

## Governor inaugurates Dental College Block at New Campus & New Modular Operation Theatre in RIMS

*RIMS has become the pride of North East: Governor*

IT News  
Imphal, August 01:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan today inaugurated Dental College Block at New Campus and New Modular Operation Theatre in Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS). Governor also interacted with faculty members and representatives of non-teaching staffs of RIMS and heard issues faced by them and assured them to look after their issues.

After the inauguration, speaking at the gathering at Jubilee Hall, Governor said RIMS has become the pride of North East and it is the only Medical College from the entire North East to figure amongst the top 50 Medical Institutions of India in the last four years continuously in NRF ranking, released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. He said, doctors, nurses and all staff of RIMS worked very hard during COVID-19 pandemic and saved hundreds of life in Manipur.

Governor further said that dental education occupies a place of pride in the field of medical studies. The basic aim of the dental colleges is to provide health-oriented courses that emphasize the prevention of oral disease. As dentistry offers a satisfying, rewarding and lucrative career, it has become the subject of choice for aspiring professionals of tomorrow. La. Ganesan stated that in the



past decade many new dental colleges have been established and still there is immense scope for Dental Surgeons in view of the high incidence of dental problems. There is one dentist on a population of approximately 26,000 in the urban areas, and one on a population of 3 lakh in rural areas. India has more than 250 Dental Institutions, producing 15,000 to 20,000 BDS graduates every year. The mission of these institutes is to educate and impart knowledge to its students, train them in the clinics and thereby render good service and care to the patients. He also exuded confidence that the Dental College in RIMS should also work and provide quality treatment to the patients. Governor also thanked the faculty members and

asked them to continue their efforts to make RIMS, a best Institute in the country.

Governor appealed the gathering particularly to the youngsters to work as responsible citizens for a better future of the nation. He also asked them to inculcate sense of patriotism in all aspects of life. He continued that as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav, let us hoist our National Flag in our residences, work places etc. and sing national song to show our respect to the freedom fighters for their sacrifices they have rendered for our motherland, he added.

Professor A. Santa Singh, Director, RIMS also spoke on the series of development in infrastructures and academic front in the Institute. Medical

Superintendent, RIMS, Principal, Dental College, faculty members and students attended the inaugural function.

Prof A Santa stated that RIMS has changed significantly, highlighting that CT scans are now Rs 1500, MRIs are Rs 3500, Laparoscopy operations are Rs 10000 to Rs 2500, Lithotripsy is Rs 10000 to Rs 4700, tests for inpatients are free, and ECG, USG, and X-ray are now free. The Director further stated that the computerization of reports is delivered through online now. RIMS may soon become an Institute of National Importance (INI). The Director further stated that a few months back, the Governor inaugurated two 10-kilolitre (KL) liquid medical oxygen (LMO) plants at RIMS.

## Sangai Heritage Park at Moirang Khunou in the larger interest of the State: Chief Minister

IT News  
Imphal, August 1:

Leader of the House and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has informed the Manipur Legislative Assembly today that the decision for setting up of Sangai Ethnic Heritage Park at Moirang Khunou area was taken in the larger interest of the people of the State. He was replying to a calling attention moved by K. Ranjit Singh, MLA on the reported protest and apprehension of the general public on the government's decision to shift the site for construction of the park.

Chief Minister said the committee constituted for the project visited Keibul Lamjao repeatedly and enquired on the feasibility of setting up of the park. He said as per the recommendation of the committee that the area at Keibul Lamjao where the park is to be set up is not proportionate to

accommodate the structures such as 34 different houses of the ethnic tribes, conference hall, parking lot etc. Also there are chances of disturbing the natural habitat of Sangai, the decision was taken to set up the park at Moirang Khunou which is not far from Keibul Lamjao National Park. He said that he has already talked with the agitating people and informed that appropriate arrangements suitable with the area of Keibul Lamjao will be made.

### QUESTIONS:

Replying to a question raised by K. Ranjit Singh, Chief Minister said that consideration is on to lift the prohibition of foreign liquor in the state. He said once the prohibition is lifted and legalized its selling, around Rs. 600-700 crores annually will be added to the state income. Chief Minister further said that the Manipur Liquor Prohibition (2nd Amendment) Bill 2018 was intro-

duced in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly to take steps for improving the quality of locally brewed liquor for export purposes. Although the Bill has lapsed, consideration is on to take further steps.

Education Minister Th. Basantakumar Singh replying to a question raised by Md. Achab Uddin said that 154 students have been enrolled to Lantingkhah High School in Jiribam District. He said 6 (six) teachers have been engaged in teaching in the school under Zonal Education Office, Jiribam. Minister Basantakumar Singh while replying to another question raised by L.M. Khaute, MLA said that Education Department is planning to introduce MA, M.Sc, BCA etc. in Churachandpur College and Lamka College in the near future. He said all 39 government colleges of Manipur have Wi-Fi provisions.

contd. on page 4

## Massive fire at CID office Imphal, burnt to ashes



IT News  
Imphal, August 01:

A massive fire broke out at the office of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Manipur Police around 2 AM, and eight other tenders were used to control the fire. On receiving the information, fire tenders immediately rushed to the spot and doused the fire. However, the exact details are

yet to be ascertained. But, it was suspected that the fire could have started from a short circuit.

Meanwhile, precautionary measures have been initiated at the Imphal West Police Station, Manipur Rifles, Imphal Secretariat and BSNL Office.

As per officials of the Manipur Fire Service, the fire was completely under control. While, documents, office ma-

terials stored at the CID office were gutted by the massive fire.

Meanwhile, chief minister N Biren Singh gave the fire incident report at the ongoing second session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on Monday.

An FIR has been registered with regard to the fire incident for further investigation, CM Biren Singh told the House.

