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Manipur celebrates 76th Independence Day

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

As celebrated across the Country, Manipur too celebrated the 76th Independence Day with pomp and gaiety at various part of the state even though armed rebel groups had boycotted the celebration. The main function of the 76th Independence Day was held 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh graced the celebration as Chief Guest. Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly, Chairperson of Manipur Lokayukta, Cabinet Ministers, Chairman, Hill Areas Committee, Advocate General, Manipur, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, high ranking officials Civil, Police, Paramilitary and Armed Forces also attended the Independence Day celebration among others.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh extended his best wishes to the people of the State and added that India had been celebrating its Independence Day every year on 15th August since 1947. However, with the completion of 75 years of India's Independence this year, the whole country is celebrating the occasion as



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with more fervor, he stated. He continued that the National flag has also been hoisted in every house from 13th August to 15th August as Har Ghar Tiranga campaign as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration which was launched on 12th March the previous year. The initiative would not only imbibe a sense of nationalism and love for the motherland to the youth but also make the public know the importance of the tricolor and respect its dignity, he added.

The Chief Minister further mentioned that under the su-

per vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, different events are organized across the country as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with much participation of the public. This shows the faith of Indians in the leadership of the Prime Minister, he maintained.

Stressing on the initiative and developmental works taken up by the Government, N. Biren informed that the State Government is in process of setting up of 34 police outposts at all districts located along the international border and also along the Imphal-

Jiribam National Highway. He continued that 1,647 cases had been registered, 2,104 persons had been arrested, drugs amounting to around Rs. 3,212 crore in international markets had been seized under the War on Drugs 1.0. Poppy plantations of around 14,000 acres had also been destroyed. While, 256 cases had been registered arresting 432 persons, seizure of drugs amounting to Rs. 818 crore and poppy plantation of 531 acres had been destroyed under the War on Drugs 2.0, he added.

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Chief Minister flags off bus service between Imphal-Somdal

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh today launched and flagged off the Manipur State Transport (MST) run Bus Service between Imphal and Somdal village in Ukhrul.

Biren Singh flagged off the bus service covering 92 km from the MST Complex at Moirangkhom in Imphal and Somdal village. Manipur Assembly Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, Transport Minister Khoshim Vashum, Director Nivedita Laienlakpam, Officials of Transport Department and Manipur State Transport and Village Chiefs of Ukhrul District were present during the flagging off ceremony at Moirangkhom.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister Biren Singh stated that the launching of a bus service might be a small programme but it could be taken as a big step towards filling the communication and developmental gaps between different areas of the State.

Stating that person to person communication and sharing ideas, getting in touch with one another among different communities would bring equal-



ity in the State, he added.

Informing that the State Government had been putting in maximum effort to bring development, he said that the State had witnessed drastic changes in hill areas with improvement in road infrastructure, security, education and health sector among others.

The Chief Minister informed that the erstwhile Manipur State Road Transport Corporation, which had remained non-functional for a long time, was revived as Manipur State Transport (MST) with the objective of facilitating the public with an accessible low cost transportation across the State.

Presently, the MST buses are plying on 21 different routes which will be increased to 22 including Somdal-Imphal bus service launched today. Some of the

important routes currently run by MST include Imphal to Moreh, Imphal-Noney, Imphal-Sinzawl, Imphal-Behiang, Imphal-Sangaikot, Imphal Khoupum, Imphal-Tamenglong, Imphal-Jessami etc.

He appealed to the public not to create any disturbance in any road construction works as proper road infrastructure is of utmost importance to bring equal development in all areas of the State.

The bus service will depart Somdal Village for Imphal at 7am and will depart Inter-state bus Terminus in Imphal for Somdal at 1pm on every working day.

The bus service will pass through some of the important villages including Yaingangkopi, Mahadev, Ringui, Sirakhong, Teinam, Phalee on way to Somdal. The bus fare for the same will be Rs.200.

Awareness on Hepatitis needed: Minister Dr. S. Ranjan

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

Health & IPR Minister Dr. Sapan Ranjan Singh has said that we all need to spread awareness about Hepatitis disease and its infection. Minis-

RPF clarifies

IT News
Imphal, Aug 16:

Proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) today clarified that the 7 individuals, which the state police claimed arrested as cadres of PLA on August 14 by combined team of Thoubal Police Commando and the 16 Assam Rifles are not related and have nothing to do with the activities of RPF or its armed wing PLA.

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ZLR, NNC/ FGN clarify

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

A statement by the Department of Information and Publicity of the Federal Government of Nagaland has stated that claimed by the Assam Police and the Field Intelligence unit of Assam Rifles about the arrest of NNC cadres on August 8 at Shib Colony area of Shilchar and Jiribam as baseless information.

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ter Ranjan was speaking as Chief Guest on the occasion of the observance of World Hepatitis Day held at the auditorium of JNIMS, Porompat, Imphal East, today.

Speaking at the occasion, Minister maintained that majority of the people does not have the idea of the infectiousness and effects of the disease. 'Bringing Care Closer to you-Hepatitis Can't Wait', is the theme of this year's observation. A cohesive effort is required for carrying out a successful campaign on Hepatitis, he added.

Ranjan stated that primary health care system needs to be focused. Without strengthening primary health care which



is at the grassroot level, tertiary health care system will hardly be able to be improved. The government is trying to improve overall health care system in the state. All the sections

under medical department need to join hands and work with dedication for bringing a change in this sector, he informed.

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CM reviews arrangement for Durand Cup

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today visited the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex and review various arrangements taken up for the 131st edition of the Durand Cup, the Asia's oldest football tournament, for which inaugural match in the State will be played on August 18, 2022.

