

Ningol Chakgouba Celebrated in Thailand

IT News
Bangkok, Nov 20: Essence of Manipuri culture still runs to the blood of almost all Manipuri living outside the state as well as those living abroad far away from home. On Saturday, November 19 Manipuri Diaspora living at Thailand gathered at Bangkok and enthralled the taste of Ningol Chakouba the biggest and most significance festival of Manipuri that strengthen the bondage between sisters and brothers. Ningol Chakouba is originally celebrated on the 2nd day of Hiyangei (Manipuri traditional lunar caller) which falls on November 1. But as Manipuris living in Thailand had hardly get time to gather with their busy time scheduled as they are working at different sectors living at different part of the country. November 19 was indeed a blessing for the Manipuri sisters and brothers living in Thailand. They spare their scheduled programme to meet their brothers and sisters to enhance the biggest Manipuri Culture. "As we live in different parts of Thailand, working in different professional fields, and sadly unable to manage vacation, we couldn't celebrate Chakgouba on the same day as our brothers and sisters do in Manipur. Feeling nostalgia of missing the



season at home(Manipur) but with great joy that we are able to get the opportunity of our traditional festival and blessing from our senior-most of the group, Tamo Chinghem, who has been living for 30 years in Thailand, with about 20 Manipuris altogether, had this Chakgouba to keep the tradition among Manipuris here in Thailand, too. We, brothers (Pipa) are very happy to see our sisters feeling joy, being able join this annual celebration, able to catch this rare occasion far away from home(Manipur); we always called home even if some of us have settled here permanently", said Chingakhm Dina. Dina is presently working in Thailand and is one among the man behind the formation of

Manipuri Global Platform (Thailand). The platform was established last year during the visit of Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM) to facilitate the Manipuri who are visiting the country. The platform also aims to provide guidance to Manipuri living across the globe for better opportunity if desire to start business. Chingakhm Dina and his colleague have been contributing various writings to newspapers in Manipur telling on how life here in Manipur can be improved taking lessons from the Thailand. Being an educationist Dina has been imparting his experience on how the education system is improved at primary level and elementary level too.

My 500 notes

Nganthoi Lourenbam

Day 1 of demonetization

When the United States was trumped with the election result the very same dayour Prime Minister declared demonetization on all the 500 and 1000 notes. That very nightmy Watsapp inbox was flooded with messages. Since working in a US process I had to sleep during daytime and work at night so I didn't read the messages earlier. As soon as I read it I checked my wallet and there were four notes of 500 Rupees. Oh no! What to do with it? In the office everyone talked about the demonetization and could see the concern on everyone's face. I heard some grocery shops are willing to take the notes so I thought maybe give it a try. As soon as I logged off from work I headed to a grocery shop next to my building as my friends are also coming over for lunch at my place. I asked the grocery shop uncle if he will accept 500 notes and he strictly denied. Now I am busted. I told him, 'Uncle I am sure you might be having lots of 500 notes and going to exchange them so why don't you take just another one from me, please?' They laughed at me I know I was being stupid. The grocery uncle was kind enough to let me borrow the stuffs I need but my 500 notes still remained in my purse. Somehow out of the four notes of my 500 Rupees two notes were used to buy chicken and beer. I was left with two notes of 500 rupees.

One week later
 Me and my flat mates were running out of cash and for the daily needs we kept on borrowing from the grocery shop. I thought once I get the money exchanged I will pay off the grocery bill. I decided to go to the bank and exchange the notes but when I saw the long queue I thought 'oh boy! I am gonna wait for a couple of days until the line becomes lesser in number.' Exactly after a week of the demonetization I met a friend in the office who was willing to do the exchange for me. She said she had to go to the bank and do the exchange for her mother's old notes and offered me



to do the same for my money as well. Well I was obliged to hear her offer. Undoubtedly I handed over the notes to her and waited for the next day for her to come to the office. At last I was relieved thinking that the old notes will not remain in my purse. And when my friend came to office the next day she handed me back the same old valueless notes and said, 'I am sorry dear, there was a big line so I didn't go.' And thus my two 500 notes remained back to my purse which once upon a time used to be a big amount of money. I was so disappointed with myself and I thought maybe I should forget my boredom and go to the bank and stand in queue like others. But the queue of people standing in front of banks got longer and longer than I imagined. The news got bigger and the story of people; old-young suffering due to the long wait in front of the bank made me worried. People told me they had to wait for three to four hours in the line to get the money. I only had two notes left so I thought I will just wait and even if I miss out the deadline it's okay it's not a big number anymore.

