

HAC Chairman



IT News
Imphal, April 11:

Dinganglung Gangmei, sitting MLA of Nungba Assembly Constituency has been elected as the Chairman of the Hill Area Committee of Manipur Legislative Assembly.

The Hill Area Committee constituted under the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) order, 1972, comprises all MLAs elected from the hill areas as its members. It is the highest body at the legislative level to oversee the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development activities of the hill areas in the state.

It may be mentioned that Dinganglung Gangmei, a bureaucrat-turned-politician was elected to the Nungba AC defeating Congress heavyweight Gaikhangam in the recently concluded 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly election.

State observes 172nd Death Anniversary of Maharaj Nara Singh

IT News
Imphal, April 11:

Manipur today observed the 172nd Death Anniversary of Maharaj Nara Singh at Kangla, Imphal. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led the Ministers, MLAs and other officials in paying floral tribute to the portrait of Late Maharaja Nara Singh at his memorial. He also led other dignitaries in offering Tarpan at Nungjeng Pukhri Achouba.

The observation function was organised by Manipur State Archaeology, Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur.

After the floral tribute, a contingent of 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles offered guard of honour, gun salute and sounded the last post as a mark of respect to Late Maharaja Nara Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh stated that the State Government had started paying tribute and respect to our great forefathers, organising functions at State level, to make people aware of their sacrifices towards protecting their motherland. Stating that whatever we have today is all because of the hard work and sacrifices of our great leaders, he added that our society would have no



value if we don't honour them and follow their paths.

The Chief Minister recalled the hardship faced by our forefathers during the Seven Years Devastation period (1819-1826) and hard work of great leaders namely Maharaj Gambhir Singh and Maharaja Nara Singh towards regaining their land from Awa. Urging people not to possess sectarian ideology and to stop thinking only about their respective communities, he appealed to everyone to work together for overall development of the land which we inherited from our forefathers. He stressed the need for every citizen of the State to have knowledge of our history and go hand in hand with one another regardless of hill and valley areas, adding that we

shouldn't forget the spirit of nationalism possessed by our elders.

N. Biren informed that the State Government had started seeing sites at Nongmaiching Hills to install the statues of Maichou Taret and added that a statue of Maharaja Nara Singh would also be installed at the Western Gate of Kangla within 100 days. He also stressed the need to preserve the Leng Ondabi Pat located at Cachar district of Assam, which was named after the commitment of Maharaja Nara Singh.

Delivering his Presidential speech, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Leishemba Sanajaoba stated that he felt pleased on the part of the State Government for honouring and paying tribute to the work and sacrifice of our great

leaders. He continued that Maharaja Nara Singh had played an important part in regaining our land from Awa during the Seven Years Devastation period. Maharaja Nara Singh was a king who always worked for the protection of the motherland and he always gave priority to the welfare of people rather than the powers he possessed as a king, Leishemba Sanajaoba added.

Power Minister Thongam Biswajit, Education Minister Yumnam Khemchand, Works Minister Govindas Konthoujam, Co-operation Minister Nemcha Kipgen, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and other top Civil and Police Officials also attended the observation function.

The Editorial

Delayed Recruitment Process: CM Biren should drop the mic and declare the results

Ever since taking office as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the second term, Mr. Biren, time and again, on various occasions, pompously declared that he would move the mountains or die trying to make a corruption-free Manipur. Where there is a microphone, Biren always makes this promise. But has he done something substantial to prove his attempt? A big NO resounds.

Even just yesterday, he told a gathering at Manipur University that all state government recruitment would be conducted on a merit basis only in his so-called bid to root out corruption in the recruitment process. But his inability to declare recruitment results of various departments' examinations conducted before the election made people recall senior Congress leader Okram Joy's famous quote packed with mockery: "Biren-na nganba wabu, wa-oina louba yabra."

After the new government formation, Mr. Biren's announcement of "100 action points for the first 100 days" came as a surprise and shock to many. After taking oath as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the second term, Biren said that the first task of his government would be to make the state corruption-free - a mission which is also included in the 100. But it was nothing new.

To commoners, recruiting employees based on bribes or through their connections with high-ranking officials or lawmakers is seen as one of the government's top corrupt practices. In addition, taking a long time in the recruitment process is deemed a delay tactic. Therefore, if the new government is genuinely striving for a corruption-free Manipur, the first step should be to declare the results of all recruitment examinations held just before the Assembly polls now; it will undoubtedly give an impression that Biren walks the talk. But he hasn't done it yet.

Kudos to the Election Commission of India for completing the entire election process of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly in just 62 days. The feat was something N Biren Singh & Co. should learn and digest to help themselves expedite the recruitment process of state government departments.

Scores of government departments invited applications for various vacant posts, and recruitments exams were conducted ahead of the election date announcement. According to a highly placed source, most departments have already completed checking the examination papers by 3 April 2022, following strict instructions from CM N Biren Singh to even work on Sundays. But, surprisingly, the results have not been declared till now. What is cooking here? Is it a delay tactic? Is the chief minister reluctant to give the nod to announce the results? Amid all these developments, rumors have it that directors of some departments have started sending out their aides to collect money from candidates, giving ample time to people to fill the dots.

It is high time that Mr. Biren drops the mic and starts acting on his promises to display his commitment to corruption-free recruitment. The youths are watching.

RPF pays tributes to the martyred revolutionary fighters

IT News
Imphal, April 11:

Proscribed group RPF pay tributes to the martyred revolutionary cadres who had laid down for the cause of the nation's freedom with the coming of the April 13 at which the armed rebel group has been observing as Athoubasinggi Nunit every year.

