

MPSC to re-conduct the controversial MCSCCE 2016

IT News
Imphal, August 14:

The Manipur Public Service Commission is ready to re-conduct the controversial Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive (Main) Examination of 2016 afresh tentatively in October/November, 2020. The latest move of the MPSC to conduct fresh examination is after a ruling of the Supreme Court of India passed in SLP(C) Diary No.(S)-39519/2019 and an order of the High Court of Manipur passed in W.A No. 19 of 2017.

An official notification by MPSC notifies all candidates who had qualified in MCSCCE 2016 (Prelims) and those willing to appear in the new exam can apply to MPSC to the said MCSCC Main Examination. Other details about the exam can be had from MPSC official website www.mpscmanipur.gov.in. It may be mentioned that the Manipur High Court in a landmark verdict, quashed the result of the examination conducted by MPSC and the same order was upheld by a bench of Justices M Shantanagoudar and Sanjay Khanna and directed to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct a time-bound investigation into the conduct of the exam. Many candidates who appeared in the exam had moved the High Court alleging of irregularities, illegalities and anomalies in the conduct of the examination. The contending candidates alleged that guidelines were not maintained for checking and evaluating the answer scripts.

Ayush hospital to be used as Covid Care Centre: Health Minister

IT News
Imphal, Aug. 14:

Health & Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh has said that the newly constructed 50 Bedded AYUSH Hospital at Keirao, Imphal East, will be utilised as COVID Care Centre after the structure is completed and ready for use.

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KIM urges PM to settle political aspiration of Kukis before settling with NSCN-IM

IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

The Kuki Inpi Manipur has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India urging for early settlement of the political aspiration of the Kukis. The memorandum was submitted at a time when there are talk around for settlement the NSCN-IM issue. In the memorandum the Kuki Inpi Manipur appreciated the directives of the Prime Minister's office for finalization of the peace talk between the government of

India and the NSCN-IM, however reminded the genocidal act of Thinaleng Muivah led NSCN-IM to the notice of the prime Minister and said that this heinous act should be settled before inking any deal with the outfit. The memorandum also stated that- of the sixteen district of Manipur, the Kukis dominated five districts. It said Chandel, Kangpokpi, Tengnoupal, Phezawl and Churachandpur districts are dominated by the Kukis.

"As such any attempt to pamper the NSCN-IM at the cost of the Kuki ancestral land and without settling Kuki political demands will be a betrayal of Kuki aspirations and is likely to fuel violent reprisals", the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister cautions. The Kuki Inpi Manipur urged the Prime Minister to seriously consider simultaneous settlement of Kuki and Naga aspirations for self governance within the Union of India so as to rule out imminent adverse repercussions of a settlement between Government of India and NSCN-IM that affects kuki inhabited areas.

The memorandum also stated that the apex body of the Kukis, the Kuki Inpi Manipur had submitted several memorandums earlier to the Prime Minister of India stating that the Frame Work Agreement between the Gol and the NSCN-IM should not infringe upon the kuki inhabited lands. "The Kukis will accept any solution or agreement whatsoever made the Government of India and NSCN-IM if such agreement does not infringe the political aspiration of the Kukis", the Kuki Inpi said.

Congress urges Governor to convene special state Assembly session

IT News
Imphal, August 14:

Opposition Leader O. Ibobi Singh's urged the Governor, to convene a special assembly session under Article 174 of Constitution to conduct a trust vote, as the 10th August trust vote violated Rules 311, 360 & SC judgments. The 6 pages representation received by Raj Bhavan cited

violations of Rule No. 311 & 360 of Procedures & Conduct of Business of Manipur Assembly under 208 of the Constitution, and SC judgments in Union of India v. Harish Rawat of 2016 & Shivraj Chouhan v. Speaker MP of 2020. The letter by the CLP Leader & Opposition Leader O. Ibobi Singh to Manipur Governor is a clear reflection of the unprecedented

constitutional blunder committed on the floor of the House, proving that there was no bonafide trust vote with counting of votes. Manipur Pradesh Congress term it as not only murder of democracy but also the commission of the violations of established procedures, abuse of the Chair of Speaker, destruction of the Constitution & dishonouring of Supreme

Court's judgments. The Congress expects the Governor to intervene in this regard. It may be mention that the ruling BJP party led by CM N. Biren Singh won a controversial trust motion by a voice vote, after several hours of debate on a trust motion moved by Chief Minister N Biren Singh, in the One day special session held on 10th August.

Man who claims to be next BJYM president threatens lady for asking to pay back the money he borrowed

IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

A 40 years old person who claimed as the future president of the Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) has allegedly threatened a lady of dire consequences by declaring himself as a member of RSS for asking to pay back the money that he borrowed from her. The lady identified as Kshetrimayum Mellory

Devi, a residence of Keishampat Thokchom Leikai, Imphal West, had complained to the officer-in-charge of the Imphal West Police Station in connection with the threat on August 6, 2020. In addition, the lady also put up the matter to the notice of the Manipur State Commission for Women. The commission has summoned the person identified as Akoijam Ramkrishna @ Gogo Singh, who borrowed money and threatened her

when asked for repayment, to appear before the commission on August 17, 2020, at 11 am. According to a complaint lodged to the Police, Kshetrimayum Mellory Devi stated that Akoijam Ramkrishna @ Gogoi Singh borrowed a sum of Rs. 15,00,000/- with an assurance to pay monthly interest of 4% per month along with the capital amount on or before 10th day of September, 2017 as per promissory prepared by

him on June 13, 2016 in front of on Ng. Meiteileima Devi, who is the sister-in-law of Mellory. After the failure to pay back the money Mellory went to the residence of Akoijam Ramkrishna on August 5, 2020 but instead of paying back the money Akoijam Ramkrishna who claimed to be a member of RSS threatened the lady of dire consequences as he is going to be the president of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

