

TV panelist arrested for using derogatory language against Union Home Minister



IT News
Imphal, April 12:

Spokesperson of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC), who is also a popular panelist in TV discussion, Sanaojam Samachoron popularly known as Sanou, an Advocate by profession was arrested by City Police Imphal for allegedly using derogatory language against the Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

President of the BJYM,

Manipur M. Barish Sharma lodged a complaint to the Imphal West Police station for taking up appropriate action against the Congress Spokesperson S. Samachoron in connection with his derogatory remark against the Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a panel discussion broadcasted at IMPACT TV on its Manung Hutna programme dated April 9, 2022.

The programme on Impact TV Manung Hutna under the title "Hindi: Unifica-

tion or Imposition Debate" was anchored by executive editor of Impact TV and was attended by State BJP Spokesperson Soubam Nongpokganba Meitei and Vice President of IPSA, Khuraijam Athouba beside the MPCC spokesperson Samachoron.

In the complaint filed by the BJYM President, M. Barish Sharma, it is stated that the congress spokesperson in the discussion hours of IMPACT TV dated 9/4/

2022, Samachoron not only abused the mainland Indian but also used foul and derogatory language against the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He deliberately maliciously humiliated them as animal and continued to further use derogatory language, thereby hurting the racial and religious feeling of the entire India which amount to sedition despite the other panelists restraining him to do so.

The BJYM lodge the complaint under section 124 A, 295 Z, 505 etc of the Indian penal code. The complaint was lodged yesterday.

As per source a team of Imphal West had picked up S Samachoron and later the case has been handed over to the City Police.

At the time of filing this report Samachoron is still in the custody of City police and is yet to produce to the Court. However, source said that he will be produced in the court soon.

Manipur MP Dr Lorho S. Pfoze opposes imposition of Hindi to school education

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

Lok Sabha MP from Manipur, Dr Lorho S. Pfoze turns out to be the first elected representative of the people of Manipur to oppose the imposition of Hindi as compulsory subject upto class 10. Earlier the Nagaland government has taken decision to introduce Hindi upto class only despite the fact that Home Minister Amit Shah had stated to make Hindi as compulsory subject till class 10. The Union HM also stated that all the 8 NE states have agreed to the decision. However, Nagaland Government become the first state to oppose decision and as for the state of Manipur Lok Sabha MP from Manipur, Dr Lorho S. Pfoze is the first oppose the decision.

In a letter written to the Chairman Parliamentary Official Language Committee & Home Minister, Government of India New

Delhi Dr Lorho S. Pfoze said that Democracy in India is characterized by unity in diversity that has provided a unified vision to the people to make the Nation a great nation. Diverse as we are, the secular fabric of the Nation has been woven in recognition of regional differences, mutual tolerance & acceptance that allow us to live together with our differences which in turn has made India a beautiful nation and hence, the greatest democracy in the world.

He added that North East India with just about 3.76% population of the country living in 7.98% of the land mass, has the widest range of ethnic and cultural diversities with more than 220 dialects or languages spoken. These diversities have tended to break us up into small isolated sections mainly caused by keeping the region isolated, exploited, marginalized and neglected. No sufficient interventions, to give honourable and

equitable development to the region, were accorded until NDA came to power in 1998-2004 and again from 2014 till now.

NDA under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed the image of India to the people of the North East positively but this imposition will undo what NDA has painstakingly built up over the years with one stroke.

"You are well aware that North East India is a complex region with multiple challenges to the Government of India. It is only in recent times, that because of the changing attitudes of the leadership at the Centre that our people are beginning to come closer and learning to adapt to peaceful coexistence. I am of the considered opinion that when these regional issues are recognised and addressed positively that the sense of National Integrity will be enhanced", Dr Lorho S. Pfoze said.

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TSA rubbishes KSO Moltam Block; demand suspension of a IAS officer

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

The Thadou Students' Association General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) had denounced the claim made by Kuki Students' Organization (KSO), Moltam Block over the issue of EMRS at L Jangnomphei village in their Press Release dated 10th April, 2022 and published in various local/state newspapers/media. A statement of the TSA said, "To derail the EMRS allotted for Sadar Hills West block, which is now bifurcated into three blocks, namely, T. Waichong block, Champai block and Kangpokpi block, Mr Lethkogh Hoakip, IAS (administrative secretary IACS of TA&H Dept.) had acclaimed

and diverted the scheme to L Jarignomphei (Veitumkhonou) village, currently within Kangchup-Geljang block, was a part of Saitu-Gamphazol block before its bifurcation during Census of India, 2011".

The statement further said that Lethkogh Hoakip and the chief of L Jangnomphei belong to the same Lunkhel family under the Hoakip clan. This act of favouritism and personal gain is tantamount to the abuse of administrative power and authority. He has not upheld the principles of merit, fairness and impartiality in the discharge of duties while choosing the location of EMRS for Sadar Hills West block and Singhat Block, Churachandpur (where he approved EMRS in

his native village in Sunchinmum village), violating the provisions of All India Service (Conduct) Rules, 1968. For this reason, TSA request the Chief Minister of Manipur to suspend Lethkogh Hoakip for the gross misconduct in his service, the statement added.

Apropos to the KSO's claim, the committee constituted by the then Minister (TA&H) under the chairmanship of Mr Lethkogh Hoakip, Additional Chief Secretary (TA&H) to verify the location of L Jangnomphei village whether or not it falls under Sadar Hills West block did not comply to the guidelines of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and erroneously concluded that L Jangnomphei

was under Sadar Hills West block and therefore wrongly approved EMRS. L Jangnomphei as Sadar Hills West block. TSA would like to clarify that it does not derail the process of EMRS for Sadar Hills West but had tried to rectify the location of EMRS which was wrongly allotted at L Jangnomphei village in Saitu-Gamphazol block (now Kangchup-Geljang) meant for Sadar Hills West block.