In a statement of the outfit, it is stated that the armed group pay respect to all the people of the state irrespective of which community they belongs to. It said that the RPF and its armed wing PLA pay tribute to the

martyred and vow to all people of the state which have been supporting the cause since a long time ago.

The RPF statement further said that it better die than living as a slave. "It is better die by living as a free citizen for one day than living as a slave forever."

April 13 is significant for the revolutionary Peoples' front as it was the day where many of the top leaders of the outfit sacrifice fighting for the cause of the freedom of the erstwhile nation which they said that the erstwhile kingdom was forcibly annexed to the Indian Union.

The armed group appealed all

people to pay tribute to the memorial site of the martyred revolutionary fighters and said that they will continue to fight for the cause of the nation.

emtion may be made that every 13 of April has been observed as the Athoubasinggi Ningsing Nunit by the people of the state. Family members of the departed cadres were allowed to pay pay homage to the memorial site of the martyrs but only after getting prior permission from the High Court. This time too the friends and family members of those departed soul are trying to get permission for paying respect.

Heroin powder worth around Rs. 70 lakhs seized by Mao Police

IT News
Imphal, April 11:

A team of state police stationed at Mao Police Station in Manipur's Senapati district detected and seized suspected heroin powder worth around Rs 70 lakhs in international market during a regular frisking and checking of vehicles at Mao gate, 110 km north of Imphal on Saturday, reports said.

Inspector Worchipem Ngalung, Officer in Charge of Mao Police Station led police team stopped one Tata Truck (NL01L-3563) coming from Imphal towards Mao Gate for

checking at Mao gate and the team detected 2 packets containing white powder suspected to be Heroin, police said.

The truck driver who identified himself as Maibam Nasir Khan (30) of Thoubal Moijing under Thoubal Police Station disclosed that it was heroin powder.

Then the two packets suspected to be heroin powder weighing about 1Kg and the Tata Truck were seized in presence of witnesses, police added. Hence a regular case under ND&PS Act has been registered for investigation.

Anganwadis and One Stop Centres across the NE region will receive active support to ensure geographical and logistical challenges expeditiously: Smriti Irani

PIB
Guwahati, April 11:

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt Smriti Irani chaired the Zonal Conference of State Governments and Stakeholders of North-East region at Guwahati yesterday. Participants from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Nagaland attended the conference.

The Minister in her address highlighted the details of Poshan Abhiyan and other

initiatives of the Ministry. She said that all the Anganwadis and one-stop centres across the North East region will receive active support to ensure that geographical and logistical challenges are met expeditiously by government of India interventions.

She said that improving nutrition value among women and children has transformed into Jan Andolan today. Praising the efforts of the stakeholders for their contribution the minister said that addressing the issues of female health and nutrition of

children has been possible because of their cooperation and support.

Talking about One-stop centres she said that the one stop crisis centre saw a collaborated effort where various branches of government came together to ensure that police, psycho-social counsellor, legal counsellor and all get together under one roof. In collaboration with women helplines across the country in the past 3 years, 70 lakh women have received support from government in the state and the centre, she informed. The minister also



informed that 300 more such centres will be opened. Talking about other initiatives by government Smt Irani said that there are around 25 crore

women benefiting from Jan-Dhan Yojana who have a bank account for the first time in their life. 68 per cent of beneficiaries of Mudra Yojana are women

and 80 per cent of the beneficiaries of Stand-Up India are women, Smt Irani said.

Minister of State for Women and Child Development Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai in his address highlighted the three major umbrella schemes by the Ministry of Women and Child Development Mission POSHAN, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. Talking about the Zonal conferences held in different states of the country he said that this government is focusing on empowerment of women through various schemes and the objective

of these Zonal Conferences is to sensitise State Governments/UT Administrations on the 3 Umbrella Missions of the Ministry to facilitate proper implementation of the Schemes over the next 5 years. Finance and Social Welfare Minister, Govt of Assam Smt Ajanta Neog was also present in today's event. Smt Neog in her speech highlighted the initiatives taken by the State government for the welfare of children and women. Government of Assam is committed to all-round development of women and children in the State, she said.

Sleep deprivation, Diabetes are closely connected

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



There is a close relationship between sleep deprivation and diabetes, this fact has come to the fore from a recent British research. People with

sleep scarcity or insomnia are more likely to have type 2 Diabetes. This dangerous connection between the two has been revealed in the latest research conducted by the University of Bristol, UK. Under this alarming research, sleep-related medical cases of about four lakh people were closely examined in Britain. This proves that sleeping at a fixed time every night is good for health and it may also keep you away from type 2 Diabetes. Some people have sleep related problems, while many others do not take proper sleep knowingly. As soon as people get rich, different types of pastimes also increase. In the wake of tea, coffee, smoking, alcohol, phone, computer, movies and parties etc., the sleeping habits of high-income people change and they get less than seven hours of sleep. The American people are different from the rest in this respect. There's a big sleep problem and Americans are spending money on gadgets that help them sleep well. According to a report by Global Market Insights, in the first year of Covid, the sale of sleep aids in the world exceeded Rs 94,000 crore. By 2025, this figure is projected to triple.

