

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launches DBT for registered organic farmers

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today launched the Direct Benefit Transfer for 18,000 registered farmers under Horticulture Department for Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Phase-III (2020-23). There are altogether 25,000 farmers under Phase-III MOVCDNER, Manipur including 7000 farmers registered under Agriculture Department and 18,000 farmers under Horticulture Department.

Today's programme was held at the Darbar Hall, CM's Secretariat.

Speaking as the chief guest of the programme, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appreciated farmers turning towards organic farming. He called on all farmers to focus on organic farming and support the government's mission to convert the State into a total organic State within the next five years.

Stressing on the negatives of chemical fertilizers, the Chief Minister said chemical fertilizers affect our health. He further noted the need to convert to organic farming and said that organic farming is in fact easy as preparation of organic manure using kitchen waste and leaf debris is quite easy.

He further expressed his belief to witness an increase in the number of farmers, pro-



duction and areas covered under the scheme by next year.

Horticulture is very much related to livelihood and health, he said, explaining that the department provides livelihood avenues to uneducated youth and encouraging organic farming helps in improving the health of the people. The Horticulture department has a major role in making Manipur self-reliant, improving the State's economy and health sector, he added.

Further, the Chief Minister spoke strongly against illegal poppy plantation and issued a strong warning stating that the present government will not spare anyone found involved in the drug business or poppy plantation.

The drug menace has strongly affected our society,

the Chief Minister said, and reiterated that there will be no compromise on any drugs related issue.

We cannot remain silent anymore, the Chief Minister asserted, adding that the present government has the mandate of the people and will not succumb before the interest of few who are affecting the future of the youth.

In an appeal to illegal poppy planters in the hills, the Chief Minister said this is his last appeal to do away with poppy plantations and take up alternative livelihood. He also said that he has apprised the Centre on the issue and highlighted that without proper rehabilitation, the issue has led to severe ecological imbalances, land erosion in the hills due to extensive use of chemical fertilisers, inability to save

forest, etc.

He further said that the government is ready with all assistance for alternative arrangement under any department whether under Horticulture or Veterinary and that it should be initiated from a district initially.

He further highlighted that the NDPS Act has also been amended and steps are being taken up to de-recognise villages found involved in poppy plantation.

A government constituted committee is there to identify the number of houses in a village and which villages are involved in poppy plantation, the Chief Minister said adding that if the need arises Hill Area Committee or Revenue Department or any other will be consulted.

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Manipur High Court records 36 Election Petition in the recently concluded State Assembly Election

IT News
Imphal, April 5:

According to a letter addressed to the Joint Chief Electoral Officer (11), Manipur by the Registrar (Judl), High Court of Manipur dated 4th May 2022, a total of 36 Election Petition has been filed in respect of the recently concluded 12th Manipur State Assembly Election. 6 petitions are already admitted and 11 are in motion while the remaining 19 are not yet listed.

These includes 15-Wangkhei AC, 27-Moirang AC, 17-Lamshang AC, 5-Thongju AC, 37-Kakching AC, 4-Khaetrigao AC, 20-Langthabal AC, 6-Keirao AC, 26-Bishenpur AC, 8-Lamlai AC, 21-Naoria Pakhanglakpa AC, 9-Thangmeiband AC, 29-

Kumbi AC, 7-Andro AC, 34-Wangjing AC, 41-Chandel AC, 60-Singhat AC, 30-Lilong AC, 22-Wangoi AC, 55-Tipaimukh AC, 25-Oinam AC, 33-Heirok AC, 36-Wabgai AC, 43-Phungyar AC, 3-Khurai AC, 51-Saitu, 44-Ukhrul AC, 1-Khundrakpam AC and 46-Saikul AC.

All the petitions were filed under Section 80, 80-A, 81 and 84 read with Section 100(1)(d)(i)(iv) and Section 101 of the Representation of the People's Act 1951 challenging the election of the respondent MLAs from their respective Assembly Constituencies as Members of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on the ground of Nomination Paper irregularities, non disclosure of personal information, non disclosure of source of income, non disclosure of material information, non disclosure of pending criminal/FIR case, loan, non disclosure of educational institution and qualification, false affidavit of educational qualification, impersonation, interrupted polling, false/improper statement of personal information, corrupt practices, booth capturing, false affidavit, voting irregularities and improper rejection of nomination paper.

More than one petition were filed for 15-Wangkhei AC, 3-Khurai AC, 17-Lamshang AC, 5-Thongju AC, 37-Kakching AC, 7-Andro AC and 41-Chandel AC. Except for 44-Ukhrul AC, the rest of the applicants are either candidates or rejected intending candidates.

GAD issue new regulation for vehicles entry inside Secretariat Complex

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

A new regulation was issued by the GAD government of Manipur for entry of vehicles inside the secretariat in order to regulate and facilitated smooth access to the Secretariat Complex.

The new regulation allowed vehicles with valid pass issue by the issued by the Deputy Secretary GAD, to enter and parked inside the Secretariat block and the passed will be classified into

four categories. Government vehicles for minister secretariat of rank of secretary and above, and GAD pool vehicles will issue red colour card. Those vehicles with red colour pass can enter and parked at south, north, ministerial and western block. Vehicles with blue passed that will be issue to secretary officers of rank of Deputy Secretary and above and below the rank of Secretary can be entry and parked at north, Ministerial and Western. Vehicles with Green colour passed that

will be issue to Government Vehicles of Head of Departments and Government vehicles and Private vehicles of Secretariat Officers can be parked in the Western side of the road NH 39 from approach road of Kuki Inn to Telephone Bhawan (Government Parking). Lastly two wheelers and GAD's Auto-Rickshaw with colour yellow valid passed displayed on the vehicles will be allowed inside Secretariat Complex after checking the identity card of the riders and will be issued to only Secretariat Officers.