Atmanirbhar Bharat: The Way Forward

IT News
Imphal, August 14:

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the Central and state governments have accorded an unprecedented priority in improving the business environment in the country by driving reforms to facilitate ease of doing business. To strengthen India's economy and to make India a self-reliant nation, the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (ANBA), a recent bold step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims

to reduce unemployment, insolvency, and poverty and increase India's per capita GDP. The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan will make Indian economy stronger by promoting local products in India as well as all over the world and thus becoming vocal for our local products and make them global. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced an economic package of Rs. 20 lakh crores which comes to 10% of the GDP of the country which is

one of the largest relief packages in the world. Prime Minister opined that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz. (i) Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change, (ii) Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India, (iii) System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements, (iv) Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India and (v) Demand, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity. Under

the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, various schemes have also been announced by the Ministry of Finance that focus on reforms for ease of doing business in India. Within such short span after the announcement of Atmanirbhar Bharat, India has jumped up to rank 63 from 142 in the World Bank Doing Business report. Mentioned may be made that every citizen has its own responsibility to make the country 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and invest all our energy for making this a success.

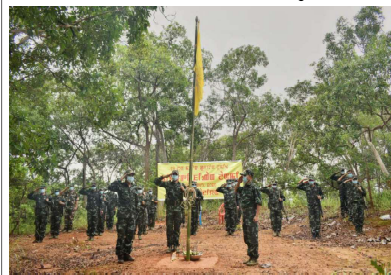
Director JNIMS denies reports of Covid19 as cause of death of a 60-year old person

IT News
Imphal, Aug. 14:

Director, JNIMS, Imphal has rejected certain social media posts that have claimed that a 60-year old person died due to Covid19. He confirmed that the person was cured of Covid19 and his Covid19 report had come negative. The person later died of other causes, he confirmed. People are advised to be cautious while sharing such

mis-information on social media as it leads to demoralization and confusion in society. Always verify authentic information related to the pandemic and government orders related to Covid management that are issued from time to time. Media persons are also advised to cross-check facts with Covid Control Room or any other relevant authority before using information circulating on social media.

KCP's MFL observed 16th Foundation Day



IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

Army wing of the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Miyamgi Fingang Lanmi observes its 16th foundation day at its CHQ, GHQ, 131 Battalion and other mobile unit on August 13. At the foundation day function held at 131 Battalion CO of the 1st Battalion, Captain Dhana attended as the Chief Guest, while CAS of

the MFL H. Ibomcha presided over it. Captain of the MFL Captain Tomba, G-3 Captain Robin attended as guests of honour. The observance of the foundation day began with the hoisting of the MFL flag by the Chief Guest. Tributes were paid to the martyrs of 1891 Anglo Manipur War and also to the revolutionary fighters who have sacrificed for the cause of the freedom of this country.

Edible items distributed at Thongju Ac

IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

During this covid-19 pandemic Thongju Kendra Tengkang Lup (TKTL) under the leadership of Chief Patron Seram Neken has distributed aid to Covid 19 affected families in Thongju constituency. Altogether 150 families under home quarantine have been given edible items like potato, oil, fermented fish, dal, onion, face mask etc. Around 25 individuals are Corona virus positive till the filing of this report.

There are six corona virus positive cases in Uchekon Nongpok, four in Uchekon Nongchup, three in khongman, six in Torban kshetri leikai, three in Bashikhong, four in Thongju.

Many families under containment zone are affected by the covid-19 pandemic. The volunteers of the TKTL led by its secretary Jawan Mutum and Chief patron Seram Neken handed over the aid to local clubs. Representatives of Paona Memorial club Uchekon Takhok Mapal, Youth Guidance club Kongba kshetri leikai, SRCL Chongabi, Mangaal club Bashikhong, Naharol Yaipha Thourang club okram Chuthek, Social workers congress khongman also participated in the distribution programmes. The Thongju Kendra Tengkang Lup said they will continue to provide assistance to people affected by the covid-19 pandemic in Thongju constituency.

★ Editorial

Emergence of the Covid contractors

Just the other day, there was news of a Covid-19 vaccine coming to the market in a few days time doing the rounds on social media, with reports of the US government securing advance supply agreements for 800 million doses for its 330 million population with five companies whose candidate vaccines are being considered to be the leading contenders to get approved. With more than hundred and fifty government research agencies and pharma companies scrambling for a vaccine to combat the present Covid-19 scourge which have brought the world to its knees, there is hope on the horizon, but time is of the essence and no expert have been able to state with any amount of conviction or certainty the exact time such a vaccine could reach the market, if ever one is developed. Meanwhile, the daily count of infections continues to rise gradually, and the state of Manipur is not exception to the unfortunate fact. And yet despite the ongoing and increasing danger, it is clearly evident that a large number of the public have been neglecting the only known and proven preventive measures of social distancing and using of face masks in public places. Compared to the time when the first Covid-19 positive patient was confirmed just a few months back, people have taken things too casually, and are even displaying defiant gestures and risking not only themselves but those around them to the contagion which had proven to create as much social and psychological damage as the virus itself, if not more.