The committee had reported correctly the revenue and administrative location of the L Jangnomphei block as Kangchup-Geljang block, but failed to point-out that L Jangnomphei village was not under Sadar Hills West block.

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Women UG arrested

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

A teams of CDO/IE Unit along with woman police personnel, arrested one active woman cadre of the outfit KYKL namely: Senjam (Ongbi) Bijenti Chanu @ Rezia (30) W/o S. Ibungcha Meitei of Nongren Mamang Leikai, Imphal-East District from Pangei Bazar near Autorickshaw parking at 4:10 p.m yesterday, said a police source.

The arrestee joined the said outfit KYKL in the year 2002 though one Mr. Popin of KYKL and got her basic military training for 10 days at Chandel, Manipur under the command of one Mr. Jiten of KYKL. The arrestee is presently holding the rank of s/s - Private and working under the



command of one s/s - Lance Corporal Miss. Yaiphabi of KYKL.

The arrested person is be-

ing handed over to Heingang Police Station for taking up further necessary legal action against her.

Critical issues on Water, Resources and Livelihood discussed in a two-day national seminar

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

A two-day National Seminar on 'Water Resources and Livelihood Issues in North East India' (11-12th April, 2022) has been successfully concluded today. The Seminar was jointly organised by Geography Department, Moirang College, Manipur in collaboration with Centre for Alternative Discourse, Manipur (CADM) with assistance from North Eastern Council, Minister of Development of North East Region, Shillong.

The seminar was participated by a galaxy of academic personalities, researchers and activists from all across India. While speaking in the inaugural session, Prof. N. Lokendra

Singh, Vice-Chancellor - Manipur University highlighted that indigenous peoples in the valley of Manipur were traditionally capable of water management with distinctive awareness eco-friendly sustenance of water bodies. The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged the advanced system of medieval Manipur as there existed innumerable spaces for conservation and harvesting of water in Manipur. Prof. Kh. Pradip discussed how the breakdown of traditional depositories of water had led to frequent flooding, and even scarcity of water in off seasons.

Delivering his inaugural remarks, Dr Tanvir Aejaz, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science - University



of Delhi stressed on the need for academic freedom as integral condition for a democratic circulation of knowledge. While commenting on the theme of the Seminar, Tanvir explained how market driven economic system was a chal-

lenge to ecology and resources leading to an increasing alienation of people from actual access to public goods. Dr Tanvir was of the view that to have a continued understanding of conservation from the lenses of colonial vocabu-

lary was a site of concern as it was to lead to further impositions of foreign systems on communities who are already in practice of a self-sustaining shared community processes of handling resources.

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Governor flagged off Army Expedition Team

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan flagged off Army Medical Corps Motorcycle Expedition team from Raj Bhavan in Imphal this morning. The expedition team had arrived Imphal from Silchar yesterday.

Talking to the team, Governor said, we are proud of our brothers in the army. They are protecting our country not only in the line of defence but also in many ways. La. Ganesan while lauding the efforts made by the Army to fight

the Covid pandemic said, Army Medical Corps has been talking a great role to eradicate the pandemic. He also thanked the team members and wishes them to complete their expedition. Later, Governor flagged off the team from Raj Bhavan for Kohima.

The team was led by Colonel Rajesh Adhau, SM. The expedition was flagged off from India Gate in New Delhi on 3rd April, 2022 and came through Guwahati. The expedition team has been made to thank people in the post Covid pandemic situation.

Is India shifting towards majoritarianism?



By-Janghaolun Haokip

The recent statement of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has sparked controversies and evoked strong reactions from all over the country, especially in the South and North-East India. Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated in the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee that Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English. According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB) sources, the Union Home minister suggested to the committee that it is time to carry out a revision of the Hindi dictionary, even mentioning that 70 per cent of the Union Cabinet's agenda is now prepared in Hindi. Further, he also added that the "time has come to make the Official Language an important part of the unity of the country. When people from states which speak other languages communicate with each other, it should be in the language of India," implicitly asking for the imposition of Hindi in India which has led many to reckon if India is shifting towards a majoritarian governance.

Majoritarianism and Democracy

Majoritarianism, as opposed to democracy, although both rest on the primacy of numbers, is the belief that the majority community should be able to rule a state/country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority. In essence, while democracy pushes for the welfare of all its citizens despite numbers, majoritarianism is a form of governance where the welfare of the minority is altogether denied. To this, Adam Przeworski and José María Maravall in their book *Democracy and the Rule of Law* state that majoritarianism is a political philosophy that asserts that the majority of the population is entitled to a certain degree of primacy in society, and has the right to make decisions that affect the society.

In that respect, it is of crucial importance to delink majoritarianism and democracy in the midst of the conception of both as the primacy of numbers or the majority. Rather, it is all-important to note that democracy is not an end in itself but a means to attain justice. On the contrary, majoritarianism is an end in itself. Simply put, majoritarianism is the supremacy of numbers alone which can be with or without core values and principles, while democracy does not simply rest in the majority but with a profound pledge to ensure the fundamental moral rights of every citizen. Majoritarianism is thus a threat in its very nature and has the least correspondence to democracy.