Briefing the media during the inspection, N. Biren Singh appreciated the officials of Youth Affairs and Sports Department and Army personnel for working day and night for properly arranging the set up of the tournament. He continued that many renowned footballers from different Indian clubs including our own State's Clubs i.e. NEROCA and TRAU,

would participate in the tournament.

He maintained that Manipur being a land of sports lovers with only around 28 lakh populations had sent 7 athletes in the recently held Common Wealth Games 2022 and bagged 5 medals. Knowing the potential of our players, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had established the only Sports University in the State, the Chief Minister said adding that the State had got the opportunity of hosting the Durand Cup because of the achievements of our sportspersons in different events.

N. Biren further mentioned that the Sports Department in consultation with technical experts and with the support of army personnel had developed the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in a short span, making it

one of the best football grounds in the eastern zone. He informed that the Government is planning to develop 6 more such football grounds before the next edition of Durand Cup.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) Minister Govindas Konhoujam, Major General Navin Sachdeva, Principal Secretary (YAS) S.S. Chhabra, Secretary (YAS) Namojiam Kheda Varta Singh, Director (YAS) T. Phulen Meitei and officials of YAS Department among others.

It may be mentioned that Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande will be visiting the State to witness the inaugural Durand Cup match at Khuman Lampak Stadium, Imphal.

YAS refusal to use Wushu Hall for trial selection jeopardised the future of Wushu players – Parents of Wushu Players

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

The Youth Affairs and Sports Department's refusal to use Wushu Hall for conducting the trials of the upcoming 21st Junior National Wushu Championship, the CEO of the Wushu Association of India, left Imphal without conducting the trial selection.

It may be mentioned that on August 4, 2022, the President of the Wushu Association of India in a letter to the Director YAS requested him to allot Wushu Hall of Khuman

Lampak Sports Complex for conducting trial selection from August 8 to August 10, 2022 for the upcoming 21st Junior National Wushu championship, which will be held in Calicut (Kerala) from September 1-6, 2022, and the 36th National Games, which will be held in Gujarat from September 27th to October 10th, 2022.

In order to avoid and limit the expenditure of his visit again and again, WAI decided to conduct the trial selection of the Manipur Junior team and Senior team for the upcoming Junior and Senior Na-

tional Wushu Championships plus a state team for the National Games

On arrival in Imphal, CEO WAI and Manipur Olympic Association (MOA) officials had a joint meeting and an agreement was reached that for the 36th National Games, MOA would conduct the trial selection of the player as it is under IOA.

No activity was carried out on the 8th, and on the 9th August some disagreement came in the morning during the National Games selection trial process and so the selection

was stopped. In order to save time, it was decided to take up the junior team trial instead.

At around 1:00 p.m. on the 9th of August, Director YAS called Suhel Ahmed in his office chamber. After a long discussion, Director YAS refused to give official permission to use Wushu Hall for Junior National trial selection, citing some people's complaints against him.

Feeling insulted, Suhel Ahmed, who came straight from Georgia to Manipur in the interest of players, went back early the next day without

conducting the selection trial.

It is to be noted that without approval from the National Federation, no team can take part in the National Championships. This National Championships is important for qualifying for the Junior World Wushu Championships, which falls this year and which will be the qualifying tournament for the Youth Olympics. Missing out on the National Championships seriously hampers the careers of our children.

Parents of Wushu Players told Imphal Times that they fail

to understand the action of the Director, YAS, and the intention of those who complain against the CEO of WAI. "We had already seen the consequences of any committee formed without the participation of the permission of the National Association in the last Sub-Junior National Wushu Championship state trial selection," said a parents of Wushu Players.

Further, Parents of Wushu player demand a written explanation from Director, YAS as to why Wushu Hall was not allotted for the trial selection.

★ Editorial

76th Independence Day

With the completion of 75 years of Independence, the nation celebrated 76th Independence Day on August 15 this year with much fervour and fanfare. The tricolor flag of India was hoisted at almost every house in the country in addition to the earlier celebration.

The occasion was initially observed to remind and redeem the pledge of rebuilding and redirecting the nation towards the path of development and progress from the state of despair and disarray in which the British rulers left it in. 76 years on, what we are actually experiencing is a far cry from the dreams and visions which every citizen of this country hoped to see unfold into reality. There has been a perceptible loss of foresight and vision amongst the so called leaders who have grown to take their positions and the powers entrusted to them for granted, making a mockery of the democratic set up that was designed to aid in the speedy and judicious dispense of duties and justice.

The law and order situation in almost every part of the country leaves much to be desired and development index seems to be going southwards. There has not been any significant increase in the basic amenities for a very large number of citizens who are struggling to make ends meet in the rural areas and in the far flung villages.

In this day and age when space travel is no longer a figment of the imagination, a substantial percentage of the population still dreams about electricity. Roads still remain basic and unpaved and social upliftment measures like the Public Distribution System has been proving to be a colossal waste of precious food grains, being manipulated by those entrusted to ensure their proper implementation in order to aid the underprivileged and the needy.

Perhaps these people have taken the slogan "Public property is our property" to mean that they are thereby authorized to hoard them and use them for their personal purposes. Social unrest and agitations are on the rise, and the governments are taking undue advantage of these to fill their own coffers instead of looking for measures to address these unrest and upheaval. The nation is rather regressing into a vortex of chaos and unrest, while the leaders and officials are busy giving lip service without the will or the temper to carry out their empty promises. The symptoms of social ills are pretty evident closer home. The representative of the people are unreachable once they assume power, and amidst all these mayhem, various unrest and social chaos, amassing wealth through hesitation kill or be killed, justifying their actions and deeds by citing noble ideals and espousing selfless sacrifice with their fingers on the triggers of their guns all the while.

