockade

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

The Presidential Council Meeting of the Tenyimi Peoples' Organization (TPO) along with its Board of Arbitrators (BOA) held on March 29 at Hotel Millennium, Kohima had resolved to appeal the SAPO to lift its indefinite Bandh.

The meeting also agreed that the BOA should give the verdict to the land dispute of Kezoltsa/Koziriri/Kazing/Dzikou area before the General Body Meeting i.e. on or before April 30, 2022.

by security forces had left Khatkhati (Assam) and were on the way. They were likely to reach Imphal in the next one or two days.

Hundreds of empty oil tankers had also left Imphal along NH-37 for Assam a few days ago.

The Editorial:

100 action points for first 100 days

A fiasco in the making?

In a democratic system, the voters are said to be the kingmakers. True. And all the electorates, who exercised their franchise in the recently concluded elections, wish to witness a better Manipur way more than the 60 contenders who won their respective constituencies to represent them. Kudos to the Election Commission of India for completing the entire election process in just 62 days. The feat was something N Biren Singh & Co. should learn and digest to help themselves in expediting the recruitment process of state government departments. So often, the BJP-led government appears to have forgotten the results announcement of various recruitment exams; in some cases, the job aspirants took to the streets to demand the results. The people of the state have glimpsed many such episodes. Though five years have passed, the saffron party couldn't deliver on the promises mentioned in its Vision Document 2017 sans few. It had ten action points. Manipur witnessed a stark difference in their announcement and fulfillment.

After the new government formation, Mr. Biren's announcement of "100 action points for the first 100 days" came as a surprise and shock to many. After taking oath as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the second term, Biren said that the first task of his government would be to make the state corruption-free - a task which is also included in the 100. But it was nothing new. To commoners, recruiting employees based on bribes or through their connections with high-ranking officials or lawmakers is seen as one of the government's top corrupt practices. In addition, taking a long time in the recruitment process is considered a delay tactic. Therefore, if the new government is genuinely striving for a corruption-free Manipur, the first step should be to declare the results of all recruitment examinations held just before the Assembly polls; it will undoubtedly give an impression that Biren walks the talk. Making a drug-free Manipur is one of the priority agendas of the new government apart from the eradication of corruption, both he attempted and failed miserably in the last five years.

Attention can be paid to what Biren 2.0 promised to develop the education sector, which is a significant facet of the economic development of any country. The National Education Policy 2020 strived to make the Indian education system more contemporary and skill-oriented. Opposition parties shared suggestions and ideas, which were taken into account in the NEP 2020 formation. Therefore, all sections of the society welcomed the policy though the goal of 6% of GDP is not yet achieved. In the Manipur context, the new plans don't seem to result from detailed dialogues among stakeholders as they did not cover all sectors uniformly.

Along with some freebies, the strengthening of 50 schools under the School Fagathansi Mission and Churachandpur Medical College inauguration will have Mr. Biren chest-thumping in his upcoming addresses. But the plans were nothing distinctive. He boasted of committing himself to improving the education system, but equal respect for all subjects was not yet paid. Since his last term, he focused mainly on medical institutes, sports infrastructures, and free IAS coaching at a time when many state government colleges in Imphal and surrounding areas struggled to provide quality education. Given that, Biren needs to ponder why thousands of higher secondary graduates from Manipur, who aspire to become IAS or IPS, plan to study at Delhi University? What happened to our state government colleges? It is mainly because Biren lacks the quality of appreciating talks, debates, discussions, and criticism on any platform, be it in media or simply on social networking sites. But, they are the requirements for constructing a developed society. Thus, he needs the courage to face the truth.

Spelling out some of the 100 points on March 26, Biren had also emphasized that it will bolster citizen-centric governance, fill gaps in infrastructure, quicken economic growth and strive for inclusive development of the state. But most of it was nothing remarkable or promising. Money will do the job as no extra efforts are demanded. Inaugurations, foundation stone laying events, distribution of freebies, etcetera, filled the 10-page-long flyer. Unfortunately, most big goals also lack foolproof approaches; therefore, formulation of techniques will require inputs from think tanks and not from self-appointed PROs or contractors. Otherwise, the "100 Action Points for the first 100 days," which already sounds hyperbole, will end up with a talk full of foolish rationalization from the Chief Minister to some news channel in the run-up to the 2027 polls. And only claque will like it.