Shifting towards a majoritarian state

Unfortunately, despite the imminent threat that majoritarianism poses to administration and

governance, many fear that there is a visible shift in our country towards a majoritarian government, especially since the BJP came to power in 2014. It is ostensible that the recent controversy of *Hindi Imposition* is not the first of its kind and it is true that India has gone through a series of attempts by right-wing nationalists to establish a majoritarian state, especially led by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its political wing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In fact, many policies as the abrogation of Art. 370 in India's only Muslim-majority state Jammu & Kashmir, the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for the state of Assam pushing thousands into statelessness, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that mentally ousted the Muslims in India, etc. could be seen as an attestation of a majoritarian attempt. Further, the strong advocacy of *One Nation, One Religion or One Nation, One Law*, by top BJP leaders could also be viewed in the same light as a shift away from actual democracy.

Moreover, the rising religious, cultural, and ideological intolerance are also critical causes of concern against the nature of democracy. The idea of secularism as a constitutional principle calls for tolerance and peaceful co-existence; the different rights and privileges enshrined in the constitution of India prohibit discrimination and oppression of people based on their gender, language or ethnicity; and the liberty of conscience and the freedom of speech opens a path for ideological differences. However, in one way or another, these ideals remain largely distorted and the rights and privileges are somehow infringed upon, implicitly steering us towards majoritarianism, the philosophy of

the majority is the law and the minority the oppressed.

Although strongly feared, it is evident that India today is regrettably swiftly shifting towards a majoritarian government. The various emerging policies are speaking for themselves. The government has become obsessed with majoritarian dispositions. In fact, it has long since venerated the idea of sectarianism -the idea of Hindu supremacy against India's constitutional values and principles. What we see today is a gross violation of rights and denial of privileges, and a nonsensical leaning toward the promotion and advocacy of majoritarian ethos. This is why the All India Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, in response to Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that "India has various states with various languages. Amit Shah needs to rethink what he has said. Rather than imposing Hindi as the national language, why doesn't the central government do something and reduce the prices of petrol and diesel?" which is indeed a question to ponder on.

Majoritarianism and Unity in Diversity

Kanimozhi, Lok Sabha MP from Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, said, the one language idea will not unite India but it will split the nation. Besides, the Union Home Minister is reminded by many that *Uniformity is not Unity* and that he should not commit the same mistakes. In this regard furthermore, the statement of M.K. Stalin, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister who strongly calls the imposition as an attack on India's unity is particularly remarkable.

India is home to more than two thousand ethnic groups and with

more than 19,500 languages or dialects that are spoken as mother tongues. Sadly enough, a country whose founding fathers had once taken pride in its *Unity in Diversity* is now drowning in a state of intolerance and parochialism. For instance, many critics have condemned the movie "Kashmir Files (2022)", a film about the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus as propaganda to instigate hatred against the Muslims in India. Likewise, the abuse of Christian missionaries by RSS volunteers from time to time and the pillaging of churches is to discourage diversity and promote its unpropitious policy of *one nation one religion*. In fact, to this day, minorities, in both religious and cultural spheres, are seen as natural victims due to the rise in religious extremism and majoritarian ideology that further deepens the insecurities of the minorities in India. Majoritarianism thus is evident that it will destroy the very essence of India as a *Union of States* as it strives to establish a majority rule and play havoc with the essence of *Unity in Diversity*, the idea of India.

The way forward

There are 22 official languages in India, and to aggrandise Hindi at the expense of the rest of the official languages is insensible and demeaning. Moreover, Hindi imposition will only endanger languages and dialects that are already on the verge of extinction. What the government should rather focus on is the protection and promotion of endangered languages and subsequent imposition of such if imposition of any language is at all required. The contrary, as the proposed imposition of Hindi, is implicit of majoritarianism, a sharp deviation from constitutional

principles. The most important is the idea of freedom, the essence of survival as human beings, which should not be curtailed in any manner or by any authority. People should have the liberty to learn whatever language they wish to learn, and correspondingly, the laws that must govern them must be a law that best serves them, uninfluenced by the majority but stemming from fundamental moral and ethical values.

Nevertheless, there is no harm in learning a language, the problem with it is simply the nature of imposition. From a psychological perspective, it is natural that humans don't like being forced to do something but they respond better to reason and rationality. Similarly, from a humanistic perspective, every person should be entitled to the liberty of conscience -the freedom of choice and the freedom of expression. Such should now be the essence of governance where rationality and humanity take the central role and not shallow and narrow ideas as majoritarianism. That being the case, one must always remember that there is no pride to hold in the suppression and oppression of others as many extremists now do. There is no reason for force and violence in the name of religion that often leads to chaos and destruction and the loss of lives. There is no reason at all and which is why the founding fathers of our great country had shaped the country differently, entailing all humane values as the essence of the constitution against oppressive policies as the idea of majoritarianism which must be condemned at all cost.