## DEO Imphal West and Thoubal launched campaign to link Voter ID with Aadhaar cards

IT News  
Imphal, August 01:

The District Election Officer, DC, Imphal West District launched the campaign for collection of Aadhaar numbers from the exiting electors and citizens seeking registration in electoral rolls in respect of Imphal West District today at the Kombirei Hall, DC office Complex, Lamphel. Around 100 people, including Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of the District, represen-

tatives of Political Parties operating within the Districts, Booth Level Officers, various election functionaries, and representatives of print and electronic media, attended the launching programme.

S Padmapati, election registration officer of 16-Sekmai and 17-Lamsang Assembly constituencies delivered a lecture on various amendments in election act, rule and subsequent changes. She also emphasized on the importance of the campaign. Dr Md Imran Khan, Electoral Registration Officer of 9-Thangmelband

and 11-Sagolband Assembly Constituencies, spoke on the various platforms for Aadhaar linking and methodologies involved. He also clarified and deliberated on various queries raised by the political parties and other officials present at the launching function.

Speaking on the occasion Th. Kirankumar, District Election Officer, DC, Imphal West, appealed to all the electors and citizens of Imphal West to link their Aadhaar numbers with the electoral database voluntarily through various online and

offline channels. The District Electoral Officer, DC, Imphal West also sought the co-operation of all political parties, clubs, organisations, and media fraternity for creating maximum awareness of the campaign so that the exercise can be completed in a time-bound manner.

The launching programme at district level was followed by launching programmes at Electoral Registration Officer level by EROs of all the 13 Assembly Constituencies of Imphal West District.

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## Manipur Tourism holds 'Visit Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 Roadshow in Bangkok'

IT News  
Bangkok, August 1:

The Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur along with the Tourism Corporation of Manipur Ltd (TCML) organised a roadshow at Central World Shopping Plaza, Bangkok to promote the Manipur Sangai Festival during the North East India Festival held here from 29th-31st, July, 2022.

The festival saw performances of various artists from Manipur including the famous Rhythms of Manipur, SIYOM- an experimental folk based musical ensemble and a fashion show parade by Robert Naoem showcasing Manipur's handloom products.

The officials from Manipur Tourism comprising of W. Romen Singh,



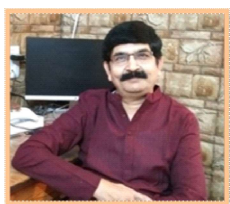
Asst. Director (Tourism), Manipur and Bidyananda Hanjabam, Manager (PR & Events), Tourism Corporation of Manipur Ltd. shared information about the upcoming Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 and various tourist attractions of the state with potential travellers of Thailand to Manipur.

"The road show will help strengthen and increase inbound travel to Manipur

from Thailand. It will also enhance the marketing efforts of Manipur Tourism to promote the Manipur Sangai Festival to travellers in the kingdom of Thailand" said W. Romen Singh, Asst. Director (Tourism), Manipur.

The event witnessed participation of over 13 tour operators from North Eastern states and over a hundred tour operators and agents from Thailand.

## Do not misuse Freedom of Speech ?



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Freedom of speech is being grossly misused these days and nobody cares about the adverse impact it can leave. The ideology of freedom of speech and expression is not to build up hatred against each other which we are witnessing today. There are countless examples where the right to free speech has been used to sow division, hate, or confusion. There is no doubt that the Freedom of Speech is one of the greatest human rights any person can have and yet it is also one of the greatest to be trampled on in the world today. Don't we think that freedom of speech is a beautiful thing; a great human right? But it is also dangerous and we need to use it with responsibility.

The Union Minister has rightly said that at a time the entire country is rejoicing at the selection of a self-made woman from a tribal background as the President. The conduct of the opposition is an "insult" to Parliament and the Constitution. Sonia Gandhi has appointed Chowdhury as the leader in Lok Sabha to speak and he has insulted the President of India. Sonia Gandhi should come before the nation and apologise to the Rashtrapati and also to the entire country for the insult by her own leader in Lok Sabha. A tribal woman from a poor family who created history is being continuously demeaned by the Congress. Why? Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has sparked a massive controversy by calling President Draupadi Murmu "Rashtrapatni". He himself has admitted that it was his "mistake" then why he was refusing to apologise. In fact, he said that the ruling party is trying to make mountain out of a molehill. It is nice that now the congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has apologised to President Draupadi Murmu and stated that he had mistakenly used an incorrect word to describe the post she held.

The Supreme Court had a stern message for political leaders and stated that that one should not insult top constitutional functionaries just because they are not from your political party. People must show respect to our President of India and all top leaders. People should speak with responsibility and not misuse the freedom of speech. Celebrities, politicians, authors, and the general public, are exposed to cruel and perverted individuals who believe that they can say whatever they want, whenever they want to say it no matter what the consequences may be.

"Chalta Hai" attitude towards such mud-slinging, in fact, encourages others too, to indulge in this dirty game. This mud-slinging game has taken away very spirit of democracy. Our Constitution while granting the fundamental right of the freedom of expression under Article 19, deliberately did not spell out what would be the exceptions because the makers had full faith in the wisdom of the people, the politicians included. Freedom of speech and expression is a shadow of a common man that follows it from birth. It can also be termed as a birthright of any individual. Since childhood, we are taught as to what to speak and what not in front of others.

The Indian Penal Code (IPC) provides suitable punishment for all such offences like abusing, insulting, annoying, defaming and criminally intimidating a person. Further, laws under civil court's jurisdiction also provide for damages, compensation etc. The courts in India have quite often shown their serious concern to uphold the privacy and personal dignity of the people and punished severely the offenders.

What we need is to think before speaking; before typing. We need to show empathy, see past what we disagree with and not hide behind our online profile. The right to free speech *does* mean that people will say unpleasant things. Those who argue for strong human rights protections need to acknowledge and own this fact.