Rongmei Naga Student's Organization serves Explanation Call in connection with a post at social media

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

Rongmei Naga Student's Organization has served an explanation call to Ning @ Kamei (Bearing Ph. No. +918798471767) on May 3 to report in person at the office of RNSO within 15 days.

The explanation call was serve in order to clarify with all proofs and evidences leading to creating the devious message in social media. The message which was alleging the Rongmei Naga Student's Organization President, Adai Gangmei and Vice President, Gaan

Rongmei receiving a sum of 5,00,000/- (five lakhs) from ZUFNNPG during Covid-19 as a donation, which the RNSO said it as unfounded. The message was posted on April 26th at Rongmei Phwaqm whatsapp group Administration Kadimna Ganmei (Bearing Ph. No.

+9153150205).

The RNSO further stated that the message was spread like wild-fire causing much apprehension and misgiving in public domain on one hand and hurting the sentiment and defaming the good images of the concern leaders on other side.

Bomb blasts

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

A powerful blast suspected to be an improvised explosive device (IED) was blasted at Nagamapal in Imphal early morning today. However, no injury or casualty has been reported.

According to the police, the explosion took place around 3.30 am in front of one spare parts shop at Nagamapal Lamaban Leikai under Imphal police station. The shop is reportedly owned by one Prakash Shetti, 46, son of RB Shetti of Mantripukhuri. Due to the force of the explosion, the shutter of the shop and a car which was parked in front of the shop was totally damaged, police said. No individual or organisations has claimed responsibility for the blast till the time of filing this report.

Heavy rain with storm destroys several constructions at CRPF Group center Langjing

IT News
Imphal, April 5:

Heavy rain and storm destroyed several constructions and trees inside the premises of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Group Center at Langjing in Imphal west yesterday.

Report from the center said that as many as 37 big toes of the Group Center were destroyed and also the water and electricity supply came to a standstill. Roofs of Kendriya Vidyalayas, temple, family homes roofs, hospital walls, toilets were damaged and roads were also blocked.



DIG of Group Center Langjing, Madan Kumar, conducted a special drive for immediate supply of water and electricity, regularized the interrupted electricity and water and also directed to stay alert

when such storms and rains come in future so that life and property are protected.

However, taking quick action, the closed roads were also opened and life went on smoothly.

AMBA election differed

IT News
Imphal, April 5:

Election for new office bearers of the All Manipur Bar Association (AMBA) which was scheduled to hold on May 8, 2022 has been differed by an order of the Justice Ananthem Bimol Singh of Manipur High Court.

The order comes today after Puyam Tomcha Meetei filed a petition against the filing of nomination by the present President on the ground that a person cannot hold the post consecutive term.

The case of the petitioner is that the Returning Officer of AMBA issued a notice dated 25-04-2022 for the election of the Executive Members of AMBA. Pursuant to the said notice, the present petitioner along with respondent No. 5 (the present president) filed their nomination paper for the post of President of AMBA. As per the notified dates, Scrutiny was held on 30-04-2022 and on which date, the present petitioner filed an objection against the respondent No. 5 stating that he is not eligible for re-election for the reason that under the first proviso of the Bye-Law 13(II), it is provided that

the out-going office bearers of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible for re-election in any post for next one term and that in case no candidates come up for a particular post/posts, he / she may be re-elected by the General Body Meeting.

"After considering the objection raised by the present petitioner, the Returning Officer issued an order on 02-05-2022 rejecting the objection filed by the present petitioner and accepting the nomination of the respondent No. 5 on the ground, inter alia, that the words "re-election" or "out-going" as mentioned in the first proviso to Bye-Law 13(II) are vague and that unless the respondent No. 5 handed over the charge to the newly elected President of the AMBA, the respondent No. 5 cannot be regarded as an out-going office bearer. Having been aggrieved, the present petitioner approached this court by filing the present writ petition with a prayer for quashing the said impugned order. The petitioner submitted that if the Returning Officer has any doubt as to the interpretation or meaning of the relevant provision of the Bye-Law, he ought to have referred the matter to the Registrar of Societies for a final decision as provided under Bye-Law No. 47 of the Bye-Law of AMBA. In view of the above, the petitioner submitted that the election which is scheduled to be held on 08-05-2022 be deferred for sometime and the Registrar of Societies may be directed to decide as to whether the respondent No. 5 is eligible for re-election as President of AMBA in view of the provision under Bye-Law 13(II) first proviso. After hearing the learned counsel for the parties, this court is of the considered view that it will be expedient and in the interest of justice to pass the following interim order - (i) The Secretary, AMBA is directed to forward a copy of the Bye-Law of AMBA, the notification/notice declaring the respondent No. 5 as the elected President of AMBA in the last election of AMBA, the nomination paper filed by the respondent No. 5, the objection dated 30-04-2022 filed by the present petitioner as well as the impugned order dated 02-05-2022 [3] issued by the Returning Officer to the Registrar of Societies on or before 06-05-2022 without fail;

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Celebration of creativity and gratitude in a new world

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



North and Central India have got a lot of relief from the scorching heat by the grace of Western Disturbance this mid-week as the weather has become pleasant due to hail and rain showers in most parts of northern India. This was much required as the heat was unbearable in many states and cities during the past one week. Meanwhile, the 'Talking Points' column, which came into being on the day of Diwali last year, has completed a six-month journey which has been absolutely full of joy and glory. The column has received the support of more than 50 newspapers in 18 states of the country, and the list includes many reputed Hindi and English newspapers of India. This daily editorial column based on developments of national and international importance is getting a lot of love from readers as well from all over the nation and abroad. In this period about 200 editorial pieces were written and published on a daily basis. I am grateful to the Almighty for giving me a new lease of life in the second wave of Covid last year. Through this editorial column gratefully dedicated to the creator of the universe, Lord Shiva, I will continue this small journalistic contribution to create awareness. Heartfelt thanks to all the learned editors and well-read readers. Continue your love and blessings like this. Your suggestions and feedback are welcome.