(The writer is a freelancer and theologian based in Kangguli)

When lemons are luxury, hill travel seems cool

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



As the summer is increasing, the desire to tour in the mountains intensifies. This is the reason that hill stations are buzzing with tourists at this time. In such a situa-

tion, there is a demand for lemon water, but the rate of lemons has reached the maximum level. What happened last year was the cyclone that caused huge damage to lime cultivation in Gujarat and Maharashtra. To avoid further losses, farmers did not put as much emphasis on the cultivation of lemons, because sales were down during the Covid pandemic. Meanwhile, Russia attacked Ukraine and petrol and diesel prices went up. As a result, the yield of lemons decreased and the cost increased. The result is that lemons are being sold at the rate of Rs 350 to Rs 450 per kg in the open markets. The prices of lemons will now come down only when new batches of the crop start arriving. Whatever be the future, the tourism industry is happy that the season has arrived to make up for the losses of the last two years.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has said that the present time can be called the golden period of tourism in Kashmir. In the last few months, more than 8 million tourists have reached J&K to visit the valley. For the first time in 20 years this has happened. Currently 3500 Shikaras are serving tourists in Dal Lake. There has been a rapid increase in tourist movement in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand as well. According to an estimate, more than 30,000 tourists are arriving in Himachal Pradesh every day. Most of the tourists visiting Himachal are from Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kolkata and Chennai. However, this time fewer tourists have arrived from Gujarat than before. About 1.5 lakh tourists have arrived in Shimla in the last seven days. Even in Manali, 10,000 tourists are arriving every day. Room occupancy in Shimla hotels is currently running at 30 percent. Hoteliers expect that the month of May will be good for tourism. Similarly, hotels and roads in Mussoorie and Nainital are also seen full of tourists.

Meanwhile, the Ukraine war turned out to be a big trouble for the youth who wished to study abroad. With the efforts of the Government of India, more than 20,000 Indian students were safely evacuated from the land of bombs and missiles. But their studies hang in the balance. However, the government is pondering how to further the education of these evacuated youth. The final year medical students are more worried about their degree and future. For them, good news has arrived from Ukraine. The government of war-stricken Ukraine has promised to award degrees to the final year medical students so that their years of hard work do not go to waste. The Dean of Kharkiv University has said in a letter sent to the students of MBBS final year that - "We may not live, but before we die, we are trying to give you degree to you. The soft copy of the degree will be sent to the agents." If this happens, it would be a truly lifesaving step.



By-Vijay Garg

The success of any country's education policy depends on the ability, capability and training of teachers. In the new education policy, there has been talk of arrangements for training of teachers, but the real question is when will the governments of the Hindi state make education a priority and permanent appointment of trained teachers in proportion to the children and the lack of basic facilities in the school.

This incident of Pasiyapura School in Rampur Svar area of Uttar Pradesh may seem ordinary amid reports of horrific violence every now and then. But on in-depth analysis-analysis, it can be easily understood that such incidents are the foundation of a constantly violent society. Recently, when the headmaster reached the school in the morning to conduct the examination of the children in the school of Pasiyapura village of Rampur, Saidnagar development block Svar area in Uttar Pradesh, by that time the assistant teacher had not reached the school.

Before this case of assault reached the police, the education department became active. Many teachers from Svar reached the school to make a compromise. Panchayat held in school. Teachers, village headmen and dozens of villagers participated in the panchayat. It was decided in the agreement that the headmaster would hold the teacher's feet in the filled panchayat and apologize. While fulfilling the order, the headmaster grabbed the teacher's feet and started pleading. But the teacher was not ready to

forgive and she only agreed when she was allowed to hit two shoes instead of two slaps. The teacher avenged her slap by hitting her with a shoe. On the information of someone, the police reached the village and investigated it, but the panchayat returned it to the police saying that the matter of agreement.

If we go deep into the reasons behind this quarrel, it will be known that this is not just a normal quarrel between two teachers, but is a direct result of the policies and flaws of the government's education system. Most of the primary to secondary schools of Hindi state, especially UP, Bihar, Jharkhand will get only one or two teachers. From the education of the entire school to the arrangement and distribution of children's mid-day meals, children's books, clothes, distribution of grant schemes related to them, apart from the distribution of government-imposed electoral rolls, elections, animal census to census, altogether thirteen there is a long list of types of government functions that have been imposed on them. He has to do this in any case to save the hard-to-find job.

UNESCO has presented a very worrying picture on the education front in India in its report titled 'State of Education in India 2021- No Teacher, No Classroom'. According to this, there is a shortage of one million teachers in the schools of the country. Not only this, thirty percent of the teachers who are there now will retire in the next five years. There are eleven lakh schools in India where there is only one teacher. Nineteen percent of the posts of teachers in the schools of the country are lying vacant. Their number is 11.16 lakh. The situation is even worse in rural areas, where up to seventy nine percent of the posts are vacant.

The UNESCO report states that the Hindi region of the country has the least number of teachers. These include states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar

and Madhya Pradesh. There are maximum vacancies of teachers here. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have more than one lakh vacancies, which is the highest in the country. In rural areas, 60% of the seats are vacant. In this case, UP is at the top. If we look at the situation of teachers in Hindi regions, most of the primary and secondary schools will get contract or contract teachers.

At the time of elections, our state governments implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission to please their employees on the one hand and on the other do not recruit new teachers. Digvijay Singh had been Minister of Madhya Pradesh, but one experiment which was taken up by all the governments was the appointment of Shiksha Mitras or teachers on contract. These teachers neither had anything to do with education for many years before their appointment, nor any arrangement for their proper training.

The governments handed over their children to the teachers appointed on the salary of ten-fifteen thousand on the basis of luck and the governments got rid of the expenditure on the teachers' salaries. As a result, private schools were opened from every town-city to metropolis and those who were able to send their children came under their shelter. Poor malnourished children are going to government schools to feed their hunger with khichdi-porridge and to increase the literacy rate.

To become a teacher in the new education policy 2020, a four-year course of BEd is recommended. Till now it was a two year course. Now after class XII, there will be a four-year course. Secondly, teachers should be familiar with the social and cultural environment of the school in which they teach. Talented students from villages will be attracted to become teachers in order to end the shortage of teachers from rural schools and to provide employment to the educated youth of the villages nearby. They will also be given a scholarship to pursue a four-year

B.Ed course after class XII. In the new education policy, there has been talk of arrangement of training for teachers from time to time.