## Overcoming the urge to do nothing

By: Switzsana Soibam

Being lazy is not too rare of a problem. A person is being lazy if he or she is able to carry out some activity that he ought to carry out, but doesn't do so because of the effort involved. A big issue with a lot of Indian students (including me) is laziness or having very little motivation to perform our duties sincerely as students.

Throughout my school life, I have always procrastinated when it came to studying for exams or doing homework, which is a very common habit that most of my classmates also shared. Procrastination is the act of delaying or putting off work until the very last minute. Now that my school life has come to an end, I have the pleasure to contemplate about all those dreadful years I spent stressing over my final exams yet studying at the very last hours before the exams. To be frank, procrastinating has never proven to be a successful way of getting things done for me. When I talk to my friends about it, they also agree as they had very similar experiences.

Although, procrastination and laziness are different things, I believe that procrastinating is a product of laziness. By discussing the similar experiences with my friends, I was able to identify some problems that I wanted to write about.

The first and the main problem is a lack of motivation. We all come across things that make us lose motivation to do things. It could be any problem like failing to achieve the scores you were aiming for on your test, getting yelled at by your parents for not being "student-like", or just simply being tired all the time. I remember in class 10, when our Math teacher was giving the whole class a lecture for being unruly. I can't recall everything he said, mostly because I slept through the whole 30 minute lecture about his life. However, there is this line he said which, for some reason I can't forget "if you have no aim in life, your life is over". Maybe the reason I remember it so clearly is because it sounded so outrageous, "why can't I just enjoy my life without worrying about the future?" I thought.

Thinking back, he was right, having no particular aim in life gave me no motivation to achieve anything big in my life. I cared very little about school even though it was very important for me. Participating in various competitions like sports, debates, public speech etc. didn't appeal to me at all. However, these activities are an important part of a student's life as it develops our personality.

The second problem is lacking self-esteem. According to the NEET UG statistics, 17-18 lakh students are expected to appear for

the NEET exam in 2022. The number of seats offered by NEET UG are 91415 for MBBS and 26,946 for BDS, which means less than 10% of students will get to study the course of their choice. The situation is similar for IIT JEE exams where every year around 11 lakh students appear for approximately 11 thousand seats in all IITs. Numbers like these indicate how tough the competition is. Students have to sacrifice a lot just to get a decent college. Right after the class 10 exams, most students who choose the science stream have to start sacrificing everything to dedicate all their time to prepare for these exams. In order to ace these exams, students cannot lack self-esteem as it can hamper their preparations.

Having low self-esteem is common in teenage years as we spend a lot of time worrying about our insecurities. Lacking self-esteem can make us feel alienated which can turn into a habit of avoiding any challenging tasks. This habit leads to laziness as our life becomes monotonous. Speaking from personal experience, having supportive friends and teachers who don't let you feel low and insecure is a great way to stay motivated.

Another big problem is dealing with distractions. Today's students have distractions all around

them as technologies advances. The internet maybe a helpful tool for students but it is also very distracting. Funny memes and videos, movies and web shows, video games etc. are just a few clicks away. When such entertainment is in the palm of our hands, it creates this cycle of wanting to do something productive but not doing so because we are too comfortable with our phones, hence, we become lazy.

When we lack motivation, self-esteem and surrounded by distractions, becoming productive again seems like an impossible task to do. But, most of us are not alone, we can always seek help and we shouldn't be afraid to ask for it.

To deal with such problems, we can also read about it. There are hundreds of books and articles on how to tackle laziness. We can even use our phones to our advantage, by listening to various leaders and public speakers for motivation and life advice. When we begin to do something new or productive, it is easy to give up and fall back into our comfort zone. But it has to start somewhere, however insignificant the task may feel at the moment; like reading one page of a 500 page book every day or putting your phone down for just an hour. When done every day, they become habits and you'll find yourself becoming more productive.

## The untold story of Koubru Mountain



By: Dhiphi Prinmai

The Indigenous Liangmai people were the first settlers on the Koubru Mountain. According to historical chronology, the Liangmai indigenous settlement on the Koubru

Range after the Exodus of Makuiuangdi Charanam. The Liangmai people were the first to settle around the Koubru Mountain range. According to the indigenous Liangmai folktales, their patriarch, Mr. Nguiba, the king of Makuiuangdi (the cradle of the Zeliangrong civilization) had two sons, the elder son born to his second wife and the younger son born to his first wife because of which there was a dispute as to who between his two sons should be made the rightful heir. As per this folklore, Nguiba sought the help of his brother, Makingh/Makieng who was settled at the foothills of Koubru to arbitrate the issue of the rightful heir between his sons. The descendants of Makingh/Makieng became known as Makimai, people of Makingh/Makieng who today are known as Meiteis in the valley. As legend says about two brothers; one who migrated to Valley and Liangmai remained on Koubru Mountain.

During those days Manipur valley was filled with water. In course of time water level decreased and the valley dried up. The first place which dried up was called Kangla (Dry land) and the younger brother (Meitei/Makieng) & his descendants migrated from Koubru mountain and began to settle down at Kangla. According to folktales, Kangla was the first area of settlement for Makieng (Meitei) and his descendants. Hence till today, the Liangmai call valley as Makidi, the land of Makingh/Makieng. Liangmai and the Meiteis still observed this bond of brotherhood known as Mera Houchongba/Mera Waayungba/Mera Thomei Thaanba as a mark of remembrance which falls every year on the 15th lunar day of Mera Month of the Meitei calendar.

History tells us that Lord Koubru had the power to breathe flames of fire before he came out his abode. Young children especially boys were restrained from coming out from

their homes, fearing from being burnt by the flames breathed out by lord Koubru. There are many stories told about lord Koubru by every Liangmai village located around the Koubru Mountain.