A simple formula for how many hours of sleep a healthy person should get per day is that if you feel tired after waking up, it means that you should sleep a little more. According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an adult person needs at least 7 and more than 9 hours of sleep a day. If after sleeping for 7 hours, your body remains active throughout the day, then that much sleep is enough for you. But if you feel tired and lethargic during the day, it means you should sleep a little longer. Research from the University of Bristol, UK also revealed the fact that sleeping and waking up at a certain time every day reduces the problem of insomnia. The habit of eating late at night should also be discarded. Also, people who make yoga and exercise a part of their lives get relief from the problem of insomnia. If the problem of insomnia still persists, then it is necessary to consult a doctor.

Getting less sleep can increase blood pressure. Such people are 20 percent more likely to have a heart attack. They can also be surrounded by obesity. Actually, sleep acts as a balance of hormones, due to which the development of the body and the mind remain agile. Getting good sleep increases efficiency. Due to this the immunity of the body increases and weight remains under control. Getting enough sleep keeps diseases like heart diseases and diabetes away. It is famous about Portugal's famous football player Cristiano Ronaldo that he never gets eight hours of sleep like common people. On the contrary, he sleeps five times a day for one and a half hours. This routine of his is going on since he used to play for Manchester United. A 40-minute power nap after lunch is also a part of his routine.

BY-MR. LALU

Evil never stops. It has always gained a seat in human minds. Things are more perilous and irrecoverable for those who suffer the hostility of evil. War brings death and disaster, stealing smiles from faces and emotions wrinkled with paranoia. Yet war is greatly fought with pride and satisfaction. It gratifies the element of merciless arrogance that aggression is designed for. It attempts to invade on the weak, a rhetorically sadistic infringement. There is a numbness, emptiness and indignant silence around the shattered and pounded buildings in Ukraine where life once existed with full glow and solid recognition. No question will fit the mood of the moment. What does a war achieve? Violence became a creed and war exposes the filth of hatred that we store in the space that we created, flushing the flourishing dreams of the weak and the submissive. Diplomacy of superpowers remains a mere scarecrow as killing machines begin to spit fire on the ill-fated. Consistent flow of the displaced in search of new lands becomes normal. Afghanistan, Ukraine, Syria all become veritable examples of the results that human brutality can push the world into. The world is habituated to adjust

BLISTERED HOPES

with the suffering of some and the flourishing of someone else. Looking around, we can find indifference and cruelty and justification of what the predator does and intends. Endless pursuit of power always leads to devastating conflicts. Power should be captured by force and the retaliation makes it more aggressively punitive. The casualties and destruction successfully crush the prospects of generations. A fantasy of a ruler turned one side of the world into a ramshackle of hopes singing the chorus of catastrophe. But the emperor in Putin gets a shock every moment as he drives his devils into the broken land of Ukraine; the vehemence and power of Ukrainian resistance is beyond his expectation. One month from his first blow, the emperor gained little except the dead, the wounded, the displaced and the orphaned.

The world must breathe for the endless sea of women and children who flee their homeland to the alienation of countries where they seek asylum. Orphaned children, destined to stare at the anonymity of faces would need a helping hand genuinely stretching out. Imagine the reliability of support they might be going through. Some are genuinely intended to help the refugees and some others try to exploit the terrible hardships those children are thrown into. Little girls being

thrashed into the silence and darkness of the cruelty of cities in an unknown land and torn apart and left in the wilderness by mucky, manipulated and purely deceitful minds would speak of the frivolity of kindness that we usually lecture about. Even one such case of torture of a child, who as situations forced her to become a destitute, a refugee, in the space of an unknown land, trying to find a recognition will stand out representing the horror that a war is capable of. They, the refugees, the homeless, the orphaned would find the world not so kind and compassionate with enough space to accommodate them in their free rental houses and temporary shelters without compromising to what the privileged world and its hypocritical surroundings demand. Agencies supporting refugees may not notice the chances of trafficking and child labor into which the homeless minds fall and disappear. War not only brings death to the armed soldiers but the disaster that it brings to the hapless remains unparalleled.

Nothing seems to work better than killing people. From the vigorously fought world wars to the Iran-Iraq war to so many in the line, wars shattered hopes and snatched progress of generations. Pushing millions of innocent lives into agony and horror, the thirst for more power and dominance of a handful of mad minds terrorize the rest. What else. This is not a natural existential crisis. This is violence, authorized to bring about geopolitical implica-

BJP leaders demand for ban on meat is against the indian constitution

8 out of 10 people in the country including the Hindus consume meat

By - Gursimran Bakshi

First they wanted a ban on Hijab. Then they wanted a ban on Halal meat and loudspeakers for Azaan. Now, they want to ban meat.

On April 5, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation [SDMC] Mayor Mukesh Suryan attracted criticism from the citizens when he wrote a letter to the SDMC Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, requesting him to order the closure of meat shops under its jurisdiction during Navratri. Navratri is a nine-day Hindu festival, celebrated this year from April 2-11.

According to the letter, as reported by the Indian Express, Suryan wrote "During Navratri days, people visit temples to pay respect to the goddess and to seek blessings for themselves and their families. People forgo even the use of onion and garlic, and the sight of meat being sold in open or near temples makes them uncomfortable. Their religious beliefs and sentiments are also affected when they come across meat shops or when they have to bear the foul smell of meat on their way to offer daily prayers to the goddess".

An appeal from SDMC's counterpart, the East Delhi Mayor, came the next day. He appealed to the traders to close their shops on all nine-days or at least in the last three-days of Navratri. But no official order was published in this regard. Both Corporations are ruled by BJP.

In 2018, the SDMC also passed a resolution directing all restaurants and eateries to put up prominent boards, specifying if they were serving 'halal' or 'jhatka meat' in their region. Halal and jhatka are two different forms of slaughters, wherein the former is permissible in Islam as it is claimed to have been designed in such a way that it reduces the pain suffered by the

animal. Whereas, jhatka is killing the animal instantaneously.