This summer season, the tourism industry has blossomed with the unhindered movement of international flights. While foreign nationals are coming to India for travel and work, Indian families are moving abroad for leisure and fun. This change is also being liked by the hospitality sector, as most of the earnings of big hotels come through corporate activities and foreign guests. Rapid booking of flights and rooms is going on. People who were forced to stay indoors due to the pandemic are now traveling freely in the country and abroad and are going on vacation for 50 times more days than before. Industry experts point out that advance bookings for business class seats on flights and rooms in five star hotels have doubled as compared to 2019. People who are desperate to travel are now ready to spend more than before. If this trend continues, the losses of airlines and hotels will be made up within a year.

The countries of choice for Indian tourists are France, Switzerland, Spain and the UK on the top. South Africa, Bali, Thailand and Vietnam are also welcoming fully vaccinated tourists. The hotel and tourism industry is also benefiting from the fact that people had saved their travel budget for the last two years, which they are spending now. On the other hand, hoteliers in Shimla complain that the Queen of Hills is not getting as much footfall as was expected. Contrary to expectations, tourists are staying in Shimla for only a day or two before moving on to some other destination. Due to this, the occupancy of rooms in hotels has been stuck at 70%. The people of the HP hotel association are demanding from the state government that if people are attracted to visit the tourist places around Shimla by doing vigorous publicity, then perhaps the situation can improve.

New Wave of political ideas in India

By: Sauro Dasgupta

Political Ideas have been present in the world since time immemorial. They have sought to improve the conditions of the society and the nation. Ideas like liberalism, conservatism, communism spread from Europe to India rapidly. In fact, the founders of these ideas had great connections with their Indian counterparts. Liberal philosopher Jeremy Bentham had a lifelong friendship with the founder of Indian liberalism, Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Similarly, the founder of modern Conservatism, Sir Edmund Burke regularly corresponded with Raja Sir Radhakanta Deb Bahadur. MN Roy was deeply inspired by Communism. After the October Revolution (1917), he visited Moscow and Lenin asked him to prepare the ground for Communism in India. Roy thus established the Communist party of India in 1920 in Tashkent. He was the father of Indian Communism.

Things started to change from the 1960s. The Soviets, who had asked the Communists to stop their movement against the Nehru dispensation in 1947 were now cold with India desiring a healthy relationship with the US. Western Liberals were also unhappy with the increasing leftward turn of Indian politics after 1969. By 1977, Conservatives were in power in Delhi.

The Conservatives were able to establish a front comprising themselves and Lohites, who later started several backward caste movements in Northern India. Both Conservatives and liberals started to work, with the hope of getting a huge vote bank in the North. The Ram Jambhoomi Andolan put an end to Mandalisation in Indian Politics. The backward castes joined the movement with great enthusiasm.

With absolute shrewdness and social engineering, the upper caste Liberals managed to be in power from 1996-2014, after which we have seen the Conservatives returning to power after a decade, who with a combination of welfare schemes, Hindutva, resulting in Hindu consolidation behind them, irrespective of caste, class, region, etc. Many minorities began to vote for them in huge numbers. They had respect for the common man and gave him a voice- something that wasn't particularly liked by the elite liberals, who accused the people, especially the backward castes of being manipulated by the Conservatives, just because the Prime Minister happened to be an OBC. The continuous bashing of the common man caused them to lose nearly every poll, except for a few. They were no longer able to tackle the Conservatives in their reachout to the common man.

Along came new ideas among Dalits, Adivasis and others, who felt that the existing system had failed them. It was often reasoned that had they waited a little longer, their demands would have been fulfilled. But that never materialised. It has been seen that they are creating new parties, basing them on ideas of Dr Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh. Many introduced schemes like free education, healthcare, water, electricity, public transport, great infrastructure, etc rather than focusing on caste and religion. These welfare parties had a field day at the polls.

At the end of the day, it must be understood that political ideas are not entirely perfect in themselves. However there needs to be a synergy between ideas and the reality of our country. Those ideas that did not benefit the nation were rightly voted out of power. It is crystal clear that only those who will speak about the welfare of the plebeians, refuse to cede an inch of space to the entrenched elite and preserve the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India, only those ideas will remain.

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Freebie Culture-An emerging trend in Indian politics

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

Freebies can be defined as something without charge or cost. It has been free in Indian politics. It is a very well-known and widespread practice during election. Freebies are the best lucrative methods adopted by political parties to lure voters. In 2019 general election not only Congress party but BJP also joined the race to offer freebies. There is a paradigm shift in the offerings of freebies. Conventional offerings like free water, free electricity and free health services have lost their charm. New offerings like free gadgets and cash incentives are coming up. In every election political parties are offering innovative, lucrative and materialistic ideas of freebies. Some independent candidates go further in their freebies by offering helicopter and taking voters to a tour of moon. Yes, we understand that State should provide welfare and insurance to its citizens. The argument which favours freebies says that it is also another form of social welfare. There are limited studies available in India to find out the impact of freebies on welfare of people.