Many thousand years ago Lord Koubru had taken a maiden name Wimarani Abonmai D/O Charangamou Abonmai from Makhan village as his wife. Hence, the Makhan villagers used to invoke the blessings of Wimarani who had turned herself into a powerful deity. Wimarani is reverently known to the people of Sekmai as Ranu and every year during the Lai-Haraoba festival of Sekmai, phanek (Mekhela) is offered as a ritual to Wimarani. A lady by the name of Ms Namsipili who passed away in 2011 at the age of 100, used to weave this special phanek (Mekhela).

Another interesting story of lord Koubru is that he used to come down to Makui village to play Kangdrum (the ball) Sagol kangjei (traditional hockey). Lord Koubru was said to be fascinated by the beauty of the place that he proposed to build a house for himself, but his request was turned down by the village elders of Makui on the ground that, since he had already married a woman from Makhan village it would be better for him to live on the peak of Koubru mountain so that he could watch every activity that took place both at his backyard and front yard from a vantage point, the present sacred site.

The entire Koubru Mountain Range is important to the Liangmai people not only because of it being our ancestral land but also as our ancestors revered and worshipped the sacred Koubru as the abode of Koubo-Ra, the Lord of Koubru Mountain. The rich history, culture and legends of the indigenous Liangmai are inextricably connected with the Koubru Mountain.

There are over 33 age old original villages of the indigenous Liangmai surrounding the

Koubru Mountain. The ancient indigenous Liangmai villages which surround the Koubru Mountain are still intact with clear and distinct boundaries with one another. There is still many monumental evidences to prove the settlement of our forefathers on the Koubru Mountain. The Liangmai villages settled around the Koubru Mountain have well defined and well demarcated village boundaries with one another clearly marked by permanent features such as hills, ridges, rivers, streams and other permanent landmarks. In the territories of Liangmai there is no vacant land or no man's land; rather every land, rivers, streams, valleys, falls, hillocks, etc. are with names and every land has its owner except the community land.

It is foremost to mention that after the independence of India by means of their aggressive land grabbing policy they vigorously evicted the following Liangmai villages in and around Koubru Mountain Ranges.

The names of old settlements abandoned by Liangmais are now resettled by new communities. Some of the villages are: Puilong (then) - Chawla (now), Kasanlong (then) - Gelnal (now), Nbumai (then) - Waichong (now), Nongmai (then) - Kotlen (now), Zailong (then) - Changoung (now), Ailing - Songtun Ganong (then) - Mouhing (now), pengjeng (then) - Haipi (now), Karalong (then) P. Moulding (now). At present, the kukis are inhabiting the places once settled by the Liangmais. The displaced people were later accommodated in various Liangmai villages.

It is worth mentioning that the newer communities settling in the Koubru mountain ranges are too aware that the Liangmais have always been the original inhabitants and their history, legal rights documents witness their old age Liangmai ancestral land.

(The Freelancer can be reach at dhiphi2329@gmail.com)

## Growing scope of Genetic Medicine and Stem Cell Research



Vijay GarG

advanced stem cell research.

The field of genetic medicine comprises many areas, including the clinical practice of physicians, genetic counsellors and nutritionists, clinical diagnostic laboratory activities, and research into the causes and inheritance of genetic disorders. Simply put, it incorporates areas such as gene therapy, personalised medicine, and the rapidly emerging new medical speciality, including predictive medicine.

### Stem cell therapy

Stem cells are basically adaptable and versatile cells in one's body that are capable of complex actions, unlike conventional medication. These cells exist both in embryos and adult cells and can differentiate into any cell of an organism with the ability of self-renewal. Stem cell therapy uses these cells to treat or prevent a disease or condition. Also known as regenerative medicine, it promotes the repair response of diseased, dysfunctional or injured tissue using stem cells or their derivatives.

### Career prospects

Amid a prevailing global healthcare crisis, stem cell research and genetic medicine have given us hope. The former was — and continues to be — an integral part of research conducted to treat COVID-19 symptoms, and genome sequencing has been extensively employed globally to analyse mutations and variations of the virus. In the coming years, the industry is only expected to grow.

Also, there is a general misconception that only people with medical education can take up jobs in these fields. This is not completely true because students who have studied Biology, B.Sc. graduates with at least one subject of the Biological Sciences, MBBS, B.Pharm, B.D.S., B.V.Sc. or B.E. Biotechnology students are eligible too.

Possible career options include Clinical geneticist, Genetic Counsellor, Clinical Researcher, Research Scientist, Biochemical Diagnostics Professional, Biomedical Research Assistant, Biomedical Technician, Cancer Research Scientist, Biomedical Engineer, Molecular Genetics Professional, Laboratory Technician, and Laboratory Director.

Various career paths are available in the field of Genetic Medicine and Stem Cell Research

The fields of Genetic Medicine and Stem Cell Research provide ample career opportunities.

Among the various streams of science and medicine that have evolved with time, stem cell research and genetic medicine have risen as top contenders for various path-breaking discoveries. The treatment of more than 1,800 known monogenic hereditary disorders today, depends on the development of genetic medicines coupled with

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# India records 16,464 Covid cases, 24 fatalities in a day

Agency  
New Delhi, August 01:

India added 16,464 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,40,36,275, while the active cases increased to 1,43,989, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The death toll climbed to 5,26,396 with 24 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.33 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.48 per cent, the health ministry said.

An increase of 313 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 6.01 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was at 4.80 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,33,65,890 while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.20 per cent.

According to the ministry, 204.34 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

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.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 6.01 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was at 4.80 per cent, according to the health bulletin.