Similar orders were also passed by the District Panchayat of Aligarh [DPA] and the Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam [GNN] for shutting down meat and fish shops during Navratri. The official directive issued by the DPA President Vijay Singh, as reported by Hindustan Times, gave an ultimatum to the traders that failure to comply with the same may also lead to cancellation of the licence without any prior notice. Whereas, GNN order issued by Mayor Asha Sharma, stated "It has been directed by the mayor to maintain cleanliness in temples, and to close meat shops during the period. It has been directed that cleanliness be maintained in respective zones, in temples and to ensure meat shops remain closed", as reported by Indian Express.

The officials of the GNN claimed that such directions, which are applicable on five zones in the district, are routine orders issued every year during Navratri. The said order, which was issued on April 1, was reversed the next day stating that there is no official regulation from the government yet. However, these executive orders eventually led to ruckus between the traders, as they were ultimately forced to close shops under the fear of actions from the authorities.

Although the ban led to hue and cry between the communities, the nail in the coffin was the politically charged statements on this issue. BJP MP Parvesh Sahib, from West Delhi constituency, came in support of the ban and told the NDTV reporters, "I welcome the decision which was taken by South MCD. I want all three municipal corporations to implement this. Also, I want Delhi-NCR and the whole country to implement this".

Loni MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar has a history of forcefully shutting down meat shops in his

constituency. Last year, in October, the MLA went from shops to shops and ordered the owners to close it. According to the MP, as reported by TOI, all meat shops in Loni are illegal.

Yunus Idres Qureshi, Vice-President of the Delhi Meat Association, in response to the orders of the SDMC Mayor said, "The Mayor's request is politically motivated". On the other hand, Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra tweeted her criticism against the ban remarking "I live in South Delhi. The Constitution allows me to eat meat when I like and the shopkeeper the freedom to run his trade".

National Conference Leader Omar Abdullah called out against the order of the SDMC Mayor and tweeted, "During Ramzan we don't eat between sunrise & sunset. I suppose it's OK if we ban every non-Muslim resident or tourist from eating in public, especially in the Muslim dominated areas. If majoritarianism is right for South Delhi, it has to be right for J&K."

According to the 2021 Pew Research Survey, most Indians, except 39 per cent that describe themselves as pure vegetarian, do not abstain from eating meat and only 44 per cent Hindus consider themselves as pure vegetarians. Only 8 per cent of Muslims and 10 per cent of Christians consider themselves as vegetarians respectively.

Essentially, 8 out of the 10 people consume meat in India including those from the majority religions. This survey can also be corroborated by the 2014 nationwide survey published by the Registrar General of India. The survey indicated that males above the age of 15 who ate meat, fish or eggs was 71.6%. Whereas, the proportion of females was marginally lower to 70.7%.

The ban started in Karnataka when various Hindu outfits including Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad were found to have been running door-to-door campaigns asking people to not use halal meat, when a section of Hindus organised 'Hosa Todaku' after the Ugadi (New Year's Day).

The Ugadi was celebrated on April 2, after which the Hosa Todaku is celebrated in which those Hindus who consume non-vegetarian food, cook meat and offer it to gods.

These bans, especially the one on meat, comes down to two issues. First, are these bans necessary to maintain the sanctity of a religion? Second, if yes, how does that ban take place?

To answer the first, it is important to understand that the Constitution grants the fundamental right to carry out trade under Article 19(1)(g). The only permissible limitation of this fundamental right is through imposing reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2)-(6). However, any reasonable restriction under Article 19(2)-(6) must only be for a statutory 'law' as held in *Bijoy Emmanuel & Ors v. State of Kerala* (1986). The orders by Mayors are executive orders and are not sufficient to restrict the freedom of trade. The existence of law is a necessary requirement.

Second, even if these bans were backed by statutory law, it has to pass the tests of the golden triangle (Article 14, 19 and 21). To pass the test of Article 14, the law has to be tested through the parameters of reasonableness since the guarantee of equality is a guarantee against arbitrariness. Any law which is disproportionate or excessive, would be manifestly arbitrary as held in *Sharada Banu v. UOI* (2017).

These laws prima facie fail the

test of equality since the Constitution does not permit a blanket ban on meat. The only restriction, that too not without any statutory law, is the one on cow slaughter under Entry 15 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The ban is not backed by a legitimate aim since it's not just meat that people do not consume during Navratri. A blanket ban on meat whereas onion and garlic are also not consumed as even claimed by the SDMC Mayor, is unreasonable. Further, if the smell of the meat affects the sentiments and beliefs of a community, the same should be there throughout the year and not just on Navratri.

Second, if the state wants to restrict Article 19(1)(g), there must be a legitimate state interest since it will ensure that the law does not suffer from manifest arbitrariness. These bans are enforced on the grounds of respecting religious morality, in the absence of a statutory law to its effect. Morality, although a permissible ground of reasonable restriction on the right to carry out any trade, must not mean motivated by majoritarian sentiments. Constitutional morality, as observed in *NCT Delhi v. UOI* (2018), holds a balance against popular morality. The meat shops, that have been closed or led to forceful closure, are owned by individuals from different communities whose livelihood is dependent on it. Thus, even if the minuscule population is affected, which in this case is, the constitutional courts are bound to protect their rights as held in *K.S. Puttaswamy v. UOI* (2017) and *Navtej Singh Johar v. UOI* (2018).