Another worrying aspect of the present contagion that is emerging is that of the management- or rather mismanagement of the covid-19 positive patients in the state. There have been an increase in reports of negligence and even downright dismissal of the grievances and complaints of these patients by the authorities entrusted to oversee their well being. From lack of food to hygiene to concerns regarding total absence of manpower in various Quarantine centres in various parts of the state and even the Covid Care Centres housing positive patients. The emerging unfortunate trend is in stark contrast to the convincing assurances of adequate facilities and arrangements made by the state government at the onset of the present contagion just a few months back. If one would care to follow the developments regarding the arrangements and execution or implementation of the plans to combat Covid-19 in the state, one can clearly see a clear deviation from the declared plan of action. Imphal Times have earlier reported outsourcing of procurement of vital testing kits which the department should have arranged by itself, which is just the tip of the iceberg. There are reports of outsourcing arrangements for foods and nutrition, PPE kits and other aspects needed to keep the whole effort running smoothly. The contract culture that is rampant in the state has finally caught up with even COVID-19.

While such outsourcing offering contract for various parties or individuals for various aspects or components required in the fight against Covid-19 is not necessarily a bad thing, the underhanded manner of carrying out these activities reeks of nepotism and favoritism with personal gain as a greater consideration rather than lending support to the effort and making the whole exercise fruitful. If the state government is sincerely working to ease the burden and smoothen the administration of Covid-19 related activities with the sole objective of bringing about a positive result, it has to try and garner support for its action from the public, and only by gaining trust and goodwill of the public can such an objective be accomplished. This is arguably the worst time for doling out contracts, especially in matters relating to the fight for the most uncertain contagion in the recent history of mankind. The state government needs to draw up radical and sincere plan of action and not turn the present social uncertainties into opportunity for a few unscrupulous elements for personal gains.

Why blame RN Ravi for problems in the peace process?

By- M Tomba Luwang

NSCN IM after eighty rounds of negotiations with Government of India has blamed RN Ravi for the situation that it is facing. The formation of NNPG has hit NSCN IM hard. NNPG wants to go its way taking with it Nagaland away from NSCN IM. With NNPG against NSCN IM, it is becoming difficult for NSCN IM to stay in Nagaland in the manner it used to. The recent order to high rung government employees in Nagaland to declare if they have their relatives in NSCN IM is the expression of the pressure the outfit is facing there. With this pressure, NSCN IM is facing difficult times in Nagaland unless it resolves its differences with NNPG. The brutal killing of NSCN IM cadres in Arunachal Pradesh is also an indication that if they become more active in Arunachal Pradesh, GoI would not hesitate to hit them. Can they move across the border, in Myanmar? Certainty, not. They would again land in an unfriendly terrain given that they have not resolved their differences with NSCN K, which

operates there. It seems the only option for them if the situation continues is to move entirely in hills of Manipur. It is again easier said than done. After the killings of NSCN IM cadres in Arunachal Pradesh, NSCN IM asked GoI to clarify its stand on the ceasefire, whether it extends beyond the borders of Nagaland. The outfit knows that it would be difficult for GoI to answer this question. For Meiteis, the ceasefire is confined to Nagaland. And, NSCN IM claims that ceasefire is without territorial limits. It is not surprising that GoI did not answer that question. Any answer they give, they will have a problem. Has GoI told different things to different entities? If they have said different things to different entities, then we can assume, from this, that it is a tricky business to negotiate with them. NSCN IM, with its battle-hardened politically savvy leadership, must have known this well. NSCN IM, just as any sane entity, knows that peace process happens only with one's opposition and not with friends as there is no need for peace among

friends. RN Ravi represents their opposition, the GoI, in this peace process. He represents the interest of GoI and not NSCN IM's interest. When it comes to Greater Nagaland, Civil Society Organisations in Manipur and the state government of Manipur is confident that Manipur's territorial integrity would not be affected at all. Therefore, the demand for the constitution is a matter of utmost interest now. But, is it in the interest of GoI to grant NSCN IM's demand for a separate constitution? After the abrogation of article 370 that pertains to the special status of Kashmir, GK Pillai, in an interview in The Print, feels that granting a separate constitution for the Nagas would be difficult now. Therefore, RN Ravi, being a credible opposition, representing the interest of GoI, would do things that serve the interest of GoI. So, the question comes why NSCN IM is angry at RN Ravi. RN Ravi is doing his job well. He was never supposed to root for them. For now, we can only speculate why NSCN IM blames RN Ravi. What is NSCN IM getting out of

this peace process if territorial integration of all Naga inhabited areas or a separate constitution is out of the question? Would they manage to secure a pan Naga cultural body? It is now doubtful that they will achieve to gain a pan Naga cultural body even. Here, the question comes. After so much hardship that Nagas who are in Manipur endured, what will NSCN IM tell them? Did they fight with popular support the nagas in Manipur for some monetary packages or their political rights? These questions are difficult ones. A way out is to blame RN Ravi, the messenger, for creating problems in the peace process and still push for further talks with the hope that they secure a better deal later. Hence, it seems NSCN IM has limited its displeasure to RN Ravi and has not blamed the GoI. Here, the messenger is the bad one, and the source of the message is the good one. Otherwise, who knows who Naga people in Manipur might blame for the hardships they have faced if they get peanuts at the end. RN Ravi, therefore, must become the devil in the land of Christ.

NEP: Harnessing technology in Education

By Wahengbam Robert

The role of technology in education is continuously expanding, changing the conventional ways of teaching and learning. In the last decade, the use of computers in education have extended and become widespread. Students use computers to complete their assignments, do their research, and connect with their classmates. Teacher use computers to keep track of their students, check on their work, and make grading them easier and more transparent.