The altruistic meaning of Independence has been lost in the chaos. The madmen's rush for survival and personal enrichment has caught the public and the powerful alike in its wake. Development and progress are concepts that have been relegated to the dark corners. Unless we come to our senses and redeem ourselves now, it would be too late to salvage whatever little we have achieved as a society and as progressive humans. It is in us all to change things. It is in us to stand up and start working on it.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee : The "Bhishma Pitamah" of Indian politics



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

"My poetry is a declaration of war, not an exordium to defeat. It is not the defeated soldier's drumbeat of despair, but the fighting warrior's will to win. It is not the dispirited voice of dejection but the stirring shout of victory"

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the "Bhishma Pitamah" of Indian politics as described by ex-PM Manmohan Singh, made his poetry a messenger to spread his vision on various burning issues. The oratorical skill of Atalji in Lok Sabha impressed Nehruji so much that he proclaimed him as the future PM of India. He was a multifaceted & versatile personality and made significant contributions to social, political, educational, literacy and journalism.

Born on 25th December 1924 in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Atalji was a great statesman who dedicated his life for the nationalist politics. He served as Prime Minister of India thrice, first for a term of 13 days in 1986, secondly for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, and thirdly for a full term from 1999 to 2004.

In 1946, Atalji took over the responsibility of the first editor of the Hindi daily "Rashtreeya Dharma" published from Lucknow. In 1950, he became the editor of "Dainik Sandesh". After the closure of "Sandesh" due to financial crisis, he became the editor of "Dainik 'Vir Arjun'" and weekly "Panchjanya" published from Delhi.

His editorials were so aspirational that readers used to first read the editorial and then any other news & views.

In 1951, he was engaged by RSS in strengthening of the newly formed Right wing political party "Jan Sangh". Later on he became the private secretary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. In 1955, he contested the Lok Sabha bi-election unsuccessfully from Lucknow, which fell vacant due to the resignation of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. In 1957, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Balrampur (Uttar Pradesh). He served as member of Parliament for over five decades, being elected ten times to the Lok Sabha and two times to the Rajya Sabha.

After the demise of Deen Dayal Upadhyay in 1968, he became the President of "Jan Sangh" and strengthened the Party's root at national level in co-operation with Balraj Madhok, Nanaji Deshmukh, Lal Krishna Advani & others. In 1977, the Jan Sangh was merged with the newly constituted "Janata Party". In 1980, Jan Sangh background cadres parted away from the Janata Party and formed a new political outfit Bharatiya Janata Party with Atalji as its first President.

When the Janata Party came to power in 1977, Atalji became the Foreign Minister. He created history by addressing the United Nations in Hindi. In the 1996 general election, the BJP emerged as the single largest party in the Lok Sabha and Atalji was sworn in as PM on the Westminster system; but he had to resign within 13 days as the BJP failed to muster the majority mark. In the 1998 Lok Sabha election, the BJP again became the single largest party and this time it formed National Democratic Alliance with 23 parties. Vajpayee took oath as the PM for second time, but due to withdrawal of support by the AIADMK, he resigned and the Lok Sabha was dissolved. In the 1999 Lok Sabha election, the BJP led NDA secured a comfortable majority with 303

seats out of 543 and Atalji became the PM for the third time. In 2004, the Lok Sabha was dissolved six months before the completion of its term and NDA was ousted from power in the general election.

During the tenure of Vajpayee's Prime Ministership, a large number of works with national and international character have been carried out. In 1988, India conducted five underground nuclear tests in Pokhran to weaponise its nuclear capability. In February 1999, the Delhi-Lahore bus service was inaugurated. In May 1999, Pakistani militants & Northern Light Infantry soldiers of Pakistan had taken control of the hilltop centered around Kargil. The Indian Army recaptured the areas through "Operation Vijay". Three new states Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand came up on the Indian map.

The Vajpayee government introduced several new schemes in the infrastructure and educational sectors. National Highway Development Project (NHDP) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been planned & implemented. In the first phase of NHDP, 5846 KM long Golden Quadrilateral (Swarnim Chaturbhuj) for connecting four Metro cities namely Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai & Mumbai with 4/6 lane expressway has been built. In the second phase of NHDP, 4000 KM long North-South Corridor connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and 3300 KM long East-West Corridor connecting Porbandar to Silchar has been constructed. PMGSY is the infrastructure plan to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages. In the railway sector seven new zones namely East Central Railway (Hajipur), East Coast Railway (Bhubaneswar), North Central Railway (Prayagraj), North Western Railway (Jaipur), South East Central Railway (Bilaspur), South Western Railway (Hubli), and West Central Railway

(Jabalpur) were created for smooth operation. In 2001-02, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme was launched for universalization of elementary education in a time-bound manner.

Atalji was a great educationist & poet. In 1942, as an Inter student he gained name & fame by chanting his famous poem "Hindu Tan Man Hindu Jiwan, Rag Rag Hindu Mera Parichay" in his own style at Kailash Charan College Lucknow. He contributed to the literary world with his creative writings, of which some memorable ones are "Mrituyaya Hatya", "Amar Balidan", "Kaidi Kaviratri Kundalian", "Amar Aaghai", "Rajiniki Raptili Rahen", "Bindu Bindu Vichar", "Secularvad", "Meri Sansadaya Yatra", "Suvasit Pushpa", "Sankalp Kal", "Shakti se Shanti", "Na Daityamna Palayam", "Nayee Chhunati Naya Awasar" and "Meri Ekyawan Kavitaen".