Second week - exchanged at last
 Amidst the news of Trump's presidential rule in America India was not left behind in making it to the headlines. And while all of these were happening I almost forgot about my two old notes in the purse as I was acquainted with daily work. In a way I was able to survive without me having cash in my purse I meant real cash. But not to be forgotten the groceries and other necessity stuffs are being borrowed from the very own shop. Finally I fought with my boredom and went

to a bank on my work off. I went at 10 am and people were already lined up before me. I must be the 70th number in the queue. In my entire life I have never waited for anything this long. During my college time I had waited for 30 minutes in queue for form submission and that was the longest queue and how we used to hate standing like that for so long. And today 70th in line I can't complain. While waiting in queue I saw some amusing videos sent in the Watsapp group; a lady happily dancing on a beach with a bunch of fish she caught and the title was written as 'after coming from bank' and another video a woman beggar denied to a 500 note. I didn't realize the time after watching the videos and reading the updates on my social networking sites I got my turn to enter the bank. When I came out of the bank I imagined myself with the lady who got fishes in her bag and dancing to the glory. It was exactly like a success after a long struggle. I finally changed my two notes of 500 Rupees to 100 notes. Now they will become useful. I went home and I called up the grocery shop to order something new and pay off the old bill. Everything got settled my two notes of 500 Rupees were exchanged and now I got 1000 Rupees which I can use it to pay off my debt to the grocery shop but the most hilarious part was the grocery bill came to 2500 Rupees. I laughed to myself and said to the shopkeeper boy that I am gonna keep the bill due till the time people stop withdrawing money from the bank.

Najeeb Ahmed: JNU enquiry finds ABVP member guilty of assault

New Delhi, Nov. 20: A proctorial enquiry by JNU has found ABVP member Vikrant Kumar guilty of assaulting Najeeb Ahmed during a brawl following which the latter went missing over a month ago. MSc first-year student of School of Biotechnology, 27-year-old Najeeb was a native of Badaun in Uttar Pradesh. On October 15, Najeeb reportedly had an on-campus brawl with the ABVP members, the night before he disappeared. JNU had ordered a proctorial enquiry into the incident. "In the proctorial enquiry, Vikrant Kumar has been found to be involved in hitting Najeeb Ahmed

and using derogatory language with provocative behaviour on October 14. This is an act of indiscipline and misconduct," an official order read. Vikrant has been asked to explain why disciplinary action should not be initiated against him. ABVP has, meanwhile, come out in Vikrant's support and accused the university administration of being "biased" in conducting the enquiry. "The proctor has taken deposition of those students into account who were not even present there. Not only the enquiry is biased but even the administration is siding with the left-dominated students

union," Saurabh Sharma, ABVP member and former JNUSU member said. JNU students and teachers have been agitating against the university administration and Delhi Police for their failure to locate the missing student. The protesting students had even confined the Vice Chancellor and other senior officials in the administrative building for over 20 hours. Last month, an SIT was formed to trace the missing student on the directive of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to Delhi Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma

National & International News

Indore-Patna express train derails in Kanpur: 96 killed, over 100 injured

New Delhi, Nov. 20: At least 96 people were killed and over 100 injured when 14 coaches of the Indore-Patna express derailed near Pukhrayan in Kanpur Dehat district today. The tragic accident took place at around 3am near Pukhrayan, about 100 kms from Kanpur, when the passengers were fast asleep. Rescue operations are under way since early morning and the death toll is expected to rise, railways officials said. Though the cause of the derailment is not known as of now, sources said the nature and