Since the outbreak of the deadly covid-19 pandemic, the world has stood still, the steps of complete lockdown has been imposed globally. The impact of lockdown is visible in most of the sector, and most importantly it has badly affected the education sector. Schools, colleges, universities and all the institutions in India has remained closed as a measure to contain the spread of the virus. India Government's efforts in tackling the virus has shown significant progress but educational institutions have to remain closed as a precautionary measure for the student community. Fortunately, with the help of this fast growing technology, India Government have launched certain e-platform for our education system during this lockdown, which provide a light for the student communities. Apart from this a new milestone has been achieved in the education sector with the Cabinet giving assent to the New education policy 2020.

Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the government of India is taking proactive steps to help children with no internet access. In this regard, Nirmala Sitharaman the finance minister has announced a comprehensive initiative called **PM e Vidya program** especially designed for the top 100 universities of the country and for schools also. Under this program, online education courses has started from May 30, 2020 with the objective to impart knowledge despite the nation-wide lockdown by educating students through digital platforms. It has also made special arrangement for the visually and hearing-impaired students by arranging special radio podcast. There will be a single dedicated channel per class from class 1st to 12th which will be known as 'one

class, one channel'. Under this programme certain platform has been launched for educating the students through digital platforms so that they do not have to suffer due to nationwide lock down.

SWAYAM PRABHA is a step taken up by the HRD Ministry, an initiative to provide 32 High Quality Educational Channels through DTH using the GSAT-15 satellite for program telecasts across the country with an aim to provide quality learning resources to the remote areas where internet availability is still a challenge. It is telecast every day for four hours and repeated five times in a day, it covers the higher education, school education (9-12 levels), curriculum based courses and assist students (11th and 12th) for competitive exams. It has also tied up with private DTH operators like Tata Sky & Airtel to air educational video content to enhance the reach of these channels. 3 channels were already earmarked for school education; now another 12 channels to be added.

Another initiative is **DIKSHA (one nation-one digital platform)**, a platform which has been launched for States and union territories will contain e-content and QR coded energized textbook for all grades will now become the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content in school education. It will let you access curriculum-based resources in an interactive and engaging format. Students can leverage this platform and stay on track with their studies even when schools are closed.

The **e-Pathshala**, a joint initiative of Ministry of HRD and NCERT has been developed to provide educational e-resources for Students, Teachers, Parents, researchers and educators. 200 new textbooks have been added. This e-platform aims at providing digital textbooks, graded learning materials and e-resources for the student communities.

On 21st July 2020, the union ministry of HRD has also launched an initiative, named, **'MANODARPAN'** an initiative for psychological support and counselling of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well-being during the COVID outbreak. It is a part of the **ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN** launched by the PM on

12 May, 2020. It is to be provided through a website, a toll-free helpline, national directory of counselors, interactive chat platform, etc. The pandemic is not just a medical concern but it has also affected the mental psychological well-being of the students. And certain reports of emerging mental health have surfaced so to tackle this issues the government has launched this initiative.

Apart from the above mentioned initiatives the government of India is planning to launch certain program like New National Curriculum and Pedagogical framework for school, early childhood and teachers integrating with the global and 21st century skills demand and by the end of this year the Government of India will launch National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission with a vision to ensure every child achieves learning levels and outcomes by the time they pass grade 5 in 2025. In line with this on July 29, a new national education policy has been approved by the cabinet. This National Education Policy 2020 will play an important

role in creating new India. The **National Education Policy 2020**, the first education policy of the 21st century aims at addressing the many growing developmental imperatives of our country. It will replace the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education, 1986 with an aim for Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% GER in school education by 2030. It will emphasize on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools. Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships, Higher Education curriculum to have Flexibility of Subjects.

The current situation caused by this pandemic has greatly affected the education sector, to minimize it E-learning is the only solution one can resolve to as it allows one to study from the safe confines of their home and avoid travel to public places. And Modi Government has indeed come up to the mark, the initiative taken up during this pandemic has proved to be a boon for the education sector.

IIA scientists discover He-enhanced cool bright stars among the metal-rich parts of Omega Centauri globular cluster

PIB

Globular clusters are the stellar systems with millions of stars formed from the same gaseous cloud. Hence, usually, the stars formed will be homogeneous in their chemical composition of elemental abundances. But, there are clusters which deviate from this norm. One is being Omega Centauri, the brightest and the largest globular cluster in our Galaxy, the Milky Way. The different stars of Omega Centauri do not show the same metal content, a parameter that indicates its age, but a large range in it. Due to the anomalous elemental abundances, the formation scenario may be different from normal. Normally, the abundances are derived using the assumption that He is one-tenth of the H-abundance. A team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an

autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India studied numerous stars of this cluster and discovered He-enhanced cool bright stars among the metal-rich sample of Omega Centauri. This work, a result of the spectroscopic survey conducted of this cluster, determines the He-abundance of these stars for the first time and has been published in 'The Astrophysical Journal'.

Though there are estimations of He-enhancement in the H-core burning main-sequence stars (like Sun) of Omega Cen, this is the first-ever spectroscopic determination of He-abundance in Omega Centauri. The study provides a very important clue for the origin of the He-enhanced population establishing that these are the second generation of stars formed from the metal-rich

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Nation to celebrate 74th Independence Day tomorrow

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14:

The Nation will celebrate the 74th Independence Day tomorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in celebrating the Independence Day at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi. Prime Minister will unfurl the National Flag and address the nation from the ramparts of the iconic monument. Security has been tightened in the National Capital in view of the celebrations. A full dress rehearsal was held at the Red Fort yesterday for the

Independence Day celebrations.