In welfare politics freebies are also named as hand-outs, doles, sops or incentives. These terms are very encouraging. But in an under-tax country like India it is not feasible to accept such things, as tax evasion also happens frequently. Those who enjoy or avail the freebies should be aware of the fact that these freebies are not coming from the pockets of any political parties but from the taxpayers including them who are the beneficiaries. Freebies are not only the reflection of political promise but also an accepted way of life in India. The freebie culture started with some outliers such as it would help to enhance the capacity of poor people,

to reduce the poverty and to empower the target beneficiaries. Gradually, it is observed that there is very thin connection between labours, work, outcome and nation's economy. Winning election and good governance are two different things. The role of freebies to avail good governance is questionable. The crucial features of good governance are equality, equity, inclusiveness, social justice and accountability. And these should be seen from a long term perspective. The social, political and economic consequences of freebies are very short-lived in nature. There are many freebies and subsidies schemes available in many States including Odisha, Delhi, Rajasthan and many more. Still we find starvation deaths, lack of electricity, poor education and health service. So are not freebies meant only to attract voters and swing voters by concentrating on a preferential group or community? Providing a basic healthcare, an affordable education and other essential services like water, house and electricity are the functions and responsibility of any elected Government.

If a government is providing something free to the people, then does it come under freebie culture? Some sociologists argue that these freebies are Elitist-construct. It means these are the opinion from higher class who are barred from availing those freebies. Economists opine that as long as any State has the capacity and ability to finance freebies then it fine; if not then freebies are the burden on economy. Despite knowing the fact that these freebies will put state revenue in red zone, political parties are competing with each other to lure the voters. It is opined by many that the present

price hike in petroleum products and other essential items/commodities could be because of freebies in free Covid vaccination and free rice under NFSA due to Covid pandemic. A high profile political leader in Manipur also often says, the price hike of essential commodities is due to tax collection from various sectors just to meet the expenditure for fighting Covid pandemic. If taxes are not imposing, how can government provide free vaccination and free rice to our public? This is his big voice in many occasions. This burden of price hike to general public could be because of freebies.

There are some other examples of freebies where States provide phone, laptops, grinders, bicycles and free transportation. The sorrow of poor people in India cannot be solved by freebies or by incentives. As far as farmers and their productivities are concerned, free electricity, free water, farm loan waivers, subsidies and minimum support price are not the sustainable solution. The Governments both State and Centre have been providing such freebies to them. Ironically Indian agriculture is still marked with low productivity. Freebies have recently been playing a prominent role in India's electoral policies. Despite knowing the fact that freebies will put additional burden on the exchequer, political parties have been competing with each other in the run-up to elections by announcing a string of freebies to woo the voters. The culture of freebies that was started by Late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, J Jayalalitha, promising free sarees, pressure cookers, washing machines, television sets etc. was quickly followed by other political parties. In North, Aam Adami Party

took the lead, sweeping the Delhi Assembly Elections in 2015, by promising free electricity, water, bus travel to the voters of Delhi. The situation has now come to such a stage where, in response to a petition by Hindu Sena Vice-President Surjit Singh Yadav, the Supreme Court had to issue a notice to the Election Commission of India over the complaint of political parties wooing voters, with the promise of freebies ahead of recently concluded Assembly Elections in five states, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab. The Court observed in this connection that, the promise of freebies was a serious issue.

This version compels us to contemplate that where India goes. The freebies in election manifesto are just like open auction. Voters are at the receiving end. They enjoy the political promises. The democratic process of election and election promises should be clear. It should not control voters thought. Further to this, the Madras High Court said freebies make people lazy and irresponsible in Tamilnadu. It may be applicable to people of other States. It is observed that there is scarcity of local labourers in market. Local labourers are now replaced by migrant workers from other State. Freebies culture paves way to corrupt practice. Involvement of middle man to get those freebies cannot be avoided. Many discrepancies are reported also. Using freebies to lure voters is not good. Voter's greediness may lead to a problem in choosing a good leader. When we don't have a good leader then democracy will be a mockery.

(Writer can be reached to: sjgugeshwor7@gmail.com)

Gyani Zail Singh : The Symbol of Nationalism

young age, he was married to Pradhan Kaur, who has a son, Mr. Joginder Singh and three daughters, respectively, Joginder Kaur, Manjit Kaur and Dr. Gurdeep Kaur.

Inspired by the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru and other freedom fighters, Jarnail Singh started his political career as an Akali Dal worker. At the age of just 18, he became the General Secretary of the Faridkot Akali Dal and remained in this position for five years (till 1933). In 1938, he led the Prajamandal movement against the princely state of Faridkot. In the same year he opened a Congress branch in Faridkot, which the Maharaja accepted as a challenge and imprisoned him for five years. On being asked by the jailer, he revealed his name as "Zail Singh" (Lion of the jail). Since then he became popular as Zail Singh instead of Jarnail Singh. He was severely tortured in the prison, but he showed his courage. He studied the holy texts like Ramayan, Gita, Veds, Purans, Upanishads etc. in his prison.

After his release from imprisonment in 1943, due to repeated harassment by the Maharaja's employees, Zail Singh left Faridkot and started public awareness by joining the freedom movement. During the flag movement in 1946, he returned to Faridkot, where there was a lot of enthusiasm among the public towards hoisting the tricolor flag. But the fear of the Maharaja's terror was also at its climax. Then Jawaharlal Nehru himself went to Faridkot and hoisted the flag. After some time in 1947, when Raja Maler was in Kotla, Giani Zail Singh, along with some tenacious workers, made a historic explosion by establishing a parallel

government in Faridkot. The king lodged a strong objection to the then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was working to integrate the princely states into the Indian Union, and again imprisoned him, calling it a rebellion.

The politics of Punjab in independent India would be incomplete without mentioning Gyaniji. After the partition of India, the new state "Patiala and East Punjab Provincial Union" was formed by joining the small princely states of East Punjab, Patiala, Jind, Nabha, Kapurthala and Faridkot, whose total area was 10090 square miles and population was 3424060. In 1949, Zail Singh was made the Revenue Minister in the non-party government formed under the Chief Ministership of Gyan Singh Rarewala in this state. After the elections in 1951, he took over as Agriculture Minister in the Congress Government formed on 23 May 1951. He took full advantage of working with an accomplished Chief Minister like Shri Pratap Singh Kairo. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1956 to 1962.