So far, more than 2 billion vaccine doses have been administered under the ongoing nationwide Covid vaccination campaign. As many as 8,34,167 vaccine doses were administered and 2,73,888 tests were conducted over the past day, as per the government data.

# Sanjay Raut arrested, to be produced in Court on Monday



The Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut waving to crowd before proceeding to the ED office in South Mumbai.

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, August 01:

The Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut was arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a Patra Chawl scam on Sunday midnight under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and he will be produced in court on Monday.

Raut was taken into ED custody and was shown as arrested under the PMLA on Sunday at midnight. The ED officers, who reached his Maitree Bungalow at Bhandup in North East Mumbai, accompanied by CRPF and local police, early Sunday morning, searched all three floors and collected some documents, and seized the cash of Rs 11.50 lakh.

While the raid was going on, the Shiv Sena workers gathered in large numbers and sat on a dharna and raised slogans outside the Maitree Bungalow saying that they will not allow the ED to take away Raut. Eventually, the police rounded up some of the workers.

Shortly after ED began searches of his residence, Sanjay Raut tweeted that he would die but will never leave Shiv Sena.

While Raut was being taken away to the ED office at Ballard Pier in South Mumbai, his family members, including his wife Varsha, his mother Savita, and daughter Vidhita got emotional and were seen sobbing. Mother Savita performed aarti of Sanjay, while he hugged her before departing.

Sanjay's brother MLA Sunil Raut said that out of Rs 11.50 lakh seized, Rs 10 lakh belonged to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "The arrest of my brother Sanjay has been made only to suppress his voice. Whatever money (Rs 10 lakh) was received was for the visit of Shiv Sainiks to Ram Temple in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh). On the parcel containing money, it has been clearly written that 'Eknath Shinde Ayodhya Yatra. With the help of fake documents, efforts are being made to link my brother with the Patra Chawl scam' he said.

At the same time, senior ED officers also reached Mumbai from Delhi late Sunday night.

Sanjay Raut appeared before ED on July 01. Thereafter ED sent two summons to him but he did not attend the ED office citing his engagement with the ongoing Parliament session.

Outside the ED office on Sunday evening Sanjay Raut had told the media that ED was wanting to arrest him and he was ready for that. He denied wrongdoings and alleged that he was being harassed due to political vendetta.

**Patra chawl scam**  
The money-laundering case against Sanjay Raut and his associates and family members is linked to an Rs. 1,034 crore land 'scam' related to the redevelopment of 'Patra Chawl' at Goregaon in North Mumbai. Pravin Raut, an associate of Sanjay Raut, was a director of Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd (GACPL), entrusted with the work of the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl, housing 672 tenants, spread over 47-acre

land, belonging to the Maharashtra Housing Area Development Authority (MHADA). GACPL is a subsidiary company of Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

GACPL never completed the redevelopment and Pravin Raut through the HDIL directors- Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan, sold the floor space index (FSI) (maximum permissible floor area that a builder can build on a particular plot of land), to various builders for Rs 1,034 crore, harming the tenants' interest, the ED's statement said.

Pravin Raut, who received the money from HDIL, transferred it to his relatives and close associates. Out of this, the proceeds amounting to Rs 83 lakh, were allegedly received by Varsha Raut (wife of Sanjay Raut) from Madhuri Pravin Raut, (the wife of Pravin Raut). Varsha Raut utilized this amount to buy a flat in Dadar. After the ED investigation began, she transferred back Rs 55 lakh to Madhuri Raut.

Pravin Raut was arrested by the ED on February 02, under the PMLA and he continues to be in jail. The HDIL director Sarang Wadhawan and his father Rakesh Wadhawan earlier arrested by ED in connection with around Rs 4,300 crore fraud caused to Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) bank are at present in judicial custody at Mumbai's Arthur Road jail.

Earlier Raut said that the Alibag land was purchased in 2009 for which a loan of Rs.55 lakh was taken from Pravin Raut's wife. This was also reflected in his election affidavit. The loan was subsequently repaid, he had said.

# EC to begin campaign to link voter ID cards with Aadhaar cards from today - all you need to know

Agency  
New Delhi, August 01:

The Election Commission is set to launch a nationwide drive for linking Aadhaar numbers with voter identity cards. Several states including Maharashtra and Tripura have announced their intention to start the initiative from today. The voluntary move is intended to help create a "clean and transparent" photo-based electoral rolls, removing all duplications.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, authorising the linking of Aadhaar with Voter IDs, was passed by the Lok Sabha through a voice vote in December 2021. Many including the Opposition Congress have however protested the deci-

sion, with party leader Randeep Singh Surjewala last week moving the Supreme Court to challenge the new Act. The apex court had asked the politician to approach the competent high court.

"The process will be voluntary and we appeal to all the electors to cooperate with the BLOs when they visit their houses. Under no circumstance, Aadhaar number of voters will not be published on the electoral rolls or voters' slips," Tripura's Chief Electoral Officer Kiran Gite explained recently. The official said that booth-level officers will visit the houses of electors for the drive.

The CEO also said that voter's list would be completely error-free once the Aadhaar gets linked with the

elector's photo identity card (EPIC). Youths over the age of 17 can also apply in advance for enrolment without having to wait until they became eligible age for gaining voting rights.

Earlier in July Maharashtra CEO Shrikant Deshpande had also made a similar announcement. According to him, the initiative would be undertaken across the state from August 1.

"Voter ID cards to be linked to Aadhaar card with a view to establish the identity of electors and authentication of entries in the electoral roll and to identify registration of the name of the same person in more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency," he said during a press conference last week.

# Monkeypox: 'Viruses don't care about sexual orientation, race', experts caution against stigmatisation

Agency  
New Delhi, August 01:

Days after the WHO issued an advisory recommending that gay and bisexual men limit their sexual partners, Indian health experts and LGBTQ activists have emphasised the fact that monkeypox can spread through any close physical contact and no particular community must be stigmatised.