Atalji was honoured as "Sarva Shreshtha Sansad" on 17th August 1994. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan on 25th January 1992 and the "Bharat Ratna", India's highest civilian honour, on 25th January 2014. In 2015, the Bangla Desh Government honoured him with "Friends of Bangla Desh Liberation War Award".

Atalji had the knack of building great friendships across political divide. He was a thinker, editor, poet, fearless writer and nationalist who used to inspire people. He breathed his last on 16th August 2018 after year long illness. Atalji will always be memorable for the Indian masses as he has enlightened the path of Indian politics for nearly half decade through his merit, constructive leadership, nationalist vision, strong willpower, political proficiency and popularity.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)

Illusory Swaraj or Real Independence: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat ki aur

By: Dr. Jayadeba Sahoo

Seventy-five years ago, Seventy-five years ago, India won independence from the hundreds of years of anarchic, humiliating British colonial rule. Thanks to the invaluable contributions by innumerable freedom fighters of our great nation, India became an Independent country on 15th August 1947. And the reason why we can breathe today in independent Bharat is because of those famous and unsung real heroes and heroines of Mother India who sacrificed their lives to give us freedom. Hailing from different parts of the country, they applied different methods but had one aim, i.e. to liberate Mother India from the British rule. Undoubtedly the names of all these martyrs will forever be written in the golden letters in the history of Indian Independence.

Independence, it was hoped, would bring a new era of peace and prosperity. Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's freedom movement, spoke of establishing Ram Rajya in India. He described Ram Rajya as "sovereignty of the people based on moral authority." According to him, it would be "the land of dharma and a realm of peace, harmony and happiness for young and old, high and low, all creatures and the Earth itself. In recognition of a shared universal consciousness."

However, Gandhi's dream remains a distant goal more than seven decades later. In fact, Gandhi him-

self foresaw this prospect when he wrote a few months before independence that "there can be no Ram Rajya in the present state of iniquitous inequalities in which a few roll in riches and the masses do not get even enough to eat."

One thing that is admitted by all the leaders and common men is that the country has not been able to "wipe every tear from every eye" as Babu Gandhi had deeply aspired; nor 'has it been able to achieve the 'Swaraj' (sovereignty) as he had envisioned. Everyone realizes the harsh reality that the country has failed to provide effective social and economic justice to the backward and the poor classes and that almost half of its population does not feel any worthwhile benefit of Independence.

The inequality Gandhi wrote about, not only persists, but has grown over the years. The latest Oxfam report 2022 on global inequality has reiterated, once again, that the rich are getting richer and the poor are lagging behind. According to the report, India's wealthiest 10 per cent of the population now holds 77 per cent of the country's wealth. The wealth of this elite group increased by over Rs 20.9 lakh crore during the period of the study, while 67 crore Indians, comprising the country's poorest half saw their wealth rise by just 1 per cent. This phenomenon is not just unique to India. According to the report, there

are now 2,043 dollar billionaires worldwide. The wealth of this group increased by \$762 billion in just 12 months, while the bottom half of the global population got less than 1 per cent of the total wealth in 2016-2017.

For India to become free from slavery to vices, each person in this country will have to become free first. Is that possible?

Gandhi's dream for India remains unfulfilled because while the country attained political Independence in 1947, it did not really become free.

Earlier, it was a colonial power that drained the country of its resources and curbed the freedoms of it people, but now the people are slaves to vices, which have corroded every aspect of life and are at the root of the ills plaguing India. Inequality is the result of greed and selfishness, which also give rise to corruption. India ranks a poor improved 85th among 180 countries in the global Corruption Perceptions Index. Crime and violence, including terrorism, also stem from vices, including lust, anger and hatred.

These vices enslave not only the minds of people but also imprison many of them physically by landing them behind bars for crimes committed under the influence of evil tendencies. The condition of such 'enslaved' persons is similar to that of the Kaurava prince Duryodhana in the Mahabharat. When told by Lord Krishna that the way he was treating the Pandavas was morally wrong, Duryodhana replied, "I know what is right, but I am not able to

practise it. I know what is wrong and I am not able to keep away from it."

This happens when the soul is weak and does not have the power to stop negative thoughts and refrain from acting on them. This is the condition, in varying degrees, of most people in the world today.

The way to end this slavery is to know the self, the soul and empower it so that it can choose good and positive thoughts over those which are negative and wasteful. Empowerment occurs when the soul connects mentally with the Supreme Soul (RAJYOGA Meditation). Remembrance of God (RAJYOGA Meditation) brings His powers and virtues into the soul and removes the influence of vices. Regularly making this connection gradually enables the soul to become self-sovereign, when it becomes free of all external influence.

For India to become free from slavery to vices, each person in this country will have to become free first. Is that possible?

Things have come to the present pass because of the ravages of time. All souls are originally pure, and peace, love, truth, power and bliss are their natural qualities. But as souls take successive births in this world, playing various roles in the drama that we call life, they lose their power and are influenced by matter and other souls. This process of decline ultimately leaves them depleted, unable to resist negative influences.

No community or country can hope to be rid of vices by itself. It is only when all souls attain salvation

that the world is freed from this slavery. The Gita tells us that when unrighteousness reaches extreme proportions, God incarnates Himself to destroy evil, salvage humanity, and establish a righteous new world order.