The success of any country's education policy depends on the ability, capability and training of teachers. In the new education policy, there has been talk of arrangements for training of teachers, but the real question is when will the governments of the Hindi state make education a priority and permanent appointment of trained teachers in proportion to the children and the lack of basic facilities in the school. Will remove Today, in government schools, teachers behave violently under work pressure and stress, even though it is wrong, it cannot be considered unnatural. Most of the government schools in Hindi state are engaged in increasing the literacy rate, not only education. How can one expect quality value education from such education.

A qualified or ideal teacher through his efforts infuses such creative energy in the children, which makes them advanced and progressive. What will be the future of a society in which the headmaster and the teacher of the school slap each other in front of the students and hit and retaliate with shoes and have to apologize publicly? What will be the effect of these violent incidents on the soft mind of innocent children? After all, with what motto will those teachers teach the lesson of non-violence to the children? Even if they get it done immediately, will it have any effect on those children? Today, when we are seeing naked displays of violence everywhere, such violent and indecent behavior of teachers is also a big part of it. Governments should now think seriously about quality and value-based education along with ration and mid-day meals, so that only qualified, educated, trained and meritorious teachers become teachers, so that along with our young people, the future of the country and society can be improved. Can you??

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Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'Helina' successfully flight tested

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, April 12:

Indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'Helina' was successfully flight tested at high-altitude ranges as part of user validation trials at Pokhran in Rajasthan on April 11, Monday.

The flight test was jointly conducted by the teams of scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Army, and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The flight trials were conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and the missile was fired successfully engaging a simulated tank target. The missile is guided by an Imaging Infra-Red (IRR) Seeker operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode. It is one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in



The Indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'Helina' was successfully flight tested on Monday.

the world.

In continuation to validation trials, this proof of efficacy at high altitudes paves the way for its integration into the ALH. The trials were witnessed by senior Army commanders and senior scientists of the DRDO, an official statement said.

Helina has a maximum range of seven km and has been de-

signed and developed for integration on the weaponized version of the ALH. The Helina missile system has all-weather, day, and night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armour as well as explosive reactive armour. It has been developed for integration with choppers in both the Army and the Air Force.

It can engage targets in both indirect hit mode as well as top attack mode. In the top attack mode, the missile is required to climb sharply after launch and travel at a certain altitude, and then plunge to the top of the target. In the direct hit mode, the missile travels at a lower altitude, directly striking the target.

Helina has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad under the Missiles and Strategic Systems (MSS) cluster of the DRDO.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the Indian Army for the maiden achievement through joint work. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, and Chairman DRDO Dr. G Satheesh Reddy also congratulated the teams for the commendable job performed in difficult conditions.

State Handloom Expo concluded



IT News
Imphal, April 12:

The 14 days long state Handloom Expo, 2021-2022 that has been organizing from 28th March, 2022 has been concluded today with a formal closing function organized at the Manipur State Parishad Complex near, Gandhi Maidan, Silchar, Assam. The Handloom Expo was organized by the Manipur Apex Handloom

Weaver And Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd. (AWAS) under the sponsorship of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom Ministry of Textile Govt of India.

In the closing function the president of Manipur Library Association (MALA) Kangiam Chaoba Singh and S. Bhulol Singh, the Vice President of Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver And Handicrafts Artisan C.S. Ltd.

(AWAS) and The Assistance Director of Handloom and Textile, Cachar Silchar, Assam, Lalhari Singhar and also The Business Manager (AWAS) attended as the Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honour respectively. The report says that altogether 60 stalls participated during the Expo 3,43,000 foot-falls arrived at and about cloths of 1,65,350 has been sold during the expo.

India logs 796 new cases, 19 deaths

Agency
New Delhi, April 12:

India recorded 796 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,30,36,928, while the active cases dipped to 10,889, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll climbed to 5,21,710 with 19 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate remained at 98.76 per cent, the

ministry said.

A reduction of 169 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.20 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was 0.24 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,04,329, while the case fatality rate was recorded as 1.21 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 85.90 crore.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 19 new fatalities include 18 from Kerala and one from Mizoram.

A total of 5,21,710 deaths

have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,816 from Maharashtra, 68,383 from Kerala, 40,057 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,157 from Delhi, 23,499 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,200 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Assam Rifles promotes Tree Plantation in Ukhrul District

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

Somsai Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) carried out tree plantation drive in Assam Rifles Public School, Somsai

yesterday.

The plantation drive was organised to spread awareness and encourage school children about growing environmental concerns and ways to prevent it by tree plantation.

Total 110 children, 15 teachers & troops of Somsai Battalion participated in the event. The gathering was also educated about the importance of tree in maintaining the ecological equilibrium.

44 AR inaugurates Dikhuiram Water Supply Scheme

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector AR/IGAR

(East) inaugurated a water supply scheme at Dikhuiram village. The scheme encompasses a supply pipeline from perennial source to storage tank and further distribution to households in the village. The storage tank has approximate capacity of 5000 litres. The project was conceptualised and executed with joint efforts of villagers & troops of

Dikhuiram post of the battalion under Jan Bagidhari. The requirement of interim water supply had come into light during the interaction of the Commandant, 44 Assam Rifles with the locals. Consequently, the battalion took an initiative to work on sustainable water supply and an efficient water management for the village.