Even though monkeypox hasn't been labelled a sexually transmitted infection (STI), men who have sex with other men are the group that is at the highest risk of infection currently. According to WHO expert, Rosamund Lewis, about 99% of cases are among men, and at least 95% of those infected are men who have sex with men.

The virus outbreak has brought back painful memories of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 80s among members of the LGBTQ community when it was not only stigmatised but the outbreak was not treated seriously and action was taken too late, as per a report by AFP on Saturday.

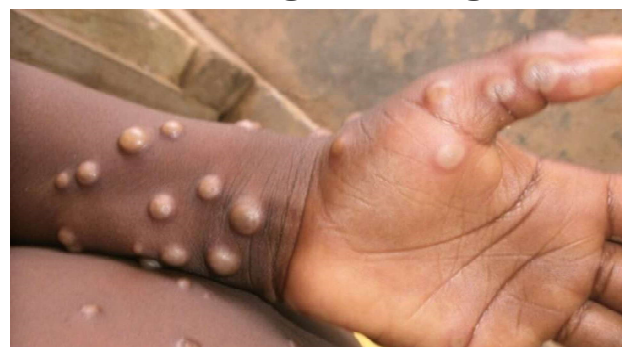
"It happened in the community when there was pride month going on and there were more events in the community. It is just an episode of everyone go-

ing to a wedding and then getting Covid. So you need to look at them as victims and not perpetrators," Indian equal rights activist Harish Iyer said as quoted by PTI. He added that the LGBTQ community already feels stigmatised and people who might have symptoms are scared to get tested for the virus now.

"Even AIDS was called a gay-related disorder because it was believed to spread in gays only. But even heterosexuals can have multiple partners.

"WHO has a precedent. They know what happened during the AIDS epidemic and their cautionary message could have been more clear. They could have been more careful with that. Why do they assume that heterosexuals don't have multiple partners," Iyer said.

There is a risk people will start distancing themselves from the community, further isolating members, said trans community health expert Anmol Singh. "Stigmatised thinking that we have more sexual partners or we are more into sex work than any other straight person will create more negativity," said Singh, adding that healthcare workers needed to emphasise the fact that the virus can spread through any close physical con-



tact, regardless of sexual orientation or race.

Dr Somesh Gupta, professor in the Department of Dermatology and Venerology at AIIMS, Delhi, noted that while the Covid-19 pandemic has pushed mainstream media to report on latest developments in healthcare more extensively, without the temperament of medical professionals, it could be weaponised for sensationalism.

"This is happening again, this time to monkeypox, a disease which is clearly transmitted not just sexually but also by close contact, including skin-to-

skin and skin-to-cloth such as in a family living together or friends meeting for lunch," Dr Gupta pointed.

"Unfortunately, it [monkeypox] is endemic in Africa, a continent largely ignored in regard to their knowledge. With the surge of new cases, it has started being identified in the homosexual and bisexual circles before others as it involves intimate skin-to-skin contact. But it has also been found in semen samples," he added.

"If we aren't careful, it would be the HIV-AIDS story repeated, a deja vu. Stigmatized and iso-

lated, the patients would not report symptoms and seek treatment, leading to further transmission while the misinformation majority heterosexual population and even health departments mistakenly assume that they are not at risk," Dr Gupta said.

Adding to this, Dr Satish Koul, Director, Internal Medicine, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, pointed out that stigmatisation can stoke cycles of fear, quickly disabling an evidence-based response, and drive people away from seeking medical services. This could further impede efforts to identify

cases and control the outbreak.

"We should urge media outlets, governments, and communities to respond with a rights-based, evidence-based approach that avoids the stigma.

"Stigma and blame undermine trust and capacity to respond effectively during outbreaks like this one," Dr Koul added.

"Instead of scapegoating or demonising entire communities as 'spreaders' or using the label of suspects, it is important to focus on accessible and affirmative ways to talk about how to protect oneself while being accurate about how the virus is transmitted," said Raj Mariwala, Director, Mariwala Health Initiative. "Transmission primarily happens through close bodily contact, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. This is as relevant for any tight-knit social network and not just the LGBTQIA communities," he added.

High-grade fever, sore throat, painful swellings in the groin, and rectal pain are some of the symptoms infected patients have experienced. As the infection progresses, fluid-filled blisters over the face, palms, soles and ulcers in the mouth and genitals have been observed, which remain infectious till the

lesions dry and the crusts fall off as new skin forms underneath.

People who identify as transgender or who have gender differences may be more susceptible given the current monkeypox outbreak, said Dr Sumol Ratna, Assistant Professor, Noida International Institute of Medical Sciences. However, it is crucial to avoid stigmatising the LGBTQ community or Africans as "disease carriers", he cautioned.

"Although we may be detecting clusters, particularly in some populations, viruses do not care about a person's sexual orientation, religion, or race. Keep your distance from someone who is exhibiting symptoms," he said.

Monkeypox symptoms exhibited by patients in the current outbreak are similar to those seen in smallpox infected patients in the past, although monkeypox is clinically less severe according to the WHO.

Early symptoms include a high fever, swollen lymph glands and a chickenpox-like rash, followed by fluid-filled lesions on the skin that are infectious until they dry and fall off.

The disease usually heals by itself after two to three weeks, sometimes taking a month.

# 25 Crore Ayushman Cards as Target, Health Ministry Reaches Out to Other Ministries for Updated Database

Agency  
New Delhi, August 01:

The Union Health Ministry has fixed a target to give Ayushman Bharat cards to 25 crore people by the end of this financial year. To get there, it has now reached out to other central government ministries seeking updated databases of their welfare schemes.