The presence of these very vices has resulted in the degradation of character of man which is quite evident from the ever-rising crimes against women and various forms of exploitation of women and children. It is the time of Doomsday about which it has been mentioned in the holy Quran that at such a juncture God comes from His Supreme Abode to liberate us souls from the graveyard. It is the same time now when the Supreme Father (Param Pita) of all fathers has descended from His Supreme Abode to liberate us from the real foreigner, i.e. 'Ravana (Vices)', who is our real enemy. It is this Ravana i.e. our own vices or weaknesses who has made the erstwhile Golden Sparrow Bharat into a country that is morally and spiritually bankrupt.

In order to re-create the Rama Rajya, the world Babe, the Supreme Father, the Supreme Soul-LIGHT Divine, God Shiva (Jyoti Lingam), has come down to earth and has been teaching RajYoga through the corporeal medium of Brahma Baba since 1936-37. He has been teaching about the Soul, the Supreme Soul; the beginning, middle and end of the world cycle, and Karma Philosophy through the Corporeal Medium of Dada Lekhraj who was later named by God Shiva as Prajapita Brahma. He has formed

a completely non-violent army of Shiv Shaktis and Pandavas (i.e. those women and men) who practise RajYoga in their daily life in letter and spirit. He is enabling us to become completely vice-less, i.e. pure and self-sovereign. His main teaching to us is to be soul-conscious and to remember Him only. This is when the world is freed from the clutches of vices, and true independence dawns.

If today we Indians realised our true identity and treated human world in a soul-conscious manner, many of the vices and evils and sins would evaporate in no time and our country, our society, our towns and villages and our families would become no less than the gardens of happiness, joy and bliss. The need of the time is to ponder on this Independence Day whether we are the sons and daughters of one God, *Parampita Parmatma* – the Supreme Soul, and thereby all are brothers and sisters. On this auspicious occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Let's take a moment for deep spiritual introspection and free ourselves from the bondage of greed, the lust for power and a slave of promiscuity and make God our eternal companion for true peace, happiness and prosperity. Let us pledge ourselves to bring this change at the earliest and transform India into Heaven (Swarnim Bharat) in the true spirit of the word.

(The author is Faculty, Brahma Kumaris & Professor (Ex-Dean & HOD), Faculty of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar)

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Chief Minister confers awards and medal outstanding security personnel

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh accorded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service to Ksh. Rajen Singh, Jemadar, 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles. Police Medal for Meritorious Service were also presented to Inspector P. Sanjoy Singh, Subedar, 2nd Manipur Rifles Siro Ninglung, Jemadar, 5th IRB O. Sheilya Khumancha, Sub-Inspector Angoubi Singh Ningthoujam, Hav. Helen Haokip of 1st IRB and Hav. Atom Sobha Singh of 1st Manipur Rifles. Heismam Laxmi, W/SI of

Bishnupur District and M. Priyadarshini Devi, W/SI of 9th IRB was presented with the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation for 2018 and 2021 respectively during the Independence Day celebration held yesterday at 1st MR Ground here in Imphal.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Thoubal District Jageshchandra Haobijam, SP, NAB K. Meghachandra Singh, SP, Kakching District Shrey Vats and SI Ramesh Singh were awarded with Chief Minister's Trophy for Anti-Drug Campaign. Chief Minister's Trophy for Outstanding Service was



awarded to 1st Manipur Rifles' Band Party. Inspector Shri Laishram Khogen and Havaladar Sorokhaibam

Joykumar Singh were also presented with the Chief Minister's Trophy for Community Service.

The Chief Minister also handed over Chief Minister's Award for Good Governance 2021-2022 to Informatics Of-

ficer, DIT Raimeson WS for Individual Category. While for Team Category, the Award was presented to the Department of Information Technology, Planning and Development, Oxygen Management Team, State Academy of Training, Department of Personnel, Home Department and Police Department.

Chief Minister's Certificate of Recognition for the year 2022 was presented to the Team of Joint Search & Rescue Operations during the Noney Landslide Aftermath, All Personnel of Police Department for their effort and

devotion to duty in ensuring a bandh and blockade free Manipur, Teams of Doctors, Nurses and Staff of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences for conducting the 12st ever Kidney Transplant in a Government Hospital in Manipur and Staff of the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Chief Minister's Certificate for Specials Recognition was presented to the team of District Administration, Jiribam for their remarkable achievement in vaccinating all eligible persons of the district with at least one dose of COVID vaccine within a short period of time.

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Manipur celebrates 76th Independence....

Informing about the Manipur Vision Document 2047 and CM Dashboard which would enable real time monitoring of different schemes, the Chief Minister stated that Manipur bagged the top position at NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2021 in North East and Hill States category. He maintained that various Institutions of Manipur including Lokayukta, State Information Commission, Manipur Human Rights Commission and Manipur Public Service Commission had been functioning smoothly. Apart from this, to ensure transparency in recruitment of Class III and IV posts of the State Government, the State Legislative Assembly had passed the Manipur Staff Selection Commission Bill 2022 recently.

Stating that the State Government had increased the budget allocation for Startup Scheme from Rs. 30 crore to Rs. 100 crore, he added that 5,790 Startups had been benefited with the scheme so far. He continued that the Centre for Innovation, Innovation and Incubation Training had also been established under the PPP model. District Youth Skill, Entrepreneurship and Employment Centres had been set up in all District Headquarters. Project had been taken up to provide 2000 youths with training in the IT sector.