Moreover, it violates the right to freedom of choice of individuals under Article 21. The right to food as reiterated recently in *In Re: Problems and Miseries of Migrant Labourers* (2021) and the right to choose as observed in *Soni Gerry v. Gerry Douglas* (2018), is an intrinsic part of Article 21. Thus, it is understandable that the freedom to choose a particular food of choice would also be a matter of personal liberty and individual autonomy.

Lastly, Article 51(A)(e) of the Fundamental Duties promotes harmony and spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities.

According to the Census of India, apart from the majority religions, more than 6 million people profess other religions and faith. Every religion and faith has its own custom and practice. An attempt to give these orders any legislative colour would infringe upon the secular feature of the Constitution because then it would lead to floodgates of different claims from different religious communities, shaking the very essence of Article 25. Article 25 of the Constitution allows to freely profess, practice and propagate religion.

Sans legitimacy, these bans only create societal unease leading to communal disharmony. While many communities do observe restraints on eating meat on certain occasions or eating certain types of meat, there is no logical corollary on putting a blanket ban on meat consumption for others when more than 70% of the people in India consume the same.

Thus, any political overreach, regulating from the choice of clothes to wear to the type of food to consume, is surely unwarranted and constitutionally unsound. (IPA Service) Courtesy: The Leaflet

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contd. on page 3

Indigenous Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Solutions for Indian Traffic Scenario launched under InTranSE -II Program

PIB Delhi
April, 11:

An indigenous Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System – ODAWS, Bus Signal Priority System and Common Smart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC) software have been launched under Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor for Indian Cities Phase-II initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The product was launched last week by Dr. Rajendra Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in gracious presence of Shri. Arvind Kumar, GC (R&D in Electronics), MeitY, Dr Satis V Ukkusuri, Purdue University, USA and Prof. H P Kincha, Chairman, InTranSE program, Smt. Sunita Verma, Scientist-G & HoD ESDA, MeitY and Shri Kamlesh Kumar, Scientist-D, MeitY. The product was developed as a joint initiative by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). Mahindra and Mahindra was the industrial collaborator for the project.

1. Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System – ODAWS: With improved highway infrastructure and increase in number of vehicles, speed on roads has increased, further exacerbating safety concerns. As per Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India (MoRTH), in around 84 percent of cases, "driver error" was cited as the cause of the accident. This assumes significance in the context of potential for technology applications for assisting and warning drivers in minimizing driving errors. ODAWS incorporates vehicle-borne sensors for



monitoring driver propensity and vehicle surroundings to deliver acoustic and visual alerts for driver assistance. The project involves the development of sub-modules such as the navigational unit, driver assistance console, and mmWave radar sensor. The positional and dynamic characteristics of surrounding vehicles are probed using mmWave radar sensors. The navigational sensor provides a precise geo-spatial orientation of the vehicle as well as trends in driving behaviour. The ODAWS algorithm is used to interpret sensor data and offer real-time notifications to the driver, boosting road safety.

2. Bus Signal Priority System: Poor reliability of public transport system is a major reason for people to opt for personal vehicles. Improving this is essential to attract more travellers to public transport, thus leading to a more sustainable traffic solution. One of the major causes of delays for public transport buses in urban arterials is the delay at signalized intersections. Bus signal priority System is an operational strategy that modifies normal traffic signal

operations to better accommodate in-service public buses at signal-controlled intersections. Unlike a blind priority that is given for emergency vehicles, here it is a conditional priority, which is given only when there is an overall reduction in delay for all vehicles. The developed system will enable to minimize person delay by providing priority to public transport buses, either through Green extension or Red truncation, considering all vehicles approaching a signalized intersection.

3. Common Smart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC): It is a middleware software providing standard based deployment of IoT adhering to oneM2M based global standard. It facilitates users and application service providers in various vertical domains to use application agnostic open standards and open interfaces for end to end communication with well-defined common service functionalities complying with oneM2M standard. With this in view, CoSMiC common service layer is used to interface any vendor specific standards and for increasing interoperability with smart city dashboard. The horizontal silo

architecture ensures interoperability and data exchange between different IOT devices and applications and avoids vendor lock-in. CoSMiC comply with 12 common service functions which are Registration, Discovery, Security, Group Management, Data Management & Repository, Subscription & Notification, Device Management, Application & Service Management, Communication Management, and Delivery Handling, Network Service Exposure, Location, Service Charging and Accounting. The CoSMiC platform also provides Interworking Proxy Entity (IPE) APIs for connecting non-oneM2M (NoDN) devices or third-party applications to get connected to the CoSMiC platform. CoSMiC provides a Dashboard page showing IoT units, products, applications, and its live data in a Geographical Information System (GIS) map. A secondary data repository is also available for historic charts and reports. CoSMiC provides an end-to-end solution for the seamless connection of IoT devices and applications.

NITI Aayog CEO releases State Energy and Climate Index, SECI- Round one in New Delhi

New Delhi, April 11:

Gujarat, Kerala, and Punjab have emerged as the top three performers states in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI).

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant today released the State Energy and Climate Index, SECI- Round One in New Delhi. The top three performers among the smaller states are Goa, Tripura, and Manipur. Speaking on the occasion, NITI Aayog Vice-

Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar stressed the need to convert efforts towards achieving the Panchamrit targets announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP-26, Glasgow. He said that the role of the states is going to be critical in this regard. Dr. Rajiv said that governance innovation and mutual learning by states will go a long way in improving outcomes and SECI-Round One is the right step in this direction.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said that achieving the ambitious climate targets would require a

conducive policy environment to encourage investment. He also remarked that the State Energy and Climate Index-Round One will help to initiate a dialogue with the states on the energy sector so that much-required policy improvements can be made.