Cyber security can lead to a great career

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



According to a news item, Google has offered an annual package of Rs 12.5 million to a 12th standard student in Haryana, that is, a salary of more than 1 million rupees per month. Google

has appointed Tarun Gehlawat, a resident of Kharkhoda in Sonapat district, as a cyber security expert. The boy's age is 17 years and when he turns 18, his annual salary will rise to Rs 20 million. He had applied online for the job of Cyber Security Expert, in which he got selected. After this, he was given training for six months. He topped the post-training test, while a Brazilian boy secured the second position. A similar news came from Indore in Madhya Pradesh, in which it was said that a young entrepreneur there found a few faults in the Google cyber security system, and the company rewarded him with several millions of rupees. Google staff were not aware of these loopholes in their system. Hence it was decided that the youth should be rewarded. So, such is the glory of technical knowledge and tech jobs.

In the next five years in India, the demand for employees with technical knowledge will increase in the job market. According to a human resource management firm called TeamLease Digital, 12 million new jobs will be created in the engineering, telecom and healthcare sectors in the next few years. Job opportunities in these sectors are expected to grow at the rate of 27 per cent per annum as these sectors are undergoing major transformation. At present, 42 million people have got employment in these sectors. Due to the increasing use of digital technology, the demand for IT professionals is increasing in the job market. More employment opportunities are being created in the technology, health, e-commerce and manufacturing sectors. Even in technology, the doors of jobs in the field of Information Technology (IT) are opening more rapidly. The way experienced professionals are in demand in the IT sector, according to that, qualified candidates are not available in the market.

In the last few months, there has been a rapid increase in the recruitment process in information technology companies. Four top IT companies of the country recruited more than 48 thousand new employees in April-June, 2021. During the second quarter, i.e. July-September 2021, the number of new appointments increased to about 54 thousand. Overall, more than one lakh youth got jobs in IT companies in the last part of 2021. The four companies intend to create about the same number of new jobs in the next few months. The attrition rate in the IT industry is increasing continuously. The average attrition rate in the IT sector is 8.67 per cent, while the attrition rate in India is two and a half times higher than the average. Meanwhile, preparations are on to make India the world's largest startup hub. At present, India is the third largest country in the world in this regard. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a program organized in Abu Dhabi recently that the India government aims to develop the world's first largest startup ecosystem. For this, emphasis is being laid on the synergy of investors and budding entrepreneurs in the country.

Male Family Planning



By: Vijay Garg

Family planning has been a major challenge for men, as they have less protection options. The search for a contraceptive that is suitable for men has been going on for decades. In such a situation, it is no less than good news that scientists in America have succeeded in making contraceptive pill for men and soon its human trial will start. This pill or medicine is said to be 99 per cent effective. Experiments on rats have been successful. Most importantly, no negative effects of this medicine have been reported.

It is also favorable that it is a non-hormonal drug. There were some hormonal attempts in earlier experiments, which were considered unfavorable for health, so scientists changed the direction of research. There is no doubt that the success of this drug could help balance the burden on other contraceptives.

It is important to note that this medicine should be safe in every way, because it is not a medicine for any disease. In the case of medicine for disease, people assume that in getting rid of a major pain, there is little pain, so there is no special thing. This general logic will not work in the case of male contraceptives. Therefore, scientists have to carefully adapt this drug to human health and prove that it will not have any short term or long term effect. Work has progressed in the direction of research on humans, but experts are concerned that the drug should be safe so that it can be readily accepted in the market. Despite many efforts, no effective and safe male contraceptive has yet been successful in human clinical trials, according to Abdullah Al Noman, MD, of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Scientists like Noman know that safety will be very important for birth control pills, so scientific institutions are also very serious about this research.

However, over the course of four weeks, the scientists gave male rats a daily dose of a chemical called YCT529 and found that their sperm count dropped. After that when the drug was stopped, between four and six weeks the rats were able to reproduce again and no negative effects were seen in them. Never before had such success been achieved. Clinical trials have involved various molecules, but they all target testosterone, the male sex hormone, which has been linked to weight gain, depression, and other negative effects. However, scientists are assuming that the drug that is being made will not affect the natural hormonal structure of men or humans and their effect will be short-lived. Can it have any far-reaching effect, scientists want to find the answer to this question. In the medical field, many times the long-term harm is overlooked for the sake of immediate or commercial gain, but in this case scientists do not want to make any such mistake. The market is waiting for such a drug for a long time, but scientists want that even if it takes some time, the drug should come in the market only after thorough testing.