Nearly four years after the scheme was launched, about 18.5 crore people have received their Ayushman Bharat cards, which enables them to receive free treatment at government and private hospitals with a family cover up to Rs 5 lakh a year. No one is denied treatment in the absence of the card, and it is made once the person reaches a hospital.

There are an estimated 53 crore beneficiaries under the

scheme, as per data of the SECC, 2011.

"We will take the number of Ayushman Cards to 25 crore by the end of this financial year," a top government official told News18.

The scheme was given a push under Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya after he took over last year in July. Until then, less than 12 crore beneficiaries had got the cards over three years of the scheme. Over 6.5 crore people got the cards in the past one year and the target is to reach the 25-crore mark by the end of this financial year.

The Health Ministry has reached out to the Central Government ministries implementing welfare schemes such as the PM Ujjwala Yojana and the PM Awas Yojana using SECC 2011 database, so as to use

the "updated databases" of such welfare schemes for better targeting of potential Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries. The outdated and defective SECC 2011 data is seen as a major reason for the low uptake of the Ayushman Bharat scheme so far.

For example, under the PM Ujjwala Yojana scheme, about 11 crore families have got a cylinder connection, translating into a coverage of about 50 crore people. Under the PM Awas Yojana, over three crore families are registered for a house. Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, however, the Centre and states have found it tough to trace out prospective beneficiaries.

The Health Ministry has also taken steps to increase avenues for Ayushman card generation by onboarding

additional agencies for card generation and card approval, and has integrated pan-India promotional campaigns of Ayushman Bharat Scheme with other national flagship schemes to increase awareness of people.

Nearly 3.65 crore hospital admissions worth over Rs 43,000 crore have been authorised under the Ayushman Bharat scheme so far, with nearly 25,000 government and private hospitals empaneled under the scheme.

There has been a jump in the number of admissions under the scheme in the last one year too, as admissions reached the 2-crore mark a year ago. The government wants to extend the free medical treatment benefit to 2 crore people every year, by increasing the awareness of the scheme.

# AR organises lecture on Agnipath Recruitment

IT News  
Imphal, August 01:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR(S) organised a lecture on Agnipath Recruitment for youth in Mayang Imphal, Imphal West district today.

As part of overall outreach

and empowerment of youth in Mayang Imphal, Assam Rifles organised a lecture and orientation capsule on Agnipath Scheme. The lecture and orientation capsule along with ongoing pre-recruitment training by Assam Rifles will definitely boost the morale of the candidates and brighten

their chances of selection in upcoming recruitment rallies. It has emerged as a great tool of youth empowerment by addressing the issue of unemployment, promoting sports and weaning youth away from addiction and unlawful activities by channelling their energies constructively.

Contd. from Page 1

# Sangai Heritage Park at Moirang...

Health Minister Dr. S. Ranjan Singh replying to a query raised by Ram Muivah, MLA said that measures have been taken up to fill up the vacant posts in health departamentas per policy decision on recruitment under State government. He said all the sanction post of doctors and staffs in district hospital and primary health centres in Ukhrul are not fully filled up. However, with the limited number of human resources of health the district hospital and all the primary health centres are functioning normally.

OBITUARYREFERENCE:  
Manipur Legislative As-

ssembly today observed a 2-minute silence as a mark of respect on the demise of Selkai Hrangchal, former Member of the House from 55-Tipaimukh (ST) Assembly Constituency. Speaker of the House, Thokchom Satyabrata Singh moved a resolution regarding the demise of the former member of the House and expressed his deep and profound sorrow. Leader of the House N. Biren Singh initiating the obituary reference said that the demise of Selkai Hrangchal is a great loss to the State. Born on 31st December 1937 at Rengkhai, Churachandpur District,

Selkai Hrangchal was associated in various socio-cultural and economic activities. He was elected to the 5th Manipur Legislative Assembly and inducted as Minister of Health.

Participating in the obituary reference, O. Ibobi Singh, Senior Member of the House said Selkai Hrangchal was a man of reason and a jolly fellow. His demise is a great loss to the state and for the constituency in particular.

Kh. Joykisan, Ngursanglur, L.M. Khaute also participated in the obituary reference and express their deep sorrow on the demise of Selkai Hrangchal.

# IMD predicts heavy rains across Northeast India this week

Agency  
Guwahati, August 01:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted an increase in rainfall over Northeast India during the next five days till August 4.

The IMD has forecast light to very heavy rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim and light to heavy rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

According to the weatherman, the western end of the monsoon trough lies north of its normal position while the eastern end runs close to the foothills of the Himalayas. It is very likely to be north of its normal position or along the foothills of the Himalayas during the next two days, with the eastern end likely to shift southwards thereafter.

For Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, the IMD has issued an orange alert for July 31 and August 1 and a yellow alert for August 2 and 3. For August 4, a green alert has been issued

for Arunachal Pradesh and yellow alert for Assam and Meghalaya the same day.

In case of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, a yellow alert has been issued from July 31 to August 4.

"Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy falls accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is very likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and over Arunachal Pradesh till Wednesday and Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and

Tripura till Friday," the weatherman said.

The weather department stated that visibility may become poor due to the intense rain and warned of disruption in traffic due to the possibility of water logging and flooding in low-lying areas. The department also warned of possible landslides and mudslides in vulnerable areas.

The department has advised people to avoid going to areas that face water logging problems and avoid straying into vulnerable structures and landslide-prone areas.

# DEO Imphal West and Thoubal...

Along with rest of the country, the District Election Office Thoubal today launched the collection of Aadhaar Number from existing Electors or citizens seeking registration in electoral roll.

Speaking at the launching program held at the Conference Hall of Deputy Commissioner Thoubal, DEO/DC Thoubal A. Subhash Singh, IAS, said that the purpose of linking the electors with the Aadhaar number is to avoid duplicity in the electoral roll and to have a strong and healthy electors.