The report aims to rank States and Union Territories on six parameters. These are Discoms' Performance, Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy, Clean Energy Initiatives, Energy Efficiency, Environmental Sustainability, and new initiatives.

Career Guidance

Look Beyond MBBS



By - Vijay GarG

different study plan and religiously follow it. Another option is to go to foreign countries to pursue higher education in medicine.

Even otherwise, an MBBS (or a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree) is not the only ticket for a student to launch a career in healthcare. There are innumerable equally important, challenging and rewarding careers in healthcare. It is always better for the students who could not crack NEET or score well to have a plan B.

AYUSH Doctor

The opportunities students can consider include becoming a physician of Indian traditional medicine. Five and a half year medical courses in alternative medicines include Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS), Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yoga Science (BNYS) and Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS).

Paramedical Courses

There is a wide variety of courses to choose from the list of paramedical courses. Students can opt for Physiotherapy (BPT), Occupational Therapy (BOT), Bachelor of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (BSLPA) and BSc in Radiography, Optometry, Medical Lab, Operation Theatre Tech, Cardiac, Dialysis Tech, Public Health, Nuclear Medicine, Orthotics & Prosthetics, Sports Science, among others. There are many short-term paramedical courses such as Dialysis Technician, ECG Technician, X-Ray Technician, and Operation Theatre Technician. They offer lucrative career opportunities for students, especially in foreign countries.

It is essential for repeaters to make an informed decision and be well aware of the repercussions. Invariably, they will have to chart a

genetics engineering, food technology and many more that broadens their horizon and opens doors to numerous industries.

Admission to undergraduate courses in biotechnology can be through a college-based entrance exam. This research-based field is gaining immense traction with varied lucrative career opportunities in fields such as medicine, FMCG, and research.

Nutrition and Dietetics

A UG program in this field (B.Sc. in Nutrition and Dietetics) entails the study of food management, nutrition and dietetics. The course primarily focuses on the relationship between the body and food. The course duration may vary between 3 and 4.5 years, depending upon the institute offering it. Students gain knowledge on how to improve health by dietary modifications and reduce the risks of diseases with proper diet and nutrition. A qualified nutritionist helps people to make the right food choices, promotes healthy eating and helps to prevent malnutrition and other nutrition-related deficiency conditions. This course offers a solid and bright future in our developing health-conscious nation.

Biological Sciences

If you are keen to study in-depth about life and living organisms, then biological science is a discipline that you should look at. The discipline deals with studying living forms including their conception, structure, work, development, growth, origin, evolution, distribution and more. A UG course (B.Sc - Biological Science) allows students to move into research in pharmaceuticals and other related industries.

Students can always find a beautiful career in healthcare, if only they widen their aperture and look beyond MBBS.

Contd. from Page 2

BLISTERED HOPES

The idea, for him, behind the invasion is sound and predictably capable of bringing geopolitical catastrophe. The world would probably witness a change as the war comes to an end with respect to who gains an upper hand in a new world order that would emerge from the ruins and penury that the pandemic and the war have terribly crushed open. A high risk of the children crossing the Ukraine

border to the neighboring countries, falling into the hands of evil minds and being trafficked for sexual exploitation, should make the kind minds across the globe to come together. Reports coming in from agencies reveal the shocking fact that one out of every five women and girls are experiencing sexual violence in the countries they took refuge. When protectors become predators, the meaning of humanitarian

aide takes a deceptive form. Refugees across the globe are known to have had exploitations in multiple ways forcing them to swallow with no door to knock for safety. The consequence of a war subsequently prowls with its irretrievably penetrating callousness on multiple generations. It is necessary for the agencies that support the refugees to educate them with regard to the vulnerability into which they are inch-

ing steps. War, by all means have the potentiality to destroy the essence of one's nationality and it throws many generations of people from the invaded nation to the estrangement of the world where they take years to strengthen their limbs to stand and defend their rights because evil never stops and human minds encapsulate evil in its condensed form. It is a matter of time for it to grow into a monster.

Date of Birth Correction

I, Khumbongmayum Premchand Singh, father of Daniel Khumbongmayum, do hereby declare that the Date of Birth of my son Daniel Khumbongmayum has been mistakenly entered as 19/09/2011 instead of 19/08/2012.

That I declare that the real date of Birth of my son Daniel Khumbongmayum is 19/08/2012 and there is no objection to correct the date of birth of my son to my service book.

Sd/-

Khumbongmayum Premchand Singh
Singjamei Chingamakh Ningthojam Leikai, Imphal
West, Manipur

RC book lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my smart card RC book for my vehicle Toyota Glanza VMT bearing registration No. MN06LB2363, issued by the Department of Transport, Government of Manipur on the way between Paona Bazar, Imphal to Singjamei on March 28, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Rajkumari Babita Devi,
Ningomthong Bazar, Singjamei
Imphal east, Manipur

Amit Shah's statement on Hindi as official language in communications was unwarranted Centre should avoid any such imposition without consulting states

By KR Sudhman
New Delhi, April 11:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stirred up language controversy that Hindi being official language, it should be the medium for correspondence and discussions between states. This has evoked a vehement and justifiable strong reaction from southern states, particularly Tamil Nadu, which has always opposed imposition of Hindi in non-Hindi speaking states, forming 56 per cent of the population. Raking up such non issues ahead of elections has become a regular phenomenon among politicians of this country, who shy away from discussing real issues. Shah who chairs the official language committee, said 70 per cent of the agenda of the cabinet is prepared in Hindi.