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The Role of Mountain in Green Economy

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
Asst. Prof. JCRC Global College, Babupara, Imphal

According to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP 2011), a green economy is one that results in improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. The green economy agenda seeks to promote an economic system which increases human wellbeing over the long term while maintaining natural capital and environmental resources so that future generations do not face significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities. While the green economy may bring new opportunities for investment in ecosystem services e.g. freshwater, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration, renewable energy and creation of jobs, it also creates challenges. It must be pursued with a balanced approach of economic, environmental and social development and appropriate policy and is necessary to revisit the mountain agenda.

Mountain cover a quarter of the earth's surface area, are home to almost 20% of the world's population, and provide goods and ecosystem services vital for the wellbeing of downstream populations-about half of humanity-and for sustaining our planet and its ecosystem. Providing habitat for unique species and for indigenous people of distinct cultures, mountains are a global common and natural capital whose heritage value must be recognized and valued. The green economy model presents this opportunity. Mountain is an important source of vital ecosystem services on which the regional and global environments and global economy largely depend and harbor a wide range of important natural resources. They make important contribution to economic development, environmental protection, ecological sustainability and human wellbeing as well as to economic and ecological resilience in the downstream regions. About half of the world's population depends on mountains for fresh water, clean energy, irrigation water, flood control, mineral, timber and non-timber forest products, recreation and genetic resources. Half of the global biodiversity hotspots and one-third of all protected areas are in the mountains. Mountains are also home to more than a billion people, a substantial proportion of who are indigenous ethnic communities whose livelihood largely depends on natural resources available in mountain areas. Mountains are also source of cultural, spiritual and recreational resources for urban populations.

Mountain ecosystem plays a significant role in regulating water quantity and quality. Almost all of the world's major rivers and many of the minor ones, begin in mountainous regions, which supply a large percentage of the water resources of the entire globe. The high-altitude cryosphere stores huge amounts of water as snow and ice. These are unique reservoir of fresh water which is released year round in perennial rivers serving as a lifeline for billions of people downstream. For this reason mountains are often referred as the "water tower of the world". More than half of the humanity relies on freshwater from mountains to grow food, produce electricity, sustain industries and provide drinking water. Mountain hydrological services are also essential for groundwater recharge and related functions that maintain hydrological balance in downstream areas. Thus water availability downstream-whether for domestic consumption or agriculture-is an essential service provided by mountain systems. Hydropower and other forms of clean energy, such as wind and solar energy are becoming increasingly important all over the world to meet growing energy needs, particularly those of countries with developing economies such as China and India. Clean energy is needed to maintain economic growth in a sustainable way and to improve the living standards of the vast number of people who still depend on wood fuels. Mountains are important source of hydropower-which provides more than 15% of the world's energy-and other forms of clean energy. Swift flowing rivers of mountains are cost-effective sources of hydropower all over the world. However, this source of energy is not fully exploited. Mountain ecosystems contribute in regulating global climate through biogeochemical and biophysical processes that mediate the carbon, energy and water balance at the land surface. Mountain climate regulation services extend beyond their geographical boundaries and affect all continental main lands. Mountain ecosystems also have a significant role in carbon storage and carbon sequestration.

Mountain regions contain many different ecosystems and have among the world's highest species richness. Mountain communities have long been custodians of agro biodiversity. Six of the 20 plant crop species that supply 80% of the world's food (maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, tomatoes and apples) originated in the mountains. A number of domestic animals such as sheep, goats, domestic yaks, llamas and alpacas also originated in mountain regions. The genetic diversity in mountains is particularly high, in part because of mountains' geographic isolation and in part because the many diverse mountain cultures have long traditions of protecting certain plants and animals. While plant species diversity decreases with altitude, genetic diversity increases. Remote mountain regions serve as the last sanctuaries of many species and their populations, facilitating speciation. Mountains also serve as a bridge between continents and provide a refuge for species migrating under the influence of global temperature change. Biodiversity is globally and temporally significant. Species that at present have little human use might be important in the future. As an integral component of ecosystem, biodiversity affects most ecosystem services. Thus, biodiversity conservation is important for a green economy and sustainable development. Mountain provides a setting for cultural, religious and recreational activities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, experiencing the beauty of the landscape and observing and enjoying the unique lifestyle and culture of mountain communities. Mountain harbors a high degree of ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity. In mountain ranges throughout the world, traditional cultures and natural resource conservation have evolved together over the ages. Sustainable natural resource management is driven by the beliefs and behaviors of human communities and local cultures and strengthened by their intimate connections to the natural environment that sustains them. Mountain populations also conserve vast indigenous knowledge about such subjects as agriculture, botany, medicine and ecology. Sacred and spiritual values are thus integral to mountain culture; more than 1 billion people consider mountain sacred. The spiritual values of local mountain culture today have an important role in the continuing stewardship of watershed and other mountain ecosystem.