In view of Covid-19 situation, the Delhi police has requested the invitees to follow guidelines issued by Union Home Ministry and Health Ministry at all times while they are in the function area at Red Fort. Around four thousand security personnel will be deployed for the ceremony and they will stand maintaining social distance. There will be a multi-layer security ring, including NSG snipers, elite SWAT commandos and kite catchers around the monument. Flying

of sub-conventional aerial platforms like UAVs, paragliders and hot air balloons in the national capital have been prohibited till tomorrow due to security reasons. Delhi Police has issued a traffic advisory to ensure safe and smooth vehicular movement across the national capital on Independence Day. Official source said that President Ram Nath Kovind will address the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day today. The address will be

broadcast from 7 PM onwards on the entire national network of All India Radio and telecast over all channels of Doordarshan in Hindi followed by the English version. All India Radio will broadcast regional language versions of the President's Address from 9.30 PM on its respective regional networks. Broadcast of the address in Hindi and English on Doordarshan will be followed by broadcast in regional languages by regional channels of Doordarshan.

Sangbadik Sangha appeals for paying tributes to martyrs on I-Day

IT News
Guwahati, Aug 14:

Sangbadik Sangha Purbanchal, while urging every citizen in eastern India to hoist the national Tri-colour on 74th Independence Day on 15 August 2020 in their households and localities following the Covid-19 pandemic protocols, invites interested media persons and patriotic citizens to join its celebration at Industrial Estate Bamunimaidam (shed no. 28-a, bye-lane 2) in the city. Remembering the sacrifices of valiant freedom fighters, the forum decides to unfurl the Tri-colour at 10 am, where

limited participants are expected to pay tributes to the countless martyrs of India's freedom struggle, said a statement issued by the SSP convener committee comprising of Rupam Barua, Nava Thakuria, Jagadindra Raychoudhury, Anjanil Kashyap, Iswar Mahanta, Chandra Kr Barua, and Sewali Kalita. Earlier, a few insurgent outfits, amazingly without United Liberation Front of Assam, imposed a total shutdown from 6 am to 5 pm of 15 August to prevent any observation of I-Day functions in the northeastern States. Terming the area as

western part of south-east Asia, the banned armed groups even called upon all residents of the region 'to take responsibility to make this ban a success'. The joint statement of People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri, Kamatapur Liberation Organization, Hynniewtrep National Council, Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup, Kangleipak Communist Party, and National Liberation Front of Twipra asserted that northeastern people 'were racially discriminated, spat upon, driven out of rented houses, refused to shop, to get medical treatment, etc' in mainland India.

7th Pay Commission: Pay Protection Order for Central government employees

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Aug. 13:

New Delhi, Mumbai: The Department of Personnel and Training of the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has issued an Office Memorandum (OM) regarding the protection of pay to the central government employee consequent to appointment to a new post in different service or cadre in Central Government, through direct recruitment where either higher duties and responsibilities are involved or not, as the case may be, under FR 22-B(1), in the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) Scenario. The pay protection under FR 22-B(1) will be available to the Government servant if he holds a lien on his previous permanent post. No stepping up of pay of senior government employee shall be allowed on the basis of the pay protection granted under FR 22-B(1) to junior Government employee of that particular service/cadre. The OM stated that consequent upon the implementation of 7th CPC Report and CCS (RP) Rules,

2016, the President of India is pleased to allow protection of pay in the light of the provisions laid down under FR 22-B(1) to Central Government employee who is appointed as a probationer in another service or cadre either carrying higher responsibilities or not, as the case may be and subsequently confirmed in that service or cadre. This order takes effect from Jan 1, 2016. The OM stated that consequent to various references received from Ministries/Departments on protection of pay under FR 22-B(1), a need has been felt to issue guidelines on the manner of fixation of pay in respect of the central government employee who after technical resignation, is appointed to new post in the different service or cadre in Central Government through direct recruitment where either higher responsibilities are involved or not, as the case may be, in 7th Central Pay Commission scenario. The provisions of FR 22-B(1) provides - "Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, the following

provisions shall govern the pay of a government employee who is appointed as a probationer in another service or cadre, and subsequently confirmed in that service or cadre- (a) during the period of probation, he shall draw pay at the minimum of the time scale or at the probationary stages of the time scale of the service or post, as the case may be: Provided that if the presumptive pay of the permanent post on which he holds a lien or would hold a lien had his lien not been suspended, should at any time be greater than the pay fixed under the clause, he shall draw the presumptive pay of the permanent post; (b) on confirmation in the service or post after the expiry of the period of probation, the pay of the government employee shall be fixed in the time-scale of the service or post in accordance with the provisions of Rule 22 or Rule 22-C, as the case may be. The protection of pay will be in the manner as below: Manner of fixation of pay of government servant under FR 22-B(1) consequent to his appointment in lower post

through direct recruitment, where higher duties and responsibilities are not involved: A Central Government Employee on his appointment to a post in lower Level in different service or cadre in Central Government which does not carry duties and responsibilities of greater importance than those attached to the post held earlier by him on regular basis before such appointment and having a provision of probation period in new post, may during probation draw the presumptive pay of the post held earlier by him on regular basis, if it is higher than the minimum of the Time Scale of the new post. He would also draw annual increments on such presumptive pay. However, it is to be ensured that during probation, presumptive pay should always be greater than the pay of the new post after draw of increment(s). Subsequently, on successful completion of his probation, his pay will be fixed under FR 22(1) (a)(2). Protection of Pay in the above manner should not, at any of these stages, exceed the maximum of the Level of the new post in Pay Matrix.