International News

Far Right Le Pen Is Posing A Grave Threat To President Macron In Final Round On April 24

By: Sankar Ray

Incumbent President Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron representing La République En Marche had a slight edge over the far right Marion Anne Perrine "Marine" Le Pen of National Rally in the first round of French presidential poll held on Sunday - having received 27.6 per cent and 23.4 per cent respectively. Almost neck to neck were the conservative Francois Fillon and the so-called far left Jean-Luc Antoine Pierre Mélenchon of La France Insoumise got 20 per cent and 21.9 per cent respectively. The second and final polling when the voters are to vote for either of Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen is due on April 24.

The results cement the idea that France has moved beyond

the traditional left-right divide that has dominated post-war politics, and inching towards a battle pitching anti-immigration nationalists, represented by Le Pen, against pro-European progressives who are open-minded on the issue of globalization. Small wonder, the candidate of Communist Party of France failed to receive even 3 per cent of votes reflecting the voters' chagrin towards official Marxist party in the year 2022.

Apparently, the possibility of Macron's reelection to remain in the Elysée Palace, the seat of the French President is high. But the reality seems grim as Le Pen has chances of fetching Fillon's total votes and if that happens she might edge out Macron in the final act of the poll drama. The adversarial factor for the far-right challenger Le Pen is her longtime

camaraderie with Russian President Vladimir Putin is in a disadvantageous state when the overwhelming majority of Europeans are getting increasingly hateful of the "neo-Nazi" Putin. Le Pen's cozy relations with the Kremlin and party loans from a Russian bank may act as a negative factor towards success.

However, NATO and the European Union will be on tenterhooks for two weeks after ultra-right directly challenges Macron, more so as Le Pen has triggered alarm by stating her desire to pull the EU's only nuclear power out of the alliance's integrated command structure. Her slogan is "so as to be no longer caught up in conflicts that are not ours." In the intervening fortnight, the debate on 20 April will turn into a decisive encounter where Le

Pen will leave no nerve unstrained to project a more polished image in contrast to her shaky performance confronting Macron five years ago.

If Le Pen makes it to the Elysée Palace in the second round, she will cause a potential damage to the functioning of the European Union. Her party, NR, has dropped its proposal to quit the EU, the free-movement Schengen zone and the euro. But it is very unlikely that she will give up albeit temporarily her Eurosceptic stance. She might reduce France's EU contributions and promote a coalition with rightwing regimes of Hungary and Poland. Her supporters were upbeat on Sunday chanting "We will win" and singing the Marseillaise.

Le Pen's somewhat spectacular performance is due to her

protracted campaign for months, touring villages and small towns in a low-cost campaign to reach out to the ordinary French, and her early focus on cost-of-living issues has clicked as inflation and increasing fuel costs hit French budgets. Projecting herself as a champion of the poor and the downtrodden against the elites, Le Pen promises to "give their money back to the French" with a range of generous proposals such as 'cutting income tax for young adults and slashing VAT on fuel, a measure that is bound to appeal to those who backed the Yellow Jackets protests in 2018 and 2019 against fuel taxes'. Non-Left French people seem convinced, that her economic proposals are sustainable.

Macron has a tough task of winning over Mélenchon votes. Much will now depend on which candidate can pick up the support from Jean-Luc Mélenchon on the far left, which came third in the first round with a vote of 21.9 per cent. His voters appear to be split over whom to back in the second round of voting. According to IPSOS, half of Mélenchon's voters don't have any choice between Le Pen and Macron, while the other half is split between Macron and Le Pen, with a preference for Macron. So Macron has a hardening task for two weeks. (IPA Service)

AR hosts Army Medical Corps Motorcycle Expedition



IT News
Imphal, April 12:

On the occasion of "AzadiKaAmritMahotsav" and to commemorate the 258th Raising Day of the Army Medical Corps, a motorcycle expedition is being conducted by Army Medical Corps. The motorcycle rally is covering 12 States including seven North East States of India and the team is visiting more than 75 Army & Civil medical establishments to motivate the doctors and paramedics. The expedition also aims to honor the frontline warriors in the fight against COVID who provides critical medical support in-keeping with the

ethos of "Shoulders behind Soldiers".

The expedition team comprises of eight officers and two non-commissioned officers that started from National War Memorial, Delhi and reached Mantripukhri garrison yesterday after covering a distance of nearly 2700 km.

The expedition team facilitated the Frontline Warriors at RIMS Imphal as also paid their homage to the Freedom Fighters at INA Museum, Moirang.

The expedition will cover over 10,000 km out of which 5500 km are in the beautiful jungles and mountains of North East over a span of 20 days of driving time.

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 19/08/2011 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 Chingamakhla Ningthoam Leikai, Imphal
West, Manipur

Urgently wanted

The Network of Positive People, Imphal-West (NPPIW) is looking for experience or subject qualified candidates for the post of one Project Coordinator and one Health Promoters (ORW).

Interested candidates for the said post can submit their application along with the Biodata to the office of the NPPIW located at Loklaobung, Imphal West (near Sika School) during office hour or ca whatsapp at 93663225773.

Last date for submission of the application is April 15, 2022 during Office hour.

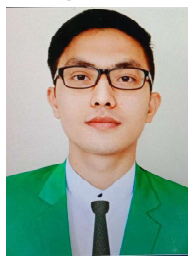
Sd/-

Elangbam Vikram Singh, President, NPPIW

Bharat Bhushan Award 2022 hand over to Nongmaithem Santa

IT News
Imphal, April 12:

The Bharat Bhushan Award 2022 is handed over to Nongmaithem Santa Singh. The Bharat Bhushan Awards 2022 is given to Shri Nongmaithem Santa Singh from Sagolotonga Makha Leikai, Imphal West. He is so-



cial worker and also Entrepreneur. The Award has memento and one certificate.