Mountain ecosystem services provide both direct and indirect contributions to mountain and downstream livelihoods and economy. In terms of direct contributions, mountain provide a large share of the world's resources for mining, forestry, water for drinking and irrigation and hydropower and generates an increasing amount of wind power as well. Mountain product and services form the basis for much economic sector-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic, agriculture, forestry and range load production; hydropower generation, tourism and others. Mountain rangeland and forest provide economic benefits to local and global communities through medicinal plants, nuts, fruits, timber, fuel wood and minerals. Mountain vegetation plays a significant role in reducing or mitigating risks from natural hazards- for example in protecting against erosion, landslides and local flooding. Mountain forest, for instance protect people and property from avalanches and rock fall and their water holding capacity reduces peak stream flow. As mountain ecosystem services contribute to sustaining and enhancing the Earth's sustainability and prosperity, the green economy framework and Rio+20 need to recognize the benefits arising from mountain ecosystems and should set principles and policies for global, regional and national actions in support of sustainable mountain development. Principles for full-cost pricing of resources and services from mountain areas and mechanisms for granting mountain communities a fair share of the benefits derived from the use of mountain resources should be established.

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Saubhagya – A Dream We Dared To Achieve

By: Shri R. Lakshmanan

Electrification opens up a world of opportunities - it empowers citizens and transforms their quality of lives. Extended working hours for small and emerging businesses; improved health conditions; learning opportunities for children across geographic zones; and enhanced security solutions for communities in both urban and rural areas - among host of other unprecedented possibilities, electrification brings with it renewed hope for a brighter and more sustainable future.

THE JOURNEY, AT A GLANCE

An achievement of such a magnitude could not have been possible without the support and relentless efforts of a team, which worked seamlessly like a cohesive unit. From the onset, we were faced with the challenge of identifying un-electrified households of the country. We had to be pragmatic in our approach - we used a more than 150 year old backbone of our country's communication network; the department of posts. A survey was conducted through them for firming up the number of un-electrified households. 'Sankhya', a Web Portal and Mobile App, was specifically developed for this survey for real time analysis and for formulating a prudent strategy.

Implementation of SAUBHAGYA in itself was a remarkable success story of Cooperative Federalism where both the State and Central Governments worked with seamless coordination for timely achievement of targets. 56 DISCOMs worked tirelessly across the length and breadth of the country to ensure electricity connections to every willing household. Saubhagya camps were organised at village level to reach out to the beneficiaries and to facilitate on-the-spot electricity connections - ensuring that no household was left out. A special fleet of 'SaubhagyaRaths' were flagged off across various states in the country to create awareness among the people and to also identify every household without electricity that may have failed to register under the scheme initially. A Control Room that worked 24x7 was set up to assist the beneficiaries on all scheme-related queries, address their grievances and also provide electricity connections with the support of DISCOM for speedy resolution. In locations where the solutions were not techno-economically viable due to scattered households, stand-alone Solar PV-based systems were installed. Our efforts translated into connecting millions to the mainstream development pipeline of our country and even more so energizing millions of smiles.

As I flip through the pages of history, 1879 was the year when light bulbs were used to demonstrate electricity on the streets of Calcutta (now Kolkata) and on 31st

March 2019 India achieved universal electrification - making us more equipped to leapfrog into a new phase of exponential development.