In 1970, when Sikh separatism took hold, the Congress Party made Gyanji Zail Singh the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1972. Shiromani Akali Dal, the traditional political party of Sikhs, was given a blow by their voters and out of the total 104 seats in the state, Congress got 66 seats and its ally Communist Party got 10 seats. The Akali Dal was reduced to just 24 seats. He dominated the politics of Punjab from 1972 to 1977. In 1980, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur constituency and on 14 January 1980 took over as the most

important Home Minister in the Union Cabinet headed by Smt. Indira Gandhi. It is said that during his tenure as Home Minister, he encouraged Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale at the behest of Indira Gandhi as a strategy to harm the Akali Dal, which later proved to be a scourge for the peace of Punjab.

After the completion of the tenure of Shri Neelam Sanjiv Reddy after about two and a half years, on July 15, 1982, the Congress Party declared Gyanji Zail Singh as the candidate for the post of the seventh President of India. The election was one-sided and in this he also got the support of opponents like the Communist Party in Bengal and the Akali Dal in Punjab in the name of being a Sikh. On 25 July 1982, Gyanji Zail Singh took the oath of the highest constitutional post. During this, he also made his place by saying light things like "If my leader had said I should pick up a broom and be a sweeper, I would have done that. She chose me to be President". As President, he gave the message of love, brotherhood, equality of all religions, unity, honesty and devotion to the people of India but also to the whole world.

Gyani Zail Singh, a multi-faceted personality, successfully faced every situation and got victory. Taking special interest in the social upliftment of backward classes, dalits, poor and women, he started many development schemes for their welfare. Keeping the unity and integrity of the nation as supreme, he devoted himself completely. He was not even aware of "Operation Blue Star", which was started in 1984 to free the historic Golden Temple in Amritsar from the anti-national Sikh militants, although Prime Minister Indira Gandhi spoke to him for an hour a day before the operation.

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Active COVID-19 cases in country rise to 19,719

Agency
New Delhi, May 5:

India logged 3,275 new coronavirus infections in a day, pushing the number of active cases to 19,719 and the overall tally to 4,30,91,393, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Thursday.

The data released at 8 am also showed that 55 fatalities — 52 of them from Kerala alone — were reported in a 24-hour span, taking the cu-

mulative death toll to 52,937.

The active cases constitute 0.05 per cent of the total infections, the health ministry said, adding the country's COVID-19 recovery rate is 98.74 per cent.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.77 per cent while the weekly figure was recorded at 0.78 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 210 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload which now

stood at 19,719.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease rose to 4,25,47,699, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 189.63 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. It crossed the

grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 31 new fatalities 52 from Kerala and one each from Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, the data showed.

A total of 5,23,975 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,845 from Maharashtra, 69,164 from Kerala, 40,102 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,177 from Delhi, 23,508 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,202 from West Bengal.

HAC Chairman MLA D Gangmei Inspects Govt. Offices and Developmental Projects in Nungba

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

Chairman Hill Areas Committee (HAC) Manipur and MLA 54-Nungba AC Dinganglung Gangmei (Dipu) on Wednesday inspected various government offices and developmental projects in Nungba Sub-Divisional Headquarters, Noney district.

Additional Deputy Com-



missioner, Noney Stiff Khapudang and former ADC member Shri Khapudang Kamei accompanied him during the inspection.

The whole team visited the work sites of Subhavana Mandap community hall, Nungba Higher Secondary School, SDO/BO Office, Watershed, Guest House and Community Health Centre at Nungba.

On seeing the works and

activities undertaken by the contractors, MLA Dinganglung Gangmei expressed dissatisfaction that it does not live up to the expectations and benchmark set by the present government.

The contractors in charge of the assigned tasks should complete the pending works and try to maintain quality standards and complete the work by the set timeline, he also appealed.

The Medal were Presented to Awardees by the CNS in Naval Investiture Ceremony 2022

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 5:

The "Naval Investiture Ceremony-2022" to felicitate Naval personnel who demonstrated gallant acts, leadership, professional achievements, and distinguished service of high order was held at the Naval Base, Kochi in Kerala on Wednesday.

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) on behalf of the President of India, conferred the Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards to the recipients during the investiture ceremony an official statement said.

On the occasion, a total of 31 medals including "six Nao



Commander Raj Krishna Manu receiving the award from the CNS Admiral R Hari Kumar.

Sena Medal (Gallantry)", eight Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 17 Vishisht Seva Medal were presented to the awardees. In addition, the "Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha

Padak" (posthumously) was presented to the Father of Ramavtar Godara, COM I (EW), who had made the supreme sacrifice while attempting to rescue an unknown in-

dividual drowning in a water reservoir in Nagaur district, Rajasthan on August 10, 2020.

The CNS also gave away the "Lt VK Jain Memorial Gold Medal" for pioneering research in the field of weapon improvement and Electrical Engineering and "Capt Ravi Dhir Memorial Gold Medal" for promoting Flight Safety during the event. The "CNS Trophy for Best Green Practice 2021" was awarded to "INS Eksila" and "INS Hamla" in the Industrial and non-industrial categories respectively.

The "Unit Citations for operational units" category were awarded to Indian Naval Ships "Tarkash",

"Nireekshak", "Khanderi" and "Astradharani". The "unit citations" for shore establishments were awarded to INS Angre, NSRY (Port Blair), INS Dega, and INS Hamla which delivered exceptional performances over the past year.

"Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)": Capt Sunil S Korti, Cdr Dhanush Menon, Cdr Bipin Panikar, and Cdr Raj Krishna Manu. "Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak" (posthumously): received by father of Late Ramavtar Godara, Com I (EW)

The ceremony was witnessed by the spouses and families of awardees and by several senior dignitaries of the Indian Navy as well.