The Award is given at the function of Award Distribution Programme and it was held at Bhopal, Maharana Pratap Nagar Zone 2.

The Award is handed over to Nongmaithem Santa Singh by Dr. JK Sbramanium, Director General, NAHF and Dr. Dkamarjar, Chancellor, NAHF and also Rajeev, Bollywood Star.

Two Tourists Killed and Many Others Injured in a Cable Car Accident in Jharkhand

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 12:

At least two tourists, including a woman, died and many others were injured when some cable cars in a ropeway collided with each other at Trikuta hills close to Baidyanath Temple in Deoghar district of Jharkhand, the North Indian state, on Sunday evening.

While the woman succumbed to her injuries in the Sadar Hospital after the accident, another person reportedly died before dusk on Monday evening as he fell off the IAF helicopter when being airlifted.

32 persons were rescued from 12 cars on Monday while at least 15 others remain stranded mid-air as the joint rescue operation by the Indian Air Force (IAF), Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and the dis-

trict administration was stopped after dusk due to poor visibility on Monday evening. All tourists are safe. The food was provided to the trolleys as much as possible, though not to all trolleys, due to difficulties, ITBP PRO Vivek Pandey said.

The IAF received a request in the night on April 10, Sunday for the rescue of the stranded tourists. Acting on the request, the IAF deployed one Mi-17 and one Mi-17 V5 helicopter early in the morning on Monday. The IAF contingent also had a component of IAF Garud Commandos for the conduct of the operations. A rescue was conducted by one of the helicopters in the morning and operations began with the district administration, NDRF, and other agencies, Defence PRO Wing Commander Ratnakar

Singh said.

The names of the injured given by the Jharkhand Government were: Govind Bhokta, (Giridih, Jharkhand), Bhupendra Burman (Kokrajhar, Assam), Deepika Burman (Kokrajhar, Assam), an unidentified girl child, Rupa Kumari (9), (Karmatand, Jamtara, Jharkhand), Soni Devi (Tir Nagar, UP), Raman Kumar Srivastava, (Darbhanga, Bihar), Sudha Rani Raman Kumar Srivastava ((Darbhanga, Bihar), Khusbu Rani Ramankumar Srivastava ((Darbhanga, Bihar).

Around 766-metres long Trikuta Ropeway, is stated to be the highest vertical ropeway with a maximum lens angle of 44 degrees. The Trikuta hill is 392-metre high. There are 25 cabins in the ropeway, with each cabin having a capacity of carrying four passengers.

Contd. from Page 1

Manipur MP Dr Lorho S. Pfoze opposes imposition of Hindi.....

Dr. Lorho however stated that Hindi is a beautiful and rich language and has become a widely used means of communication the world over. Therefore, learning the language is undoubtedly important. However, imposition of any sort always creates a negative attitude towards a gesture. Imposing Hindi upon NE India at the moment will only compound the learning burden on NE stu-

dents. As of now, learning the ethnic language - mother tongue in the primary level education is basic. Learning of the State language — in the case of Manipur, the Manipuri language is also compulsory. Hence, compulsory learning of Hindi till Class X on top of two other languages is like deliberately awarding a curriculum disadvantage to NE students in comparison to students whose

ethnic language is Hindi.

Dr Lorho S. Pfoze said that making Hindi a compulsory subject in the NE States in school education is ill advised and too hasty, which is why a lot of disgruntlement and objections amongst the various Student Organizations have arisen. While, already some Governments of the Southern States have registered objection to the move of the Central Government.

The imposition is only going to cause a further sense of alienation to the people of North East India, Dr Lorho S. Pfoze added.

He appealed the authority and the Home Minister not to impose compulsory learning of Hindi so suddenly but instead create an atmosphere of ease and pleasure to learning Hindi as an optional subject in the North East, especially in my State of Manipur.

TSA rubbishes KSO Moltam Block; demand suspension.....

That, Lethogin Haokip had misused his power, unduly influence his sub-ordinate, and did not purportedly consult the concerned Revenue Department and Director, Census Operations Manipur, RG1 and MHA for further verification and clarification of location of L. Jangnomphei village. Thus, TSA decries the

claim of KSO in tire justification of the jurisdiction of L. Jangnomphei village and rendered the legal validity of EMRS to L. Jangnomphei for Sadar Hills West block.

The procedural lapse to derail the construction of EMRS for Sadar Hills was purportedly influenced by Lethogin Haokip. It discriminates against the interest of people of Sadar Hills West block and does things in contravention of established laws, rules, regulations and practices. All of this is in violation of All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968. ISA would like to elucidate the KSO and all concerned that India as a democratic nation has followed due

process of law and administrative rules/guidelines in providing any schemes/benefits, and therefore request not to further process any form of objection relating to reallocation of EIVRS in Jangnomphei village to any village in Sadar Hills West block as TSA has to voice for any administrative break-down in the government.

Critical issues on Water, Resources and Livelihood discussed in a two-day....