THE ROAD TO QUALITY POWER

After the electrification of 2.82 crore willing households, we are now working towards providing reliable quality 24 x 7 power supply in urban and rural India. An uninterrupted supply of electricity to every Indian household would mean improved access to all necessities. This will bring a major transformation especially in rural areas as more and more citizens will be able to utilize new and improved agriculture techniques, agro-machinery, latest technologies etc. leading to a significant increase in agricultural production, thereby improved economic growth. Reliable power will also bring with it ample opportunities in various small-scale industries with the setting up of new businesses and facilitating socio-economic growth and development. As India steps into a new era of progress, not a single citizen shall be left behind as we achieve our goal of 'POWER FOR ALL'.

(The writer is a Executive Director, REC Limited)

Manipur's own 5-day 'Eikhoigi Imphal International Film Festival' set to kick off from April 2, 2022



IT News
Imphal, March 30:

The period of long wait for an international film festival for the cine lovers of Manipur will come to an end with the launch of the 1st Eikhoigi Imphal International Film Festival (EIIFF) 2022. The 5-day long festival will begin April 2, 2022. EIIF 2022 is the highlight of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Manipur Cinema, which culminates this year.

Jointly organized by Manipur Film Development Society (MSFDS) and Manipur State Film and Tele-

vision Institute (MSFTI), with financial aid from the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, the festival is a realization of a long-cherished dream for the film community and as well as the cinemagoers of the state.

The well-curated international festival will screen 11 feature films, 8 non-feature films and 1 short film. Being the first international festival, organizers had to put in extra effort to seek screening rights from the producers. A DFF package of films made by master filmmakers of India such as Satyajit Ray, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, G. Aravindam, Girish Kasaravalli and Mrinal Sen will be a special attraction of EIIF 2022.

Two Manipuri films will make their premier in this first edition of EIIF: Romi Meitei's 'Eigi Yum' and Haobam Pabankumar's 'Nine Hills One Valley'. Alongside, acclaimed Khasi film, 'Jewduh', directed by Pradeep Kurbah and

Assamese film, 'Ishu', directed by Utpal Borpujari will also be screened. Director of the critically acclaimed documentary film, 'All That Breathes', Shaunak Sen will be present during the festival and share the experience of his cinematic journey. Besides, filmmakers like Rajdeep Paul, Sarmistha Maiti and Kaushik Hafizee will take part in the festival along with their films. DFF deputy director, Tanu Rai will also participate in the international film festival.

EIIF will be a golden opportunity for filmmakers, critic and cine lovers. It will provide a healthy platform for meaningful deliberations on the current artistic development in the film art, and also the nuances of the industrial demands. The festival envisages to fill up the void of a veracious cinematic culture particularly in the state of Manipur.

Beside film screenings, talks and sessions, 'Meepao,' a contemporary modern dance by Surjit Nongmeikapam and

team, experimental folk music band by 'Sam Paa' and narrative act on the journey of Manipur by the Cine Actors' Guild of Manipur are set to light up festive atmosphere.

Film festivals around the world have been a harbinger of brilliant cinematic culture, besides inspiring young people who want to tell stories through films. EIIF envisions to be one such festival by including competition section from the next edition onwards.

Daily screenings during the 5-days festival will begin at 11 in the morning and continue till 10 in the evening. In between the breaks, there will be musical performances by local artistes. The organizers of the EIIF extend warm invitation to everyone. Entry is open for all.

It may be mentioned that the last lap of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Manipuri Cinema had already kicked off with the commencement of 6-day 'Cinematography Lab' April 26 onwards.

Assam Rifles apprehends a drug smuggler



IT News
Imphal, March 30:

Keithemambi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended a Drug Smuggler

from ThoubalMela Ground along National Highway-102 in Thoubal district on 28 March 2022.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles launched a joint operation with Manipur Police and apprehended a drug smuggler

along with 34 soap-cases of Brown Sugar amounting to approximately Rs. 1.5 Cr from a MarutiEcco Van.

The apprehended Drug Smuggler and recovered items were handed over to Thoubal Police Station for further investigation.

India logs 1,233 new COVID-19 cases

Agency
New Delhi, March 30:

With 1,233 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,30,23,215, while the active cases dipped to 14,704, according to the Union Health

India successfully test fires MRSAM air defence system in Odisha: DRDO

Agency
New Delhi, March 30:

India on Wednesday successfully test-fired Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) air defence systems twice, news agency ANI quoted Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) officials as saying.

The MRSAM has been developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for use by the Indian Army. They were test-fired off the coast of Odisha in Balasore.

This comes days after similar tests were conducted by the DRDO on March 27, when the missiles intercepted the aerial targets and destroyed them completely, registering direct hits at both ranges. The first tests were carried out in December 2020.