Career Guidance

Paths Scorching Desolate Roads



By: Vijay Garg

It is a matter of childhood days. She studied in first grade. Father was in Kannauj in those days. Nearby was Unnao, through which the Ganges flowed. One day the parents thought that bathing in the Ganges should be done. Went early in the morning. Get off the station and walk. There were brothers as well. Long road. Trees laden with mangoes on both sides. Just brothers would pick up the pebbles from the road and toss them towards the trees and many mangoes would fall down. Thus by the time they reached the banks of the Ganges, the whole bag was filled with mangoes. Father in-

mersed the bag full of mangoes in the cold water of the Ganges, so that the mangoes become cold. Later fresh aromatic indigenous mangoes were eaten with great taste.

Then even in the villages, the fruits lying on the ground seemed like a boon to the children. While passing by the fruit trees, picking Amiya, Jamun, Tamarind etc. was his favorite hobby. He used to collect a lot of such fruits on his way to and from school. The children who did not get the fortune of getting the fruits were disappointed. Sometimes the children who got fruits, shared them with other children and ate them too. Then there was no sense how to eat the fruit lying on the ground. This is seen a lot in cities. There are many Jamun trees on Tolstoy Road in Connaught Place. During the rainy season so many berries fall there that after being crushed by the feet of passers-by, the road turns purple. But it is fun that someone can be seen picking them

up. To do so people may feel against their pride.

Nowadays, fruit trees are not visible on the side of the roads. In the olden days, those shady trees were planted on the side of the road, where when the passers-by walked, the shade of the trees could protect them from the sun and heat. Not only this, people can also eat fruits when needed. Trees were usually planted along the roads, which have a long life.

But these days when roads are being constructed, there is no thought of planting trees on their sides. Even if some trees and plants are planted, they are for decoration. If you look at the highways running for hundreds of kilometers, then there is no tree anywhere. Unfortunately, if a bus, car or two wheeler breaks down on the way, then there is no place where you can stand peacefully for two moments. After all, how was the relationship between the road and the trees, that too shady and fruit trees, broken.

Even today, tamarind, jamun trees are seen in abundance in New Delhi, which were planted by an Englishman, not us, but these days like no one cares. What's more, no care is taken for the convenience of the pedestrians.

Many years ago I saw an old man on the banks of Yamuna Expressway. They tried to cross the road again and again, but at the sight of the swaying vehicles, they turned away in fear. Who were they, where they had to go, why were they there alone at this age, it is also a matter to think about. But he must not have been the only one who wanted to cross the road. Do not know how many women, children, even animals would be in such trouble. And if the road cannot be crossed, then there is no tree to wait, nor anything else to breathe for two moments.

Was reading recently that the Delhi government has announced that trees will be planted on the roads where

there are no trees. If so, that would be a good start. Big highway builders and governments will pay attention that the roads are not made treeless. Such trees should be planted, which give shade and fruits to the passers-by. At the same time, they should be such, which are compatible with the Indian ecology. Not only this, planting these trees should not be considered as the end of the responsibility. Until they flourish, they should also be taken care of, so that they can help people for decades.

Don't destroy them even if they pass by. This will also increase greenery. There will also be protection from sun and rain. It is said that when Sher Shah Suri had built the road from Peshawar to Calcutta, which is called GT Road these days, similar trees were planted there for the convenience of the passers-by. When it could have happened on such a long road at that time, then why not today. Whereas today technology is so advanced.

Contd. from Page 2

Gyani Zail Singh : The Symbol of....

After 4 days of military action, Gyani Zail Singh visited the Golden Temple. Not only was he strongly condemned by the extremist Sikh leaders, but a desperate attempt was made to declare him a devout and a scumbag. But the sense of religious duty could not deter him and without caring about all these religious threats, he followed the path of the Sikh Gurus and always considered the national inter-

est as paramount.

After the assassination of Indira Gandhi by the bodyguards enraged by the above action, in the capacity of President, he fulfilled the duty of paying his debt by appointing her son Rajiv Gandhi as the Prime Minister. Gyani's academic life may not have been able to embrace universities, colleges and big educational institutions, but he had an un-

matched love for literature, music and art. He did not speak fluent English, but while showing his deep reverence for Hindi, he used to ask the English masters very easily and confidently that when the nations like France, Germany, Soviet Union, Japan, China, Italy etc. can reach the top of the world with their own language, why can't India reach it? Even abroad, by speaking in Hindi, he en-

hanced the honor and respect of India.

In the most turbulent times of Indian politics, Gyani Zail Singh showed his understanding and administrative skills. He also became controversial and was also called indisputable. On 29 November 1994, during his visit to Takht Sri Keshavgarh Sahib, his car met with an accident near Kiratpur Sahib in Ropar district. He was admitted to

the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Chandigarh, where he left this illustrious world on 25th December 1994 at 7.40 am. A simple living, high thoughts, a nurturer of Indian tradition and a genius, who stirred the public with his sincere and blunt speech, Zail Singh will always be remembered by the Indian masses.

(The author is a technocrat & academician)

Union Minsiter of State visits AR Headquarters

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

Ajay Kumar Mishra, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India visited Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) at Mantripukhri on May 3.

During the visit, the Minister was briefed about the operational preparedness of Assam Rifles and its relentless efforts to main-

tain peace and tranquility in the region. The Minister expressed his satisfaction on the security measures and operational preparedness of the Assam Rifles. He complimented the all ranks for efficiently managing the security situation in the Manipur State.

During interaction with troops, Hon'ble Minister appreciated the untiring efforts of force in difficult and inhospitable conditions.