While delivering the Key-note, Dr Arambam Nani, Assistant Prof., D.M. University, highlighted the idea and objectives of the Seminar. Dr Nani threw up issues relating to water governance in North-east India. He explained how water governance in the region was marred by three predicaments. The Northeast was home to 34% of India's water reserve while its landmass was

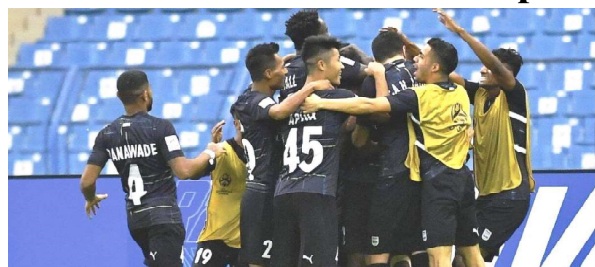
just 7%, said Dr Arambam Nani. He also underscored that access to irrigation was less than 10% in the region. The third predicament was that the region was increasingly exposed to intensive global capital affecting traditional values of conservation, economy and livelihood. Adding on to the keynote, Dr. B. Anil Kumar Sharma, Convener of the Seminar, was

of the view that the papers presented in the Seminar was almost panoramic in its scope covering wide issues of issues relating to water, resources and livelihood. There was a serious need for a region sensitive policy perspectives on the issues and publication of a compiled book on the same theme was an immense necessity, said Dr Anil.

Giving his closing remarks in the valedictory session, Kh. Jugindro Singh, Principal - Moirang College, viewed that national seminars play a significant role in bringing in diverse ideas. The seminar was attended by scholars from Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland University, Sikkim University and Mizoram University.

Sports

Mumbai City FC become the first Indian club to win in Asian Champions League



Agency
Riyadh, April 12:

Mumbai City FC scripted history on Monday night when they beat Iraqi Air Force Club 2-1 in a Group B tie at the King Fahd Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. With the win, Mumbai City FC became the first-ever Indian Club to win an Asian Champions League match. Rahul Bheke, a local Mumbai lad, sweetened the night by scoring the winner.

The three-time AFC Cup champions' Hammadi Ahmed scored first in the 59th minute before Diego Mauricio (702 pen) converted from the spot and Rahul Bheke's header in the 75th minute did the job.

Mumbai had lost their opening match to Al Shabab 0-3.

After a goalless first half, substitute Hammadi Ahmed

gave three-time AFC Cup champions Air Force Club the lead before Mumbai City rallied with goals from Mauricio and Bheke to seal the historic win at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh.

Air Force Club asserted themselves in the game from the early minutes, pinning Mumbai City deep into their own half but the Iraqi side couldn't convert their chances.

Air Force Club's Alaa Abbas was causing all sorts of problems for Mumbai City but the forward should have done better in the ninth minute when his tame effort was easily collected by goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa.

Mumbai City had their first look at goal, Ahmed Jabbar found space before setting up for Abbas' effort.

blasted his long-range effort wide.

At the other end, Air Force Club missed a chance after Abbas headed a Dhurgham Ismail delivery high above the bar before the latter tried to force his shot from a tight angle.

Hakeem Shakir's side were almost caught off guard in the 31st minute when Mumbai City's Ahmed Jahouh sent an inviting cross into the danger area but Diego Mauricio couldn't keep his headed effort on target.

The best chance of the half fell to Air Force Club in the 34th minute but Hussein Jabbar struggled to guide Ismail's effort into the back of net from close range while Chhangte was forced into a fingertip save three minutes later, denying Abbas' effort.

Vikram Singh had a golden

opportunity to put Mumbai City in front two minutes from the break but Jabbar was at the right place to foil his effort.

Air Force Club almost punished Mumbai City in the 52nd minute when Ismail dispossessed Jahouh at the top of the box before setting up Shareef Abdulkadhim, who with only the keeper to beat, sent his effort wide.

The goal finally came for Air Force Club seven minutes later when a swift attacking move deep in Mumbai City's half saw the Iraqi side take the lead after Ahmad coolly nestled the ball into the back of the net from inside the six-yard-box.

Mumbai City, however, were not to be denied when they were awarded a penalty in the 70th minute following Ali Kadhim's foul on Mauricio, with the Brazilian making no mistake to convert from the spot.

The equaliser proved to be a turning point in the game as Bheke doubled Mumbai City's lead, heading home a textbook corner from Jahouh to seal the game and a historic first three points.

Mumbai City will aim to build on the win when they play UAE's Al Jazira on Thursday while Air Force Club will be hoping to bounce back against Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab FC.



Agency
Navi Mumbai, April 12:

Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Gujarat Titans by eight wickets in their IPL game here on Monday.

The Sunrisers chased down the target of 163 with five balls to spare with captain Kane Williamson top-scoring with a 57 while Nicholas Pooran remained not out on 34.

Young Abhishek Sharma made 42 at the top of the order before retiring hurt.

For the Titans, Hardik Pandya and Rashid Khan top a wicket each.

Earlier, captain Pandya top-scored for the Titans with a 42-ball 50 not out while Abhinav Manohar chipped in with 35.

For SRH, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and T Natarajan took two wickets apiece while Marco Jansen and Umran Malik got one each.

Brief Scores: Gujarat Titans: 162 for 7 in 20 overs (Hardik Pandya 50 not out, Abhinav Manohar 35;



Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2/37, T Natarajan 2/34.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: 168 for 2 in 19.1 overs (Kane Williamson 57, Abhishek Sharma 42, Nicholas Pooran 34 not out; Hardik Pandya 1/27)

Name Change

I, the undersigned, **Bliss Angom** do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Angom Babli Devi** as I have assumed my new name **Bliss Angom**.

Sd/-

Bliss Angom

Lalambung Makhong
Takhellamb Leikai,
Imphal West, Manipur