The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises a multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles. Two Pune-based DRDO facilities have contributed to the development of the missile system. The ground system and launcher of this system have been developed by the Pune-based Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) and the High Energy Material Research Laboratory has contributed towards the propellant.

Ministry data updated on Wednesday. The death toll climbed to 5,21,101 with 31 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate remained at 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 674 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.20 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded as 0.25 per cent, according to the ministry.

The last 24 hours saw a total of 6,24,022 COVID-19 tests being conducted. India has so far conducted over 78.85 crore cumulative tests.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,24,87,410,

while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 183.82 crore.

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

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23. The 31 new fatalities include 22 from Kerala.

A total of 5,21,101 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,780 from Maharashtra, 67,844 from Kerala, 40,052 from Karnataka,

38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,151 from Delhi, 23,494 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,197 from West Bengal.

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

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

Meanwhile, several European nations are struggling with a fresh surge of infections. The BA.2 variant of the more infectious Omicron is believed to be spreading fast in March in some parts of Europe and China. The BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron accounted for more than half or 54.9 per cent of the coronavirus cases in the US last week.

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE (ND&PS)(FTC), MANIPUR AT CHEIRAP COURT COMPLEX

ANNEXURE - I

Schedule I VIII, Form No. 100
High Court Criminal Process No. 4

CASE NO.- SPECIAL TRIAL NO. 61 OF 2020
FIR No. 485(12) 1986 Lamphel-PS
U/S 27(a) ND & PS Act.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF THE ACCUSED (Section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure)

1) Name, Description and address of the accused:
Shri Moirangthem Suresh Singh (29 years) now aged about 65 years S/o (L) M. Yaima Singh of Thangmeiband Polem Leikai

Whereas complaint has been made before me **Shri Moirangthem Suresh Singh** has committed the offence punishable Under Section 27(a) ND & PS Act (FIR. No. 485(12)1986 Lamphel-PS) and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon stating that **Shri Moirangthem Suresh Singh** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shri Moirangthem Suresh Singh** has absconded to avoid the execution of the said warrant.

2) Name of the accused:
Shri Moirangthem Suresh Singh

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Shri Moirangthem Suresh Singh** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the 4th day of April, 2022.

3) Place:
Imphal

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2022.

Sd/-
(Kh. Ajit Singh)
Special Judge (ND&PS)(FTC)
Manipur

IT(B)-30c2 days

Assam Rifles apprehends two PLA cadres

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

Keithemambi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in two different joint operations with Manipur Police apprehended 02 insurgents of proscribed group PLA in Leirangpat in Imphal East district and in Ringpam, Tengnoupal district on 28 March 2022.

Based on specific inputs, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police Cdos launched operations and apprehended two active cadres of PLA. Subsequently, both the apprehended insurgents were handed over to Iribung Lamphel Police Stations respectively for further investigation.

PEACE Crafts Bazar

Venue : Khoyol Keithel Moirang Lamkhai
Bishnupur District, Manipur

Date : 26th March to 4th April 2022
Time : 10:30 a.m.

Item Display of Sales

*Cane & Bamboo *Kouna Crafts * Hand Embroidery * Artistic Textile
* Woolen Shoe * Doll & Toys * Other Decorative Items



Organised by:-
People's Education for Awareness & Community
Empowerment Organisation (PEACE)
Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai, Imphal - 795001
Manipur, India



Sponsored by:-
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicraft)
Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India, New Delhi
R.K. Puram - 66



Fifth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha to be held on April 1 at Churachandpur

IT News
Ccpur, March 30:

The 5th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' will be held at Talkatora, New Delhi on April 1, 2022 at 11 AM. The Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Churachandpur who is the Nodal Principal for Churachandpur district said that the event will be live tele-

cast on Doordarshan, radio channels, TV Channels, Digital media including YouTube channels of EduMinofIndia, narendramodi, pmoindia, pibindia, MyGovIndia, Rajya Sabha TV and Swam Prabha. As per the instructions of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, this programme is to be viewed by all students of the nation

through various modes. In the event, the Prime Minister will respond to questions related to examination stress and related areas posed by students in his uniquely engaging style in a live program. Students, parents, teachers and public can watch the event live at DD, radio and TV channels, digital media such as YouTube channels of Minis-

try of Ministry of Education, PMO India, PIB India etc. 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is a movement driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effort to bring together students, parents, teachers and the society to foster an environment where the uniquely individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully.