Giving a PowerPoint presentation at the launching program ADM Thoubal, B. Lokeshor said by using Form 6B an Electors can link with his/her Aadhaar number. For this EROs and AEROs are instructed to take up necessary steps. He also said according to the ECI guidelines EROs, AEROs or any officials cannot forced the Electors to link with Aadhaar number. It should

be done voluntarily by the Electors. He said by using Form 6, a qualified citizen can enroll to the electoral roll. He further said that earlier the qualifying date for a citizen to enroll to the electoral roll was 1st of January only but now ECI has given four qualifying date i.e. 1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October.

The launching program was attended by EROs, AEROs, BLOs and representatives of various political parties.

# Sports

# India enter Lawn Bowls final, Ajay Singh misses out on Bronze in weightlifting

Agency  
Birmingham, August 01:

After an action-filled third day of the Commonwealth Games 2022, the Indian contingent will be looking forward to progress further in sports like squash, lawn bowls, boxing and hockey and seal some more medals in weightlifting, badminton and table tennis. The action will start from 1 PM onwards with lawn bowls semifinals in Women's Fours category.

The team of Rupa Rani Turkey, Nayanmoni Saikia, Lovely Choubey and Pinki Singh will take on Team New Zealand. They have progressed to the semis after a win over Norfolk Island in QFs. Team India had finished 2nd in their group D. In Men's 81 kg weightlifting, Ajay Singh will be in action from 2PM onwards, with an aim to seal another medal for his country that has dominated the sport in the 2022 edition of CWG so far with five medals. Joshua Chinappa will take on Canada's Hollie Naughton in QFs of Women's singles in squash

from 6:00 PM onwards.

Sushila Devi will take on Harriet Bonface of Malawi in the Women's 48 kg QFs while Suchika Tariyal will take on Rita Rabinda of Zambia in Women's 57 kg round of 16 match. Men's Table Tennis team will play their semifinal clash against Nigeria from 11:30 PM onwards with an aim to confirm a medal for their country.

At 3:30 PM, Indian fans will get to see the mixed badminton team in action in semis where the team will be eyeing a medal.

After claiming two gold medals on Sunday, India would hope to increase their haul on Day 4 of the CWG 2022. India have so far won six medals (three gold, two silver and one bronze). Two weightlifters shone for India on Sunday. Jeremy Lalrinnunga won a yellow metal for India in the 67kg category before Achinta Sheuli starred in the 73kg category. The duo's success followed after Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu had bagged a gold medal in the 49 kg category,

COUNTRIES					
		G	S	B	
1	AUS	22	13	18	53
2	ENG	11	16	7	34
3	NZL	10	5	4	19
4	RSA	4	1	1	6
5	CAN	3	6	9	18
6	IND	3	2	1	6
7	SCO	2	7	8	17

which was India's first top podium finish in the ongoing Games.

Third Judako Sushila Devi Likmabam in action against Malawi's Harriet Bonface in her women's 48kg quarter-final and it is an easy win for the Tokyo Olympian 10-0 - winner by Eppon.

Vijay Kumar is back for his second match of the day. He earlier beat Mauritius' Winsley Gangaya.. He is up against

Joshua Katz of Australia for a place in the semi-final.

It was a great fight put up by India's Ajay Singh but one failed attempt and India lose its medal hopes. Until his second attempt in clean and jerk, he was leading with 319 kgs. But following the powerful attempts by England, Australia and Canada, Ajay slipped to the fourth position before he failed to lift a total of 180 kgs in the final attempt.

Agency  
London, August 01:

England won a major women's tournament for the first time as Chloe Kelly's extra-time goal secured a 2-1 victory over Germany at a sold out Wembley on Sunday.

In front of a record crowd of 87,192 for any match in the history of the European Championships, Kelly prodded home a loose ball from close range to end English football's 56-year wait for a World Cup or Euro victory.

England looked set for victory in the 90 minutes when substitute Ella Toone's sublime chip over Merle Frohms put the hosts in front.

Germany showed remarkable resilience to bounce back as Lina Magull levelled 11 minutes from time.

But for once, England were not to be denied a major tournament success.

Kelly fought back from an anterior cruciate ligament tear to be fit in time for the tournament and made herself a national hero by being in the right place to pounce when Germany failed to clear a corner in the 110th minute. Fortune did not favour Ger-

many, who lost captain and top goalscorer Alexandra Popp to a muscle injury in the warm-up.

But England will feel their time for some luck was due as 12 months on from the Three Lions' defeat on penalties to Italy in the Euro 2020 men's final, the nation's women went one better.

England manager Sarina Wiegman has now led the home nation to the title in back-to-back women's Euros after leading the Netherlands to victory five years ago.

Under Wiegman, England are unbeaten in 20 games but were pushed to the limit by the eight-time winners despite missing the massive presence of Popp.

The Wolfsburg striker, who

missed the entirety of Euro 2013 and 2017 through injury, had scored six goals in five games on route to the final.

Despite losing their major goal threat and facing the intimidating atmosphere of a full Wembley waiting to party, Germany showed remarkable resilience.

England were saved by desperate defending from a combination of Mary Earps, Leah Williamson and Millie Bright then prevented Marina Hegerberg from turning in a corner.

Wiegman did not make a change to the England starting line-up throughout the whole tournament as she resisted the clamour for Alessia Russo to start ahead of Ellen White up front.

# Gas Card Lost

I have lost my Gas Card (Blue Card & SV Card), Consumer No. 7054871608, SV No. 100000577703587, Date of Connection 25/07/2017, issued by Hrangchal Gas Agency, Old Lamulane on the way between my residence and Paona Bazar on July 26, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Soibam Richard  
Babupara  
Imphal West, Manipur