N. Biren informed that the Government had taken up measures to improve various roads under the 100 Days Action Plan. The Central Government had accorded approval for Rigid Pavement of roads within Imphal City. The project would be taken up under the Externally Aided Project of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, he added. He continued that the Imphal Ring Road project would also be started soon with the funding of Asian Development Bank.

Stating on the Agnipath Scheme, he expressed satisfaction that youths of the State would now be able to participate in the Agniveer recruitment rally in the State itself at Leimakhong. He also thanked the Maranching village authority, personnel of Territorial Army, NDRF, SDRF, and other armed forces for their tireless service in rescue operations conducted after the unfortunate landslide happened at Noney. He also expressed thankfulness to all the people of the State for their continuous support in every initiative taken up by the State Government for the development of the State.

As a part of the celebration, the Chief Minister hoisted the National Flag with Rashtriya

Salute and also inspected the Parade formed up at the venue. The March Past Contingents included BSF Contingent, CRPF Contingent, Combined Manipur Rifles (6th and 7th MR), 3th IRB Contingent, Combined Civil Police (Male) Contingent (I/W & I/E), 9th IR (Mahila) Contingent, Combined Civil Police (Female) Contingents (I/W & I/E), Manipur Forest Contingent, Home Guard Contingent (Male), Combined VDF Contingents (I/W & I/E), Manipur Fire Service, Traffic Police (Women), 14th Battalion Sr. NCC, 65th Girls Sr. NCC and NCC SR. Air Wing. Commanding Officer, 2nd IRBT. Lalboi Haokip was the Parade Commander.

Simultaneous hoisting of National Flags at the Perimeter of 1st Manipur Rifles Parade Ground by Uniform personnel of Police Department and performances of cultural troupes were also the highlight of the celebration at 1st MR Parade Ground.

After the celebration at the 1st Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, the Chief Minister visited the Haipou Jadonang Park, Keishampat and Rani Gaidinli Park, Mantripukhri and led the other dignitaries in offering floral tribute to the two freedom fighters.

Later, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh also attended a programme at Hapta Kangiebung in connection with the celebration of the 76th Independence Day. On his arrival at the venue, the Chief Minister along with other dignitaries also offered floral tributes to freedom fighters.

As part of the celebration, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Govindas Konhoujam felicitated athletes of the State who represented the country at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Weight Lifting) was felicitated with a cheque of Rs. 15 lakhs, Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam (weightlifting), a cheque of Rs. 10 lakhs, Sushila Likmabam (Judo), a cheque of Rs. 10 lakhs, Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam (Hockey), a cheque of Rs. 8 lakhs, Nilakanta Sharma (Hockey), a cheque of Rs. 10 lakhs, Latonjam Ronald Singh (Cycling), a cheque of Rs. 2 lakhs and Yanglem Rojit Singh (Cycling), a cheque of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Artists of the Shree Shree Bal Mukunda Dev Music College also performed the State Song. Cultural troupes, students and artistes also performed at the ceremony. Cultural dances of different communities including Kabui Dance, Maring War Dance and Kuki Dance per-

formed at the ceremony. The Rhythms of Manipur, school students and group performance of higher education, Hingminasi Eikhoi performance by different communities, and Thang-ta groups were other highlights of the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Ministers, MLAs, officials, students and the public from different parts of the State.

At Chandel, The District Administration Chandel joins the Nation in celebrating the 75 years of the Nation's Independence. The district celebrated the 76th Independence Day in a function organised by the District Administration at the Maha Union Hr. Sec. School, Japhou Bazar yesterday.

As part of today's celebration certificates of honour were awarded to many police personnel and employees of the district for exemplary works in their respective organisations. Village Heads of the District were also felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner during the function. During the function 'Chandel Today' a special issue publication, published by the District Information Office, Chandel were also released by the DC and the SP Chandel.

As part of the celebration a friendly football match was also played between the DC & SP team and Village Chiefs' team.

The District Administration of Jiribam celebrated India's 76th Independence Day at Jiribam Higher Secondary School Playground yesterday. Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam W. Malemnganba Chengei, IAS unfurled the Tri-colour and took salute from the marching contingents commanded by TS. Chamma Anal, MPS, SDPO, Jiribam.

Altogether 13 contingents comprises of 87th Bn. CRPF, 7th IRB, Uchathol, Jiribam District Police, Jiri College Boys and Girls contingents, Jiribam Higher Secondary School Boys and Girls contingents and 6 contingents from various Government schools of Jiribam participated in the march past.

Commendations and Appreciation certificates were awarded to 62 government Employees of various departments in recognition of their valuable services rendered to Jiribam District. Case Rewards were also given to all the participating contingents, Pilots, Bugler, Cultural troupes and Singers of Patriotic Songs.

As part of the celebration, marked by showcasing of cultural dances, presentation of patriotic songs.

The District Administration Kangpokpi yesterday cel-

ebrated the 76th Independence Day today, celebrating the 75 years of India's Independence, at the Brigadier Thomas Ground, Kangpokpi Headquarters. Today India completes 75 years of freedom after winning it from over 200 years of British rule.

Chief Guest of the function, Deputy Commissioner Kengoo Zuringla, IAS, hoisted the National flag and took salute from 18 marching contingents commanded by Parade Commander L. Seimang Khongsai, DSP, Gammom Sapomeina Police Station.

The Chief Guest today took salute of 18 marching contingents comprising of A/143 Battalion CRPF, Kangpokpi Police (Reserve Line), Kangpokpi District Police, Village Defence Force, 14th Battalion Manipur NCC Elite Hr. Sec. School, Ex-Servicemen Kangpokpi, JNV School, two groups from MBC Hr. Sec. School (Boys), two groups from MBC Higher Secondary School (Girls), Goma Devi High School (Tonibari), Lighthouse School Kangpokpi (Boys & Girls), Aganwadi Workers ICDS Kangpokpi, differently abled persons and PMA Boys & Girls.