He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that the medium of running the government is the official language and this will increase the importance of Hindi.

Knowledge of English was an added advantage to Indians and this is perhaps one of the reasons for Indians being preferred in IT industry world over particularly in software. This is true of medicine engineering and Science. Indians are a cut above others in the World due to this advantage. It appears Indian government is ensuring that this advantage be lost when other countries like China is trying hard to acquire it. In mid-90s, Chinese authorities felt they were handicapped in their pursuit of export-led economic development to take advantage of globalization because of this language

barrier. So the government in China decided to make learning of English compulsory in schools. Today all Chinese passing out of schools in China know English very well. This had helped China become a top goods and services exporter. China's foreign exchange reserves is close to \$4 trillion against India's \$600 billion. China is now a over \$15 trillion economy against India's \$3 trillion economy. Chinese exports are 6 to 7 times more than India's.

In case of India, the government seems to be going in a reverse gear trying to lose an advantage which the country already possessed. No one is against Indian languages and everyone should learn their mother tongue and perhaps one other language apart from English. Though three language

formula has been implemented in most of the country, it is unfortunate, schools in North India and in areas where Hindi is the mother tongue, do not offer a third language, that is from South or East India. Many schools in North India do not even teach proper English. Though schools are supposed to pursue three language formula, they only teach only Hindi and perhaps some English.

This puts people in East and particularly South India to disadvantage as they are by force made to learn Hindi apart from their mother tongue and English. Of course more languages one knew the better it is. Late Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao knew 14 languages. He could not only converse but also do scholarly and literary work in those languages. They included Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Sanskrit,

Urdu, Marathi, French, Spanish, Kannada and Malayalam. Late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa was conversant in several languages including Tamil, English and Hindi. It is difficult to find one such North Indian politician, who is conversant in any of the South Indian languages apart from Hindi and English.

As Mahatma Gandhi said one should practice what he preaches. While BJP top brass may advocate imposition of Hindi, but one wonders why most of these BJP politicians send their children and grand-children to English medium school when they advocate learning and speaking in Hindi for common man. This applies to politicians in South as well. Late Karunanidhi, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK supremo, who spearheaded

the movement against imposition of Hindi among Tamils, used to privately coach Hindi to his daughter Kanimozhi, now a DMK MP, so that she did not have any difficulty in conversing in Hindi when in Delhi. Politicians have one standard for them and another for common man. Politicians, be it from North or South are known for double standards and unfortunately its common man who suffers in the end.

In fact it is in the interest of common man to learn more languages so that their job opportunity widens and knowing English is even more important so that opportunity widens to global level as majority of the World population know English. It is not only English and other Indian languages, attempts should be made to learn other foreign languages as well like

French, German, Spanish, Chinese and Russian.

At a time when World has become one global village, our politicians rake up such non issues for some short-term electoral gains without realizing the consequences and the damage that they are doing to the youth by restricting their job opportunities. When jobs are scarce, particularly after the Covid, stirring up language issue, which was broadly settled in 1965 after the anti-Hindi agitation, is unwarranted and may unnecessarily rake up an agitation and narrow the already depleting job opportunities. Not knowing English is also a disadvantage in pursuing technical education, particularly Medicine, Engineering, Science and Economics. (IPA Service)

India's energy security cannot be compromised A rupee-rouble trade offers best protection

By Nantoo Banerjee
New Delhi, April 11:

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's offer to India to consider a rupee-rouble mechanism to settle trade in goods between the two countries to avoid sanctions imposed by the US-led NATO comes at a time when the Indian economy is reeling under high prices of oil putting the country's energy security at risk. India needs a guaranteed supply of petroleum at stable prices to ensure its energy security and economic growth. The country's massive dependence on imported oil is fast exposing its economic weakness under pressure of the NATO financial and trade sanctions on Russia as oil prices in the domestic market are zooming up to unsettle the entire economy. India is around 86 percent dependent on imported oil. The latter account for the single largest share of the country's gross merchandise import bill. India's crude oil import bill may have exceeded the \$100-billion mark in 2021-22. The amount is nearly double its spending in the previous year as international oil prices are trading at seven-year high levels. According to the government's Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC), India spent \$94.3 billion on oil imports in the first 10 months (April-January) of the last financial year.

A return to the rupee-rouble trade after a gap of nearly four decades will be extremely beneficial to both oil-starved India and petroleum-glut Russia, which is sitting over Russia, the world's largest oil reserve in any country. In fact, India should link its entire oil import with Russian suppliers depending on the landed cost (c.i.f.) of the commodity. It will considerably reduce India's annual trade deficit in terms of US dollars. India's trade deficit widened to a record \$192.41 billion in the last fiscal. In 2020-21, India's trade deficit was \$102 billion. Other than

petroleum and gas, India is a major importer of gold and diamond, coal briquettes and fertilisers. Russia is also India's single largest source of defence imports. Russia is the world's third largest producer of gold after Australia and China and accounts for about 10 percent of global mine production which, according to the World Gold Council, totalled 3,500 tonnes last year. Polysulphur and Polymetal are Russia's top two gold producers. Till now, Russian miners mainly sell their gold to the country's commercial banks which then export it.