The World Honey Bees Day

By- N. Munal Meitei

Today is the Independent day of India which we got after the supreme sacrifice of our millions of freedom fighters. We salute to all those known and unknown forefathers for giving us the taste of freedom. Today is also the World Honey Bee Day, one of the most precious living beings on the planet. Insect pollinators are the integral to a healthy environment and the planet's survival. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world is standstill but there are communities serving the world without a stop and the bees also one of them. In July 2019 the Royal Geographical Society of London, the Earthwatch Institute declared bees the most important living species on this planet. This declaration is concerning because, according to wildlife scientists and experts, bees are on the endangered species list. Recent studies show almost 90% of the bee population has disappeared in the past few years. The main reasons for their extinction include deforestation, the use of pesticides, or lack of flowers. Bees are titled the most important living being on earth because 70% of the world's agriculture depends exclusively on bees. Without the hard work of bees' pollination, those plants would not be able to reproduce. Forest is the heart of environment. Though silent, it provides an everlasting, priceless service to the world. Environment supplies every need of the forest and reproduction is essential in maintaining this chain. The reproduction of plants helps to maintain the equilibrium of the environment and bees help on this by the process of pollination. The flowers which give beauty to the forest also provide foods to bees which latter we got as honey. A study conducted by the Universidad Mayor and the Apiculture Corporation of Chile with the support of the Foundation for Agrarian Innovation (FIA), concluded bees are the only living being that does not carry any type of pathogen - regardless of whether it is a fungus, a virus or a bacterium. The life of a honey bee colony is perennial. There are three castes of honey bees: queens, which produce eggs; drones or males which mate with new queens; and workers, which are non-reproducing females. The queen lays eggs singly in cells of the comb. Larvae hatch from eggs in three to four days. They are then fed by worker bees and develop through several stages in the cells. Cells are capped by worker bees when the larvae pupates. A colony may typically consist of tens of thousands of individuals. Development from egg to emerging bee varies among queens, workers and drones. The average lifespan of a queen is three to four years. Drones usually die upon mating. Honey is one of the foods which have many religious significance. In all the religious, honey occupies the highest place. Bees produce honey by collecting sugar-rich nectar from flowers, which is a clear liquid consisting of nearly 80% water and complex sugars. Honey is a mixture of carbohydrates, proteins, aminoacids, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and other compounds. It contains a number of enzymes, including invertase, glucose oxidase, catalase, and acid phosphatase. Honey also contains

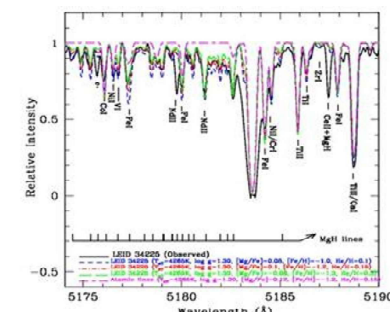
eighteen free amino acids, the most abundant of which is proline. Experiments and studies of modern science on honey have shown that honey is antiseptic, antimicrobial, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, antiallergic, antitoxic, sedative, laxative, antiemetic, antioxidant, healing and cleansing both external and internal, moisturizing and blood-purifying. It promotes rehydration, easily digestible, stimulates immunity and is beneficial for all types of skins diseases. Bee's honey is used in treatment of various ailments and as a popular home remedy. Bee's honey is one of the most valued and appreciated natural substances known to mankind since ancient times. Fresh bee's honey is used in treatment of eye diseases, throat infections, bronchial asthma, tuberculosis, hiccups, thirst, dizziness, fatigue, hepatitis, worm infestation, constipation, piles, eczema, healing of wounds, ulcers and used as a nutritious, easily digestible food for weak people. It promotes semen, mental health and used in cosmetic purposes. Old bee's honey is used to treat vomiting, diarrhea, rheumatoid arthritis, obesity, diabetes mellitus and in preserving meat and fruits. Highly popular in cosmetic treatment, bee's honey is used in preparing facial washes, skin moisturizers, hair conditioners and in treatment of pimples. Bee's honey could be considered as one of the finest products of nature that has a wide range of beneficial uses. Honey bees are eusocial insects native to Eurasia but now spread to four other continents by human beings. There are eight surviving species of honey bee with a total of 43 subspecies. Six species of honey bee are found in Manipur. Most species have historically been cultured or at least exploited for honey and beeswax by humans from their native ranges. In winter, honey bees stop flying when the temperature drops below about 10°C and crowd into the central area of the hive to form a "winter cluster" around the queen bee to keep the temperature upto 34°C to start the queen resumes egg laying. The worker bees rotate through the cluster from the outside to the inside so that no bee gets too cold. Later, people started to realize the importance of the bees and celebrities like Morgan Freeman transformed his huge 124-acre land in Mississippi, into a bee sanctuary, in order to protect the species. He once said, "There is a concerted effort for bringing bees back onto the planet. We do not realize that they are the foundation, I think, of the growth of the planet, the vegetation." Since the bees' importance is crucial in our planet's ecosystems and they have also been declared an endangered species, we really need to step together to save the species. Thus, in order to protect these hard-working creatures, we should immediately prohibit/ stop the use of pesticides, insecticides and promote completely natural agricultural alternatives and we should carefully monitor their health and welfare. Therefore with the coming of World Honey Bee Day, 2020, let's celebrate this day with the objectives to save the bees for the sack of our future generation.