Altogether 75 employees of government departments of the district were given awards/certificates for their outstanding services. Certificates were also distributed to the winners of the painting and slogan writing competition organised by ZEO in connection with the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign which was participated by altogether 6062 school students. 3273 students participated in painting and 2789 students participated in slogan writing competition.

Copies of 'Manipur Today' magazine special edition published in connection with the 75 years of India's Independence by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Manipur were also distributed to the attendees at the function. Dance troupes presented Nepali, Liangmai, Manipuri, Thadou/Kuki cultural dance.

District Administration, Kakching also celebrated the 76th Independence Day at Sumak Leikai Ground (opp. to JnNRUM Hall), Kakching.

Deputy Commissioner, Kakching Somorjit Salam, IAS who graced the celebration as Chief Guest hoisted the National Flag. Soon after the arrival of the Chief Guest, he reviews the parade and took salutes of the marching contingents.

Konjengbam Geetchandra Singh, MPS, SDPO, Kakching was the parade commander of the contingents. Altogether 14 contingents took part in today's

Independence Day Celebration which consists Civil Police, VDF, NCC Kha Manipur College Boys and Girls, NCC Wabagai Higher Secondary School, JNV Umathel Girls and Boys, Grace Cottage Academy Girls, Kakching Girls college, Kakching model Boys High School, Kakching Higher Secondary School, NCC Wabagai Higher Secondary School, ICDS project, Kakching, ASHA Kakching district, Southern Manipur Band party.

Cultural items were also presented by Centre for Performing Arts, Kakching, Kom Cultural troupe, Mantak village and Ibouthou Khamlangba Thangta Academy, Kakching.

In the March pass, Umathel JNV (Girls) begged first position, while ICDS project Kakching and Kakching Higher Secondary (Girls) were adjudged as 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Participation Certificates were given to all participant of march pass.

The District Administration Noney yesterday also joined the 76th Independence Day celebration of India with much pomp and grandeur at Longmai common ground, Noney.

DC Noney Haulianlal Guitenfur led the tricolor national flag at the Longmai common ground complex.

A total of 13 contingents took part in today's parade that included police, students, 12 Assam Rifles band party and 2 cultural troupes.

Additional SP Law and Order Namsadai Peter was the parade commander of the function.

Awards were also distributed to persons for their distinctive contribution in various fields during the function. There were also cultural dance and song presentation as part of the function.

At Churachandpur the 75 years of India's Independence was celebrated at Public Ground, Hiangtam Lamka. Dr. Sharath Chandra Arjo, Deputy Commissioner of the district hoisted the National Flag and took the Rashtriya Salute as the Chief Guest from the Parade Contingents. Priscilla Tuboi, MPS, SDPO Churachandpur commanded the 17 march past contingents.

The 76th Independence Day was celebrated by maintaining the prescribed SOPs at Pherzawl Playground. Deputy Commissioner of Pherzawl Joseph Pauline Kamson hoisted the National Tri-Colour and took salute of the marching contingents commanded by Golamthang Hatzaw, MPS, SDPO Thanlon. The contingents comprised of Civil Police & VDF, Students and HYA Women.

The district administration of Tengnoupal held the 76th Independence Day, 2022 at the ground of Tengnoupal Government High School yesterday.

Addressing the gathering, Mannuamching, DC who attended the celebration as Chief Guest said as a part of Aadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the celebration of 75 years of Independence, every household in the country flies the Tri-Colour which symbolize our personal connection to our flag, an embodiment of commitment to nation building and the spirit of patriotism. She also informed that the National Flag are being hoisted in 16 (sixteen) Amrit Sarovar ponds within the district.

The 75th Independence Day celebration parade was led by Yumnam Prentij Singh, MPS, Additional SP (OPS), Tengnoupal. The parade was participated by 11 (eleven) contingents by 3 (three) government school students, police, 4 (four) Self Help Groups and a band contingent of the Assam Rifles, Tengnoupal Youth Club and Karate Do, Moreh.

As a part of the celebration, 53 (fifty-three) numbers of officers and officials of departments will be awarded Certification of Appreciation, 10 (ten) numbers of Red blankets were gifted to villages heads and Certificate of Achievement was awarded to Karate Do, Moreh for winning the 6TH International Karate Championship, 2022. The Youth Club, Tengnoupal was also gifted sports materials by district administration.

The event saw the attendance of more than hundreds of public. Colonel Narhyanan, Commandant, 20th Assam Rifles also attended as Special Invitee. The celebration was also attended by all the officers and staff of various departments.

The 76th Independence Day was also celebrated at Thoubal District Headquarter. The main function was held at the Mini Secretariat Complex, Thoubal.

Deputy Commissioner Thoubal, A. Subhash Singh, IAS, hoisted the National Flag and took salute at the march past contingents led by Parade Commander Th. Shanti Singh MPS, SDPO Yairipok. All together 29 contingents including Manipur Police, VDF, NCC, school, College, band party and cultural troupes participated in the march past.

The District Administration, Senapati celebrated the 76th Independence Day today at Mini Stadium, Senapati. Deputy Commissioner, Senapati Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS hoisted the Na-

tional flag and took the salutes from the parade contingent.