AR conducts Security Coordination Meet

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

Phundrei and Khuga Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(South) organised security coordination meetings at Panglatabi and Khuga locations in Kachhing and Churachandpur district yesterday.

The meeting witnessed a healthy participation of village authorities including the Village Chiefs. The meeting provided a platform

to all concerned for brainstorming various security related issues prevailing in the area, career and growth prospects for the youths. The need to insulate youths from drug menace was also discussed in the meeting.

During the meet, locals were sensitised and updated on current security situation existing in the area and were encouraged to align their efforts towards a common goal of peace and prosperity in the region.

Pension Book Lost

I, the undersigned Aheibam Jiten Singh, have lost my Pension Book (PPO No. 2349881707603) and Aadhaar No. 623845496151, on the way between Mongshangei to Singmaiei Bazar on April 30, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Aheibam Jiten Singh
Ex-Service man, 43 Bn. Assam Rifles

Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, Thoidingjam Pretty Chanu, have lost my Registration Certificate issued by the Assam State Dental Council, bearing Certificate No. 1668-A, on the way from Top Khongnangkhang to Old Chekon on 2/05/2022.

If found kindly hand over to Healthy Dental Clinic, Opposite Ananda Academy, Old Chekon.

Sd/-
Thoidingjam Pretty Chanu

KVK Chandel organizes Input Distribution Programme

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chandel organized an Input Distribution Programme under the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) at Lambung village with Sng. Phamling Anal, President, Anal Lelruwl Tangpi, Chandel as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Asem Ameeta Devi, Head, KVK, Chandel spoke on the urgent need for implementation and adoption of climate resilient agricultural practices in the district.

Dr. Kangjam Sonamani Singh, SMS (SWCE), KVK, Chandel, urged the farmer participants to adopt a farming approach that includes sustainably using existing natural resources through crop and livestock production systems through development and application of improved production and risk



management technologies to achieve long-term higher farm productivity and farm incomes under climate variabilities. He urged the farmers to adopt the climate resilient technologies so as to improve the farm profitability as well as better water and nutrient management for efficient resource utilization. He also motivated the farmers to

adopt appropriate mitigation technologies such as the cultivation of tolerant breeds to overcome the climate stress.

Dr. Khumlo Levish Chongloi, SMS (Agronomy) spoke in detail about the site specific technology packages on farmers' fields for adapting to the present climate risks. She deliberated on the different aspects of conservation agricul-

tural practices to build organic carbon and to build congenial environment for plant growth and manure management.

During the programme, input seeds of rice (RC Maniphou-6, RC Maniphou-13), blackgram, maize, groundnut, soyabean and foxtail millet were distributed.

The programme was attended by 37 farmers.

Nominations for Padma Awards-2023 open till September 15, 2022

PIB
New Delhi, May 5:

Online nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards 2023 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2023 have opened on May 1, 2022. The last date for nominations for Padma Awards is September 15, 2022. The nominations/recommendations for Padma Awards will be received online only on the National Awards portal <https://awards.gov.in>.

The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year. The award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such as, Art, Literature and

Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for Padma Awards.

The Government is committed to transform the Padma Awards into "People's Padma". All citizens are therefore requested to make nominations/recommendations, including self nomination.

The nominations/recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above mentioned Padma Portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements/service of the person recommended in her/his

respective field/discipline.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested all Central Ministries/Departments, States/UT Governments, Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan awardees, Institutes of Excellence to make concerted efforts to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognized from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, SCs & STs, divyang persons and who are doing selfless service to society.

Further details in this regard are available under the heading 'Awards and Medals' on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (<https://mha.gov.in>) and on the Padma Awards Portal (<https://padmaawards.gov.in>). The statutes and rules relating to these awards are available on the website with the link <https://padmaawards.gov.in/AboutAwards.aspx>.

Koubru expedition flags off from AMUCO office

IT News
Imphal, May 5:

All Manipur United Club's Organization (AMUCO), All Manipur Women's Voluntary Association (AMWOVA), and Poirai Leimarol Meira Paibee Apunba Manipur (PLPAM) flagged off a team of friendly Environmental Warrior's (FEW), Jiribam for the Koubru expedition from AMUCO office, Kwaikhel today.

AMUCO president, Ph.Nando Luwang praised the members of FEW who came from Jiribam to devote the Koubru Lord (Epa) and to



planted the sapling at the Koubru hill ranges.

Executive members of AMUCO, AMWOVA and

PLPAM were participated for the flagged off.

Sports

I-League 2021-22 : Real Kashmir hold TRAU FC to 1-1 draw

Agency
Kalyani, May 5:

Real Kashmir held a powerful TRAU FC to a 1-1 draw on Wednesday, snapping their four-match losing streak, in the I-League here at the Kalyani Stadium. Real Kashmir's Kouassi Bernard Yao scored the opening goal, while TRAU's Meitalkishangbam Roger equalised, but still managed to remain in top-tier.

The team from the Kashmir looked to attack early on and was also rewarded for their efforts as they broke the deadlock in the second minute through Kouassi Bernard Yao. The Ivory Coast striker smashed the ball into the back of the net on his right foot after being set up by Malem Meitei. After receiving the ball from the midfield, Bernard dashed towards the six yards box with the ball and ran past Helder Lobato Ribeiro and Shob Akhtar before deceiving Amrit Gope to bag the opening goal of the match.

In the 16th minute, Lalhmangihanga Ralte took the shot and placed the ball in the box, but TRAU cleared the ball out of the danger zone. Ralte had an opportunity to score Real Kashmir's second goal on the rebound, but Gope made a great save to keep the goal off the board.



TRAU got their first corner in the 24th minute, and Ferdinandinho took a good shot, but Bilal Khan saved it. After receiving the ball from Joseph Mayowa Olaleye, Ferdinandinho attempted a spectacular long-range shot in the 33rd minute, but Bilal Khan stopped his effort.