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IIA scientists discover He-enhanced

and He-enhanced material from the first generation of stars. And, also that the He-enhanced main-sequence stars evolve to the metal-rich He-enhanced cool bright stars as our program starts. While in most stars, H is the most abundant element, if the abundance of H is reduced, correspondingly He abundance increases because the sum of H and He is a constant, and the other heavier elements are in traces. IIA team started their studies by using the low-resolution spectra obtained from the Optometric Medium Resolution Spectrograph (OMRS) installed with the Vainu Bappu Telescope, Vainu Bappu Observatory, Kavalur, India for identifying the mildly H-poor/He-enhanced stars. However, they found that the H-atomic spectral lines are very strong in the spectra of stars, and the reliable

measurement of abundance was not possible from such lines. Hence, IIA team used a novel technique that adopts model atmospheres with differing He/H ratio and the predicted light from these models was matched with observed light in neutral magnesium (Mg) atomic line and that in MgH molecular band in the observed high-resolution spectra to derive the star's actual H/He ratio which measures the amount of He. In all the previous studies, the analyses were carried out assuming the normal H-abundance like for Sun (He/H=0.1). To measure the amount of He in these cool bright stars of Omega Centauri, using the high-resolution spectra obtained from the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), Dr. Hema B. P. and Prof. Gajendra Pandey of Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore



Observed and the synthesized MgH bands for LEID 34225 are shown. The spectra synthesized for the Mg abundance derived from the Mg I lines and the best-fit value of He/H ratio are shown by the red dashed-dotted line. The synthesis for the two value of the He/H are also shown.

have worked in association with Prof. Robert L. Kurucz, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, USA, and Prof. Carlos Allende Prieto, Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias and Departamento de Astrofísica, Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife.

Ayush hospital to be used as Covid Care Centre: Health Minister



IT News

Imphal, Aug. 14:

Health & Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh has said that the newly constructed 50 Bedded AYUSH Hospital at Keirao, Imphal East, will be utilised as COVID Care Centre after the structure is completed and ready for use. Minister was speaking to media today on his inspection visit

at Keirao where the construction of 50 bedded AYUSH Hospital is underway and about to be completed in a few days. During the visit, Jayantakumar was accompanied by Chief Executive Officer, CEO, State AYUSH Society, Manipur, Dr. A. Guneshwar Sharma, E.E. TP Cell, Geeta Devi and other officials. Minister Jayantakumar expressed the apprehension that the COVID-19 pandemic

will continue for another some more months. The government needs to chalk out proper plans ahead of unexpected increase of COVID cases in the state. As a step to meet the present requirement of COVID care facilities, the government is planning to utilize this 50 bedded AYUSH hospital as COVID Care Centre. Concerned construction agency and contractors have also been instructed to complete structure as soon as possible, he added

Farmers donates pineapples to CM COVID relief fund

IT News

Imphal, August 14,

Pineapple farmers of Khousabung area, Churachandpur district under the auspices of State Level Manipur Pineapple Festival

Committee, Manipur donated about 2000 pineapples to Chief Minister's Covid-19 Relief today.

The farmers handed the pineapples to Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh at Chief Minister's Secretariat, Imphal.

The farmers' delegation was led by Shri Seilenmang Khongsai, Chairman MPFC and Hon'ble Member, ADC Churachandpur, Shri Khaipao Haokip, former Chairman, ADCC, Shri Lalhmangpui Fimate, Member of ADCC, Shri Paukholal Gangte, Chief of Bunglon, Shri Khaizathang Gangte, Chief of Khousabung and Shri Chungialam Kom, Chief of Phunchongiang and farmers of the area were also present during the solemn function. The Chief Minister has expressed his gratitude to the pineapple farmers for their goodwill and concern.

IGAR (South) greets on independence day

IT News

Imphal, Aug 14:

Major General Alok Naresh, Inspector General (South) and all ranks of Assam Rifles extend warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Manipur on the occasion of

Independence Day 2020. On this momentous occasion, the IG AR (South) exhorts all sections of the society to join hands in paying homage to the freedom fighters and also to work for achieving harmony, peace and prosperity in the State.

MESSAGE



I extended my warm greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the joyous occasion of 74th Independence Day celebration on 15th August, 2020.

India has made great strides in all fields after independence and is aiming to be in the comity of leading Nations of the world let us all work together and ensure that every part of the country is developed equally so that there is no sense of discrimination.

Let us remember the sacrifice of our national heroes who took made this country what it is today. Let us work hard and strive together as a united people to build an indivisible nation that is filled with peace, love, happiness and prosperity.

We need to be mindful of our attitude toward others, say no to corruption, and give every citizen a sense of belonging. In doing these things, we can build and sustain the kind of nation our past heroes dreamt of and laid down their lives for.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted the entire world, presenting an unprecedented challenge before us all. Let this festival once again inspire the people in our collective fight to defeat this pandemic.

Let us, once again pledge to contain the spread of the disease by the following SOP like maintaining social distancing, wearing mask, avoiding large gathering in the larger interest of the people and the state.

(Th. Biswajit Singh)

WALLET LOST

I, the undersigned have lost my wallet containing my Pan Card, Voter ID Card, Driving License in between Imphal to Moreh. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Saikhom Santosh Meitei
S/o: (Late) Saikhom Dhaka
Moreh Ward No. 9,
Contact No. - 9774031544

IAF objects to certain scenes from Bollywood film

By Raju Vernekar

The Indian Air Force (IAF), has written a letter to the Central Board Of Film Certification (CBFC), objecting to certain scenes from the Hindi film "Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl" on the charges that they show the IAF in poor light. The IAF in its letter has stated that certain scenes in the trailer of the film, found to portray the IAF in an undue negative light. "Certain scenes and dialogues in the movie and its trailer, was forwarded to this Office for viewing, have been found to portray the IAF in an poor light. In the aim to glorify the screen character of Ex-Flight Lieutenant Gunjan Saxena, M/s Dharma Productions presented some situations that are misleading and portray an inappropriate work culture especially against women in the IAF".

Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, and the streaming platform releasing the film, had promised to represent IAF with authenticity and make all efforts to ensure that the film helps to inspire the next generation of IAF officers. However the trailer tells a different story. The film, starring Jhavi Kapoor in the lead was premiered on 12 August, Wednesday. The trailer of the movie was released little earlier on the OTT platform. "As per initial understanding, M/s Dharma Productions had agreed to represent IAF with authenticity, but the picture seems to be different. IAF as a service has always ensured that the organisation is gender neutral and has always provided an equal opportunity to both male and women personnel. The summary of the scenes/ dialogues of the script, which are considered objectionable due to the presentation of incorrect gender-bias, is annexed".

"It is pertinent to highlight that the Production House was informed about the objectionable portion of the movie and was advised to delete/modify the same. However, the Production house has not deleted the scenes but had proposed a Media plan in the run up to the release and inserting a disclaimer in the Movie. This IAF HQ considers that the disclaimer would not be adequate to prevent the presentation of incorrect facts about the IAF."

Official sources in Dharma Productions said that the contents of IAF's letter are being studied and appropriate action will be taken in the matter. The film directed by Sharan Sharma, sees Janhvi in the titular role of India's first female Air Force officer to enter a war zone. Gunjan Saxena played a pivotal role during the Kargil War of 1999. Gunjan Saxena (45) a helicopter pilot, had joined the IAF in 1994 and participated in Kargil war in 1999, for which she was awarded the "Shaurya Chakra".

She was the first woman to go to war and was also the first woman to receive that award. One of her main roles during the Kargil War was to evacuate the wounded from Kargil, transport supplies and assist in surveillance. She would go on to be part of operations to evacuate over 900 troops, both injured and deceased, from Kargil. In 2004, after serving as a pilot for seven years, her career as a helicopter pilot ended, since the concept of permanent commission for women was not there during her time.

SPORTS

National archery camp to resume on August 25 at ASI, Pune: SAI

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14:

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) today said, the national archery camp for Olympic hopefuls will resume at the Army Sports Institute in Pune on August 25th.

The camp was called off midway in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 16 recurve archers — eight men and as many women, along with four coaches and two support staff will report for the camp on August 25th and undergo the mandatory 14-day period inside the ASI campus before starting their training sessions.

Our correspondent reports, all the top recurve archers of the country, including Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, B Dhiraj, Pravin Jadhav, Jayanta Talukdar, Sukhmanu Babrekar, Kapil, Vishwas, Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, L Bombayla Devi, Ridhi, Madhu Vedwan, Himani, Pramila Baria and Tisha Sancheti have been called for the camp.

5 Indian Hockey players tested COVID positive

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14:

India hockey team Captain Manpreet Singh and five other hockey players who were found COVID positive and isolated in the National Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru have now been shifted to the Super-Specialty Hospital for better medical care.

After the admission of team mate Mandeep Singh to the hospital on Monday, it was decided to shift all other players to the hospital as a precautionary measure. Captain Manpreet Singh, Jaskaran Singh, Surinder Kumar, Varun Kumar and Krishnan B Pathak were shifted to the hospital yesterday.

Sports Ministry to organise 'Fit India Freedom Run' from Aug 15- Oct 2

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 14:

The Sports Ministry will organise the largest country-wide run, the Fit India Freedom Run from tomorrow till 2nd of October, which boasts of a unique concept. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju will launch the mega-event today. In keeping with the current pandemic situation and social distancing norms, the government has decided to encourage participants of the event to run at their own pace - anywhere and at any time of their convenience.

Additionally, they can break up their runs over several days in this period. The total kilometers clocked can be tracked using a Global Positioning System (GPS) watch or manually. The event is targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following Covid-19 protocols. Speaking about the event, Mr Rijiju said, the Fit India Freedom Run is yet another endeavour to strengthen the Fit India

Movement envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and involve the citizens to embrace fitness as a way of life.

He said, the event is even more important at this time because staying fit is the key to building strong immunity, which is the need of the hour to fight Covid 19. Individuals and organizations can register for the event on the Fit India website. The event is being organised to mark the 74th Independence Day of India tomorrow and will continue till 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd of October.

The motto of the 'Freedom Run' is to encourage fitness and help citizens to get freedom from obesity, laziness, stress, anxiety and other diseases. In the recent past as well, Fit India has organized numerous big scale events such as Fit India Plog Run and Fit India Cyclothon to take the message of fitness to the masses.

ZFA condoles demise of Gaihemlung



IT News
Imphal, Aug 14:

The Zeliangrong Football Association (ZFA) has extended its deepest sympathies to the bereaved family members of (L) Gaihemlung @ Hem Phaoinei, who expired on 12-08-2020 after a brief illness at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. A condolence programme was held today at its head office, Kakulung, Imphal by observing 2 minutes silent for

the departed soul by the members of the Association. (L) Gaihemlung Phaoinei was an Executive Member of the Association since 1997 till his death. He was an incredible role model to follow for young soccer players, young professionals, children and even adults. He inspired countless youths to become successful football players. His self-sacrifice and contribution made towards the organizing of the "Jadonang Memorial Football Tournament" will be acknowledged in days to come.

"It is very sad and painful to lose a dedicated and active members of our association and his demise has created "a great vacuum that will be hard to fill". Nevertheless, he will remain forever in our memory for his good deeds and his contribution", a statement said.