Minister for Science & Technology, Govt. of Manipur addressed the scientists, students and staff of IBSD

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India organized a programme where Thongam Bishwajit Singh, Minister for Science & Technology, Govt. of Manipur addressed the

scientists, students and staff of IBSD, Imphal. He appreciated the various research activities and outreach programmes of IBSD for the development of bioresources under the leadership of Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director, IBSD, Imphal. He assured all the support and cooperation in this regard for the growth of economy of the state. During the event, Director, IBSD

highlighted various activities of IBSD performed under different research verticals for the development of bioeconomy from bioresources of North Eastern Region. He mentioned that IBSD is working on exploring traditional knowledge and natural resources for the development of bioeconomy at large.

The programme was also

attended by Devesh Deval, Commissioner cum Secretary (Science & Technology), Govt. of Manipur. He highlighted various initiatives of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Manipur in collaboration with IBSD, Imphal to promote research & development activities in the state. All the scientists, students and staff of IBSD attended the programme.

MASLSA organises Spot Painting Competition

IT News
Imphal, March 30:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Thoubal under the aegis of Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MASLSA) organised a Spot Painting Competition at the Conference Hall, District and Sessions Court Complex, Thoubal at Khangabok on the topic "Global Warming and Its Impact". The event was organised as part of the monthly activities organised by Manipur State Legal Services Authority through DLSAs.

Regarding the Painting competition, Bineshwori Maibam, Secretary, DLSA, Thoubal said that the topic of Global warming is of utmost importance to raise awareness



to the students due to the raising temperature, rising sea levels and extreme weather

events currently occurring at many parts of the world. The event was partici-

pated by 30 students from 10 Schools within Thoubal and Kakching Districts.

Sports Corner

FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualifiers: List of all the teams that have qualified

Agency
Qatar, March 30:

The qualifiers for the World Cup 2022 saw some surprising results and some major upsets. The stage is almost set for the World Cup in Qatar in November. 27 out of the 32 spots have been confirmed. By the time of the draw on April 1, only three spots will be unconfirmed.

However, we have come close to the final list of participants. The qualifiers, as usual, were broken up into six factions with the host Qatar getting an automatic entry:

- Europe - 13 places
- Africa - 5 places
- South America - 4.5 places
- North America, Central America, Caribbean nations - 3.5 places
- Asia along with Australia - 4.5 places
- Oceania - 0.5 places

tercontinental playoffs and postponed playoffs amongst Scotland or Ukraine or Wales. The delay was necessitated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Consequently, Russia has been kicked out of the tournament.

Some top developments were:

- Canada qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 36 years
- Euro Cup Champions Italy miss out on the World Cup for a second consecutive time
- Nigeria fail to qualify for World Cup for the first time since 2006, Ghana are through
- Senegal kick Egypt out and qualify for the World Cup for the third time in their history

The Full List is as follows:

EUROPE:

- Germany
- Denmark
- France
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Spain
- Serbia

- England
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Scotland or Ukraine or Wales

AFRICA:

- Senegal
- Cameroon
- Ghana
- Morocco
- Tunisia

SOUTH AMERICA:

- Brazil
- Argentina
- Ecuador
- Uruguay
- Peru/Colombia/Chile

ASIA (with Australia):

- South Korea
- Iran
- Japan
- Saudi Arabia
- Australia/United Arab Emirates

NORTH AMERICA:

- Canada
- USA/Mexico/Costa Rica
- USA/Mexico/Costa Rica
- USA/Mexico/Costa Rica (this team will go into the in-

tercontinental finals)

OCEANIA:

New Zealand/Solomon Islands (the winner will go to the intercontinental finals)

FULL LIST (27 out of 32 teams): Qatar, Germany, Denmark, France, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, Serbia, England, Switzerland, Netherlands, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, Iran, South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Ghana, Morocco, Tunisia, Cameroon

Intercontinental Playoffs (2 spots)

Australia/United Arab Emirates vs. Peru/Colombia/Chile
USA/Mexico/Costa Rica vs. Solomon Islands/New Zealand

The one-off games will be played in Qatar on June 13 and 14.

The FIFA World Cup will commence on November 21 in Qatar. The final will be played on December 18 at the Lusail Iconic Stadium in Lusail, Qatar.



MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Regd. Office : 3rd Floor, New Directorate Building, near 2nd MR Gate
Imphal - Dimapur Road, Imphal, Manipur)

CIN: U40101MN2013SGC008343

Summary of Tariff Schedule approved by Commission for FY 2022-23 for Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd (MSPDCL) and to be effective from 01.04.2022 :

A) Approved Subsidised Tariff for FY 2022-23

Table 8.2: Category wise Subsidised Tariffs approved by the Commission for FY 2022-23

Sl. No		Consumer Category (FY 2019-20)	Existing Tariff		Approved Subsidised Tariff	
			Fixed Charges (P.M)	Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)	Fixed Charges (P.M)	Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)
	I.T SUPPLY					(Rs./kWh)
1	Kutir Jyoti			Rs./Connection		
	All Units (Upto 45 KWh/ 3 Month)		25 (Connection)	2.10	25.00	2.10
2	Domestic			Rs./KW		Rs./KWh
	First - 100 kwh/Month		65.00	5.10	65.00	5.10
	Next 100 kwh/Month		65.00	5.95	65.00	5.95
	Above 200 kwh/Month		65.00	6.75	65.00	6.75
3	Non-Domestic/Commercial			Rs./KW		Rs./KWh
	First - 100 kwh/Month		85.00	6.55	85.00	6.55
	Next 100 kwh/Month		85.00	7.25	85.00	7.25
	Above 200 kwh/Month		85.00	7.65	85.00	7.65
4	Public Lighting		70.00	9.55	70.00	9.60
5	Public Water Works		105.00	9.80	105.00	9.80
6	a) Agriculture (Individual)		65.00	4.55	65.00	4.55
	b) Irrigation (others)		65.00	4.55	65.00	4.55
7	Small Industry		70.00	4.85	70.00	5.60
	HT SUPPLY		Rs/kVA	Rs/kVAh	Rs/kVA/PM	Rs/kVAh
1	Commercial		105.00	8.75	105.00	8.90
2	Public Water Works		105.00	9.50	105.00	9.60
3	a) Agriculture (Individual)		105.00	4.75	105.00	5.15
	b) Irrigation (others)		105.00	4.75	105.00	5.15
4	Medium Industry		105.00	7.20	105.00	8.00
5	Large Industry		105.00	8.80	105.00	9.10
6	Bulk Supply		105.00	8.80	105.00	9.25

B) Approved Full Cost Tariff (FCT)

Table 8.3: Category wise Full Cost Tariff (without subsidy) for FY 2022-23 as approved by the Commission

Sl. No.	Category & Consumption Slab	Full Cost Tariff	
		Fixed Charges (Rs./pm)	Energy Charges (Rs./KWh or KV/h)
1	Kutir Jyothi (FCT)	Rs./Connection	Rs.KWh
	All Units (upto 45 KWh/3 Months)	25 per Connection	9.01
2	Domestic	Rs./KW	Rs./KWh
i)	First 100 kWh	65	9.73
ii)	Next 100 kWh	65	9.57
iii)	Balance > 200 kWh	65	11.76
3	Non-Domestic/Commercial	Rs./KW	Rs./KWh
i)	First 100 kWh	85	11.04
ii)	Next 100 kWh	85	12.59
iii)	Balance > 200 kWh	85	13.47
4	Public Lighting	70	13.39
5	Public Water Works	105	13.16
6	a) Agriculture (individual)	65	0.00
	b) Irrigation (others)	65	0.00
7	Small Industry	70	11.28
	HT Supply (FCT)	Rs./KVA	Rs.KVAh
1	Commercial	105	10.78
2	Public Water Works	105	11.57
3	a) Agriculture (individual)	105	9.27
	b) Irrigation (others)	105	9.27
4	Medium Industry	105	10.48
5	Large Industry	105	11.00
6	Bulk Supply	105	11.65

Note: 1) "Fixed charge is per KW of contracted load for LT supply except KJ while in case of HT Supply, it is per KVA of Billing Demand. Energy charge is as per KWh for LT supply and per KVAh for HT supply and LT high value services provided with MDI meters. The above table depicts fixed and energy charge only. Tariff Charges description in detail are given under the Tariff Schedule chapter."

(Ng. Subhachandra Singh)
Managing Director
MSPDCL

IT(B)-30x5 days