The US-led sanctions on the energy tie-up with Russia have been contested by a number of gas-starved NATO members, including Germany, Europe's largest economy. Even Japan, the world's third largest economy after the US and China, says it will maintain oil and gas projects in Russia citing the country's energy security concerns as the reason. Germany and Japan are the most important US strategic partners in Europe and Asia, respectively. Only a week ago, Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Gagiuda made an emphatic statement that his country "does not intend to withdraw" from oil and liquefied natural gas development projects in Russia as they make a choice between energy security and tightening sanctions on Russia for the war in Ukraine. Several Japanese trading and other firms have invested in the Sakhalin-1, Sakhalin-2 and Arctic LNG 2 (ARC2) projects. Each has been deemed essential to Japan's energy security. "We have interest in them and have secured long-term claimants," said Gagiuda. "In the current situation of sudden energy price increases, we can procure energy at prices cheaper than the market price. This is extremely important for energy security." He also said Japan "does not intend to withdraw" from the ARC 2 project in the Arctic.

The Western economic

sanctions prohibit new European investment in Russia's energy sector. Japanese and French companies that have invested in ARC-2 are no longer able to make new investments. "We want to analyse the impact of sanctions and respond appropriately," the Japanese minister said. Later, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a presidential decree requiring companies from "unfriendly countries" like the US, Japan and those in western Europe to pay in rubles when purchasing Russian natural gas. Sakhalin-1 has received funding from Itochu, Japan Petroleum Exploration Company, Marubeni and Inpex. Sakhalin-2 counts Mitsui and Mitsubishi among its investors. ARC 2 has received funds from Mitsui and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation. Indian state-run oil companies also hold stakes in Russian oil and gas fields, while Russian entities including Rosneft along with another Russian firm own a majority stake in India's second largest single-location oil refinery Nayara Energy.

Russia's oil and petroleum product exports to India is only worth \$1 billion, and there are clear opportunities to increase this figure, Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said in a recent statement. "We are interested in further attracting Indian investment to the Russian oil and gas sector and expanding Russian companies' sales networks in India," Novak told India's Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The Western economic sanctions have led to a funding squeeze on Nayara Energy. The Gujarat-based annual 20-million-tonne capacity refinery is 49 percent owned by Russian energy major Rosneft, the world's 53rd largest public company boasting total assets of \$228 billion in 2021.

In 2016, Rosneft roped in a Singapore-based multinational energy and base metals trading company, Trifigura Group Pte., and Russian investment group

UCP to buy out Nayara Energy from its original Indian promoters, the Essar group. Nayara Energy is facing increased finance costs due to Western pressure, even as India works to maintain trade with Russia. The sanctions now threaten to delay Rosneft's planned petrochemicals expansion at its Indian refinery. Last year, Nayara had signed a financial agreement with a State Bank of India-led consortium for a term loan of Rs 4,016 crore for the proposed 450,000 tpa capacity polypropylene plant at its Gujarat refinery. The SBI is believed to have told its clients that it will not process any transactions involving Russian entities subject to international sanctions irrespective of the currency of the transaction. Presumably, Nayara will not be able to pay dividends to Rosneft due to problems in moving money internationally. Had Rosneft owned a majority stake in Nayara, the refinery could have been in deeper trouble, unable to even source crude.

A bilateral rupee-rouble trade and investment agreement seems to be the best way out for India to ensure its energy security and reduce exposure to US dollar-linked trade and investment. Such an agreement will drastically cut down India's international trade deficit in terms of dollar, strengthen its own currency and help control inflation. Russia, the world's third largest oil producer and second largest natural gas supplier, should arguably become India's biggest partner in the energy trade. Incidentally, Russia expects both countries to continue cooperation also on civilian nuclear power and build new plants, including additional units at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu. Notably, Russia and India have remained trusted partners of each other despite strategic changes in the world order since the emergence of China as a top economic and military power. (IPA Service)

Sports

Port Elizabeth Test: Keshav Maharaj takes 7 as South Africa bowl out Bangladesh for 80, complete 2-0 series sweep

Courtesy - India Today
April 11

Bangladesh were bowled out for less than 100 for the 2nd time in the series as the visitors succumbed to a 332-run defeat on Day 4 of the 2nd Test against South Africa at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Monday. Keshav Maharaj took 7 wickets as Bangladesh slipped from 27/3 to 80-all out in just an hour on Monday morning session.

It seemed Bangladesh



already had their minds on the flight home as poor shot selections allowed South Africa to skittle them out for 80 in their second innings as South Africa completed a 2-0 sweep in the Test series after losing the ODI series 1-2.

2nd Test, SA vs BAN Day 4 Highlights

South Africa won the first test in Durban by 220 runs, where they bowled Bangladesh out for 53 in their second innings.

Maharaj took 7-40 and Harmer 3-34 on a wicket that provided prodigious turn but were not unfamiliar conditions for sub-continent side Bangladesh,

who will be desperately disappointed with their application.

COVID SCARE

South Africa started the day with two substitutes in their side after opening batsman Sarel Erwee and all-rounder Wiaan Mulder tested positive for Covid-19 overnight.

The International Cricket Council allows for players to be replaced in the lineup under such conditions and Khaya Zondo was therefore handed his Test debut, which lasted all of an hour, while seamer Glenton Stuurman came in for Mulder.

The pair were required as

fielders only as South Africa made light work of dismissing the tourists, though Bangladesh were their own worst enemies as they tried to hit themselves out of trouble with disastrous results.

Only Litton Das (27) provided any sort of resistance, though he was stumped by wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne as he advanced down the wicket against Maharaj.

Depleted South Africa will be especially pleased with the series win as six of their first-team regulars chose to play in the Indian Premier League and were not available.

(With Reuters Inputs)