

## President of the Thoubal District Congress Committee passes away



IT News  
Thoubal, Aug. 21,

President of the Thoubal District Congress Committee Sanjambam Achou passed away yesterday afternoon at Shija Hospital. Late Sanjambam Achou served as the president of the Thoubal District Congress Committee for 13 years. Before that he was also the founder member of the District Youth Congress Thoubal and Seva dal of Congress. Fitting tribute was paid today

to the mortal remain of the district president at the Congress office located at Thoubal Athokpam. A two minutes silence was also observed as a mark to respect to the departed soul. Former Chief Minister and present leader of the CLP Okram Ibobi who also attended today recall the sacrifice of Achou for the cause of the Congress Party. MLA O. Surjakumar and other district congress leaders were also attended in the tribute paying function.

## 9th Phase Of Go To Village Mission in Thoubal



IT News  
Thoubal, Aug. 21,

With a mission to deliver the services and the benefits of the Government's various schemes and projects to the people, In Thoubal district, the Go to Village mission camp was held at three venues namely, Thoubal Kshetrikeikai Ibudhou Khamlangba Sanglen under Thoubal AC, Tangkha Leikai Community Hall of Khangabok Part-III under Khangabok AC and Sikhong Khunou Community Hall

under Heirok AC. In Khangabok AC, The camps were successfully conducted by delivering services to hundreds of people. All together 37 different Government Departments and nearly 1000 people participated in the programme. ADC, Thoubal Radhakanta visited the camps and took stock of the services in the camps. Khangabok Zilla Parishad Member Kh. Rajamohun, SDOs, DLOs and all concerned officials of different departments also attended the event.

## Supreme Court to hear soldiers' plea on AFSPA next month

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing the petitioners in the Manipur encounter cases, objected to the fresh plea and said that it appears to seek a review of the earlier Supreme Court order.

Agency  
New Delhi August 21,

The Supreme Court will next month hear a plea by over 350 Army personnel challenging the dilution of protection available to them under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act — or AFSPA — and registration of FIRs against them for carrying out operations in areas such as Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir.

The petition came up on Monday before a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta, which said it has to be heard by a special bench of Justices Lokur and U U Lalit, which is dealing with registration of FIRs against soldiers operating in Manipur in connection with alleged fake encounters.

The court will now take up the matter on September 4. On July 14, 2017, the bench of Justices Lokur and Lalit had ordered setting up of a special investigation team (SIT) of the CBI to probe the alleged fake encounters.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi agreed that it must be heard by the same bench that is dealing with the Manipur



encounters.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing the petitioners in the Manipur encounter cases, objected to the fresh plea and said that it appears to seek a review of the earlier Supreme Court order. The plea filed by the soldiers, including Col Amit Kumar, claims that they are being "persecuted" and proceeded against for performing duties in disturbed areas.

The CBI has already filed chargesheets in three of the Manipur encounter cases it had probed.

The petitioners said they are "now facing confusion and countering questions from soldiers under their command, as to whether they are supposed to continue to engage (in) the proxy war and insurgency with their military

training, standard operating procedures, operational realities, valour and courage, or act and operate as per the yardsticks of peace-time operations, law and order issues and CrPC".

The protection under AFSPA, the petition stated, "doesn't give any blanket prohibition or any special right to the soldier for himself, but facilitates his functioning and operations in extraordinary circumstances of proxy war, insurgency, armed hostility, ambushes, covert and overt operations".

The petition wants specific guidelines to protect soldiers for bona fide action so that they not harassed by initiation of criminal proceedings for carrying out their duties "in protection of sovereignty, integrity and dignity of the country".

## Opening of economy and closing of mind a dangerous mix: Sonia Gandhi

Agency  
New Delhi August 21

Arguing that technological capability would be of little meaning in a climate of growing scientific obscurantism and social prejudice, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Monday said the "opening of the economy" and the "closing of the minds" is a dangerous and destructive mix. She was addressing a gathering after presenting the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award to former administrator, diplomat and

Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi. Accepting the award, Gopal Gandhi said that "all those who are opposed to zabardasti" must work together, and the "larger entity... is expected to make the larger gesture".

In his address, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke about growing intolerance, communal polarisation and mob lynching and argued that these "unsavory trends" can only harm the national interest. Both Sonia and Singh praised

Gopal Krishna Gandhi and recalled the contributions made by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Sonia said Rajiv was an "unwavering believer" that India's unity was actually derived from and strengthened by the country's incredible diversity. "That is what sadbhavana meant to him—not just acceptance of, not just respect for, but most fundamentally, a celebration of our society's many diversities. Not just a passive acquiescence and tolerance of different points of view, but active engagement — so that every citizen of India is enabled to lead a life of dignity, security and self-respect," she said.

While Rajiv was an advocate of faster economic growth, economic modernisation and of making India a front-ranking scientific and technological power, she said he believed that growing prosperity and social liberalism were two sides of the same coin. "Both had to go hand-in-hand. Technological capability would have little value in a climate of growing scientific obscurantism and social prejudice. We have seen that the opening of the economy and the closing of the mind is a dangerous and destructive mix," she said.

## PM Modi writes to Imran Khan: Need to engage, fight terror

Agency  
New Delhi August 21

Signaling an outreach to Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written to newly elected Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and has expressed a commitment to build "good neighbourly relations" and pursue "meaningful and constructive engagement" for the benefit of the region, sources said on Monday.