timing shows that the accident was caused by a rail fracture. However, the exact reason would be known only after an inquiry. The ministry said that the stranded passengers are being moved from site to the Malasa station, adding that the injured passengers are being taken to the Kanpur Dehat hospital. "All hospitals have been asked to be on alert. More than 30 ambulances have been pressed into service," IG (Kanpur range) Zaki Ahmed told PTI. Over 250 police officials are carrying out the rescue and relief operations.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have also reached the spot and have swung into action along with the police, pulling out bodies and providing aid to the victims. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the kin of deceased and Rs 50,000 for seriously injured in the accident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered his condolences to the bereaved. Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 3.5 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those critically injured in Patna-Indore Express derailment incident. Prabhu also announced compensation of Rs. 25,000 for those who sustained minor injuries. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav has announced ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for families of those killed in derailment and Rs 50,000 for seriously injured. Akhilesh Yadav has also instructed Arun Kumar Sinha, principal secretary of state's health ministry to ensure no shortage of medicines and blood for the treatment of patients from the train accident. He has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to personally monitor the relief operations. Railways have launched the following helpline numbers — **Indore-07411072, Ujjain-07342560906, Raftam-074121072, Orai-051621072, Jhansi- 05101072, Pokhraya-05113270239.** Kanpur Rural DM has also issued

helpline numbers: **05111-271050; Police-05111-271577; magistrate hospital duty: 9454416414.** Railways minister Prabhu earlier tweeted that inquiry has been ordered into the accident and that strict action will be taken against all those responsible. "Sr officers ordered to go to spot immediately, they are on way to accident site.local MP, MLAs other functionaries rushed. MOS going. Rail,Dist,stat, NDRF teams are geared up to deal with the accident & offer all kind of help. We r doing our best, to deal with sad accident," he said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has instructed Principal Secretary Health Arun Kumar Sinha to ensure no shortage of medicines and blood for the treatment of patients from the train accident. He has also directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to personally monitor the relief operations. Home Minister Rajnath Singh offered his condolences saying he was deeply pained by the loss of lives and that his thoughts are with the bereaved families. "I have spoken to DG NDRF and instructed him to rush NDRF teams to Pukhrayan. He is also leaving for Pukhrayan to oversee the rescue ops," Rajnath tweeted. Meanwhile Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on Sunday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 3.5 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those critically injured in Patna-Indore Express derailment incident, in which 63

people have lost their lives. Prabhu also announced compensation of Rs 25,000 for those who sustained minor injuries. "Ordered Member Traffic to monitor the disaster management control room personally. He's on job with

his entire team," he tweeted. The Ministry of Railways tweeted, "ADRM & CMS Jhansi reached site MoS @Manojshinhabjp w/ Rly Bd members ME ,MRS & GM one way to site,MR @sureshprabhu personally monitoring."

Arunachal Pradesh gets its first Department of Reproductive Medicine at RKM Hospital

ANI
Itanagar, Nov. 20: Arunachal Pradesh gets its first Department of Reproductive Medicine at Rama Krishna Mission hospital, Itanagar. The inaugural program was graced by Partho Maharaj, Dr Deepak Gowinkar, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and officials of the hospital. When asked about the new service, Dr Gowinkar told, "Infertility is not only a medical problem but also a social issue today. A lot of taboos have been established along with the infertility, one of the main factors leading to the practice of polygamy is infertility among women, social insecurity among the women folks due to infertility." "Till date whenever a couple is suffering from infertility, they had to go out of the state either to Guwahati or any other metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai," he added. Hence, Rama Krishna Mission hospital has now opened this new department under Dr Bengia Chirchi, MBBS M.S., (Obstetrics and Gynecology).

With a hope for a proper utilization of the service, Dr Gowinkar tweeted, "this new service will be a lot cheaper as comparison to the other hospitals outside the state and will cut short the travel expenses."

Postal officials visit hospitals, help patients exchange notes

PTI
New Delhi, Nov 20: With miseries mounting for patients and their attendants following demonetisation, postal department officials have started visiting hospitals across the city to help them exchange old high-value currency notes for new ones. So far, nearly Rs 25 lakhs have been exchanged by them at the hospitals. "The postal teams are visiting hospitals wards offering lower denomination currency notes to patients and their family members as per their needs. Many of them are not able to procure cash from the overcrowded banks and ATMs in the city," Chief Postmaster General (Delhi circle), LN Sharma said.

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US
A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Automobile Engineering Works-1 R K WORKSHOP
 New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari Imphal East,
Manipur - 795 001

Authorised dealer BEML Limited
 (A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)