TRAU got off to a fast start in the second half, looking for an equalizer. During the second half, Salam Johnson Singh attempted to generate TRAU's first opportunity, but his shot was blocked by Lalhmangihanga Ralte. TRAU's easiest and biggest chance came in the 49th minute, but Joseph missed a sitter after being set up by Ferdinandinho.

Real Kashmir won a free-kick four minutes later, which

Meitei took. He was right on target, but he was not able to trick Gope as the goalie made an easy save. Ferdinandinho made another effort in the 55th minute but it was saved by Bilal Khan and subsequently parried away for a corner. Five minutes later, Ferdinandinho got another opportunity to level the contest through a set-piece but it was saved by Bilal Khan.

TRAU won another free kick in the 68th minute and this time Roger took the shot ahead of Ferdinandinho. The change worked as Roger smashed the ball into the top corner of the net from a narrow-angle to level the contest 1-1. Real Kashmir players became sloppy and looked rattled after conceding their lead as

TRAU tightened its grip on the match. TRAU almost took the lead in the 78th minute after Salam Johnson Singh set up Laishram Nani Singh, who blasts it over the net.

Bilal Khan faced a barrage of attempts from TRAU players during the final quarter of the match, including a brilliant effort from Joseph in the 82nd minute, but he stood tall to deny his rivals a lead. In the 83rd minute, Bernard had a chance to score his second goal of the game, but his shot flew over the bar. He was sent off six minutes later for a foul on Helder Lobato Ribeiro, reducing Real Kashmir to ten men in stoppage time. However, they survived the added minutes to hold TRAU to a draw.

Contd. from Page 1

Chief Minister N. Biren launches DBT....

Hinting at interference from certain organisations, the Chief Minister said that the elected representatives are here to govern the State and all 60 members are working for the future of Manipur.

He further said we should have some civic sense and think of our neighbours also. Let us all live together in unity and face the challenges thrown at us, he added. The Chief Minister also said that actions will be taken up against those who made provoking, communal comments.

N. Biren also warned of legal action against illegal encroachers and said the government will give one month's time for them to come before the government. He further urged

The Chief Minister also stressed on the government's stand on corruption and said that government recruitments will only be merit based and there will be no corruption. He urged upon the people to be part of the change. He said that the DBT system hinders corruption and there is no harassment in the system.

Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister Letpao Haokip said poppy plantation affects the society in two ways which are the drug menace in

the society and deforestation in the hills. We cannot take this lightly, the Minister said.

The Minister also expressed the need to implement schemes by laying more emphasis on plantations which are more suitable to the State's soil to ensure successful implementation of the scheme.

The government under Chief Minister N Biren Singh has also assured all possible help in providing alternative sustainable livelihood to stop poppy plantation in the hills, he said adding that the department will have to take a pivotal role in the fight against poppy plantation.

He added that nature has been very generous to our State, but we are unable to use it.

Delivering the key-note address, Additional Chief Secretary, Horticulture and Soil Conservation P. Vaiphei said that the Chief Minister has taken a very strong initiative for transparency and accountability, particularly in implementation of e-governance schemes and today's DBT transfer is one such activity.

The Chief Minister has also been highlighting the need for stopping poppy cultivation in the hill districts of the State and taken it up very passionately, he added.

The Addl CS further made an appeal to all farmers involved in poppy plantation to stop and come forward so that the government may provide all possible assistance or alter-

native farming programmes.

He also took up an example of a village 'Peh' in Ukhrul voluntarily came out and destroyed their poppy plantation last year citing that it is anti-social, bad for the future generation and detrimental to the future of Manipur, the department had taken up various activities in the village. The Chief Minister had deputed a special team from Horticulture Department, who engaged all the people under the MOVCNDR, Manipur and brought them into organic farming under the department, he said.

The Addl. CS also spoke about a study under the advice of the CM to convert Loktak Phumdis into nutrients for agriculture farming and that a Detailed Project Report has been made. The proposal is to convert the phumdis into nutrients which will make the State self dependent in terms of nutrient production and the nutrients will be chemical free.

The launching programme was also attended by Horticulture and Soil Conservation Director Honey Chara, officials of MOMA, among others.

Direct Benefit Transfer of Rs. 11,250/- per farmer for the components of assistance for on-farm input for both first year and second year and for off-farm inputs production for first year was transferred to the individual registered farmer's account today. Another Rs. 3750 will be transferred to the farmers in the next instalment.

AMBA election....

(ii) In the event of furnishing such documents by the Secretary, AMBA, the Registrar of Societies is directed to examine and to decide the issue as to whether the respondent No. 5 is eligible for re-election as the President of AMBA and to submit his decision before this court on or before 11-05-2022 without fail; and (iii) Till the next date, the respondent Nos. 3 and 4 are directed not to hold the election of the Executive Members of AMBA for the year 2022-2024 without the leave of this court. List this case again on 11-05-2022. A copy of this order be furnished to all the counsel appearing for the parties through their WhatsApp/e-mail during the course of the day, the order reads.

DOCUMENT LOST

I have lost all my Documents, Original Certificates & Marksheets for passing the following examinations today, the 30th April, 2022 on the way to Thangal Bazar from my residence in between 9 am and 11:30 am.

1. HSLC Examination, 1983, bearing Roll No. 15284
2. PU Sc Examination, 1987, bearing Roll No. 4281
3. TDC-Core (Zoology) Examination, 1990, bearing Roll No. 2460.

Finders may please hand over the same to the Office of the Imphal Times. Gratitude reserved.

Sd/-
Moirangthem Mibi Singh
Heirangoithong Ahongshangbam Leikai,
PO & PS: Singjam
Contact No. 9366543031