This was part of Modi's letter to Khan, which was written on August 18, the day he was sworn in as the new Prime Minister. In the letter, Modi has also underlined the need to make the Indian subcontinent "free of terror and violence" — which also outlines the NDA government's core concern on terrorism. However, the outreach is significant, since Khan had — in his victory speech — said that if India takes one step, Pakistan will take two steps. Sources said

Modi, in the letter, "expressed the belief that the smooth transition of Government in Pakistan would strengthen and cement people's belief in democracy". This is also a message of support to Khan's electoral victory, which has been questioned by Opposition parties in Pakistan who have called the elections "rigged" and "unfair". In the letter, sources said, the Prime Minister "recalled their telephone conversation, in which they spoke of their shared vision to bring peace, security and prosperity in the Indian subcontinent, in order to make it free of terror and violence, and to focus on development". A reference to Modi's letter was made by newly elected Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday when he told Pakistan's media that Modi had sent a letter with a message about starting on the path of dialogue. Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesperson later clarified that Qureshi had not said that "the Indian Prime Minister had made an offer of a dialogue", but "...had mentioned something similar to what the Foreign Minister elucidated earlier, that is, that the way forward was only through constructive engagement". "The Foreign Minister was also briefed about the same positivity and constructive environment prevailing during the meeting of the former Minister of Law and Information with the Indian External Affairs Minister during his visit to India on 18 August 2018 to attend the funeral of Mr Atal

Bihari Vajpayee," the Pak Foreign Ministry spokesperson said. "Pakistan looks forward to a mutually beneficial, uninterrupted dialogue with India to resolve all issues. Any attempts to instigate controversy and vitiate the environment are counter-productive and against the spirit of responsible journalism," the spokesperson said, in a statement released by Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. In Islamabad, while stressing that Pakistan wants to resolve all issues with India through talks, Qureshi said, "We need a continued uninterrupted dialogue. It is the only wise course for us." Qureshi, who is also vice-president of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, said External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has also sent a letter on Sunday to congratulate Prime Minister Imran Khan and mentioned about talks to resolve issues. "I welcome her letter," he said, and added that "I want to say to Indian Foreign Minister that we are not only neighbours but also nuclear powers. We have old issues and we both know what these issues are. We need to address these issues," Qureshi said. "We cannot afford any adventurism as response time is so short. The only option is to engage with each other. We cannot live in enmity and we have to accept that there are outstanding issues." He added: "Whether we wish or not, Kashmir is an issue and both countries have recognised it. In my opinion there is no option other than talks to resolve it." The letter from Modi to Khan comes about three weeks after he had congratulated him for emerging as the largest political party in the National Assembly of Pakistan in the recently conducted general elections.

"Prime Minister expressed hope that democracy will take deeper roots in Pakistan...and had also reiterated his vision of peace and development in the entire neighbourhood", an official statement by the Ministry of External Affairs had said.

After the telephone conversation between the two leaders, Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria had met Khan on August 10 and had gifted a cricket bat autographed by the Indian cricket team. They had discussed a range of issues, according to Bisaria. According to Khan's party colleagues, the PM-elect had raised the issue of human rights violations in Kashmir.

## Congress meet on Odisha candidates

Agency  
Bhubaneswar August 21,

The Odisha Congress on Monday held its first meeting to select the first list of candidates for the May 2019 Assembly elections. The party is likely to announce

names of 50 candidates by August end. "We had the first meeting, where we were deciding parameters for selecting candidates," Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjana Patnaik said. He added that the names of 50 candidates will be

revealed before the end of this month. Sources said the early announcement may be a bulwark against the BJP and BJP, which they allege are using their respective governments in the state and Centre to shower schemes on the electorate.

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## Open letter Minister of Education .....

### 6. Pay Based on Qualifications, Skill and Position

Salary is a sign of credit, respect, encouragement and social status. Pay salary based on the position as well as the qualification of the candidate. Personally we have seen many Ph.D holders who work at primary school in other countries. They are paid well, respected well not less than a professor. In our culture we neglect this and we are willing to pay more respect to more well paid job, but less respect to individuals who are paid less even though he/she holds high qualification. We do not need knowledge of rocket science from doctorate holder at primary school but we do need experience and expertise of management from these resourceful persons even at primary education where no Ph.D might apply

### 7. Avoid Teacher Recruitment on Mark Basis

Different schools, states, or countries have different marking system. Percentage of marks cannot decide the overall quality of the candidate all the time even though it is customary to decide the quality of the student on percentage of marks which is very deceptive in practical world. Real capability of the individual cannot be decided by the exam's marks only. Marks in the exam is just to evaluate the outcome of students' learning on particular subjects, not the personality. If we know our student who is who, we even do not need any test. Let us stop recruitment system on mark basis. In some countries there

is open book policy during exam. This does not mean copying word by word, sentence by sentence like the one what we are facing currently in our society. And, those countries' education quality is much higher than that of Indian education. We need practical knowledge in human resource sector. It is a norm in India that employers look for people who hold nice certificate rather than who can do the job. But in more developed countries employers look for someone who can perform the task. Let us bring some changes to rectify the mistakes existing in the present system.

### 8. Speaking and Listening in Language Syllabus

We learn English as compulsory subject. We learn reading and writing, rules of grammar. However we never include Speaking and

Listening as part of syllabus which is taken very serious everywhere in foreign countries. There are lots of people who can read and write but do not speak the language. As a language teacher in Thailand and Cambodia, with personal experience with other teachers from different native English speaking countries we strongly feel that language is after all to communicate with others. Please try to include Listening and Speaking in our syllabus too. This will increase the chance of our youths in the world of job market.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,  
Chingakham Dina,  
Arambam Karamjit,  
Khawrakpam Sunita,  
and  
Arjun Kumar Dhunge,