Speaking on today's occasion, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, DC Senapati congratulates the citizen of Senapati for having made a fruitful celebration after two years gap due to Covid pandemic. He also applauded various government officials and CSO's leader for their immense co-operation in celebrating the 76th Independence Day.

H. Timothy Maram, MPS, SDPO Mao was the parade commander of 23 parade contingents consisting of police personnel from CRPF, Manipur Police both women and men and VDF, 33 Assam Rifles Band Party, Maram, ASHA workers, ICDS Anganwadi worker, NYK Senapati and school students. In the march past competition of general category, St. Anthony Schools boy's contingent begets the first position, Mt. Everest Hr. Sec. School girl's contingent in second position and DV School boy's contingent in third position. In the NCC category, Mt. Everest Hr. Sec. School girl's contingent in the first position, Don Bosco Hr. Sec. School Scout & Guide in second and Mt. Zion Hr. Sec. School in third position.

Commendation certificate were handed over to 27 police personnel and 43 government officer/officials for their outstanding co-operation with the District Administration, Senapati.

Winner of the painting competition during Har Ghar Tiranga campaign organised Senapati District Police and ZEO & ADC were also given.

In the cultural programme, dance was also performed by Nepali girls and Poma Naga women. 33 AR Band Party, Maram also showcased their musical drill.

Later, there was an exhibition football match between the District Administration, Senapati and Civil Society Organisation at the Mini Stadium.

The District Administration of Bishnupur also celebrated 76th Independence Day with patriotic fervour at Mini Secretariat Complex in Bishnupur. Deputy Commissioner Lourembam Bikram hoisted the National Flag and took salute from the 17 participating parade contingents commanded by SDPO Bishnupur, Manoj Prabhakar IPS.

Commendations certificates were distributed to government officials and staff for distinguished service in the last one year. Kwasipahi Youth Voluntary Organisation also presented a cultural item during the observance.

Amar Chitra Katha apologies portraying of Paona Brajabasi as Tribal leader

IT News
Imphal, August 16:

Executive Editor of Amar Chitra Katha, Reena I. Puri has apologized the portrayal of Paona Brajabasi as Tribal leader of Indian Freedom struggle in their comic.

In a letter sent to the

convenor of the JSCC (Joint Student Coordinating Committee) Manipur the Executive Editor wrote, "Amar Chitra Katha regrets the use of the story of Manipuri warrior, Paona Brajabasi, in their collection Tribal Leaders of the Freedom Struggle, published in association with the Ministry

of Culture, as part of the activities to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The name of this warrior was inadvertently placed in the list of tribal warriors.

We have removed the story from the collection and apologise for any distress caused to the Manipuri

people".

Mentioned may be made that the student body while denouncing the portrayal of Paona Brajabasi as Tribal leader freedom fighter of India in their comic book and burnt the copy of the comic book while boycotting the comic book.

NESO to start anti-CAA protests from August 17 in entire North East

Agency
Guwahati, August 16:

The North East Students' Organisation (NESO) has announced that from August 17, member organisations will hold protests in all the state headquarters on August 17 against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

Speaking to the media, AASU chief

advisor, Samujjal Bhattacharya said that the government has to give the people a permanent solution to the illegal immigrant issues.

He added that if a solution is not met, the entire region will become like Tripura or even Arunachal Pradesh.

The senior AASU leader said that if there is no solution, even Assam might have to face the

fate where the primary or the state language turns out to be secondary which was "seen in Tripura".

"Even in Arunachal, Chakma and Hajong issue has become of the most severe ones", he added.

It may be mentioned that NESO termed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) communal was against the region's indigenous people.

India Covid daily count below 10K-mark after nearly 2 months, 8,813 new cases

Agency
New Delhi, August 16:

In a first in nearly two months, India's Covid tally dropped below the 10,000-mark on Tuesday with 8,813 fresh infections, according to the daily bulletin by the health ministry. The tally has hovered above the 10K-mark amid concerns over the spread of the virus in several parts of the country.

The overall death count now stands at 527,098 after 29 fatalities were reported in the 24 hours, according to

ministry data. This includes eight from Delhi, one each from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura; two each from Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir.

Punjab has revised its death count, according to the state wise death figures in the health ministry's website. However, an exact update on the deaths is not available.

The active caseload in India now stands at 111,252, constituting 0.25 per cent of the total cases. The overall

cases in India - recorded since the start of the pandemic - now stands at 4,42,39,372, as per the ministry data.

The daily positivity rate is reported to be at 4.15 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate is at 4.79 per cent, the ministry informed in the health bulletin. The case fatality rate is at 1.19 per cent.

As many as 43,638,844 people have recovered from the viral disease so far, according to the government figures. Out of this, 15,040 people recovered in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, 2,08,31,24,694 doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country to date under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last year, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year. The 28 new fatalities include eight from Delhi, six from Punjab, two each from Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh, and one each from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura.

Contd. from Page 1

Awareness on Hepatitis needed....

Mentioning about War on Drugs, ministers said that the campaign which was launched by the Chief Minister of Manipur with the objective to save the generation from drug abuse is highly commendable. The campaign will definitely help to bring a solution to the menace of drug abuse in the state, he added.

Speaking at the occasion as resource person, Medical

Superintendent, JNIMS Dr. Kh. Lokeshwor informed that Hepatitis can be transmitted through contaminated blood, mother to new born child, sharing of infected needles, unsafe sex etc.

Hepatitis B vaccine is available under UIP. For treatment of Hepatitis A&E supportive care and Symptomatic management system may be taken. For B & C, there is treatment available

at free of cost at RIMS, JNIMS and in all the designated health facilities in the 16 districts, he added.

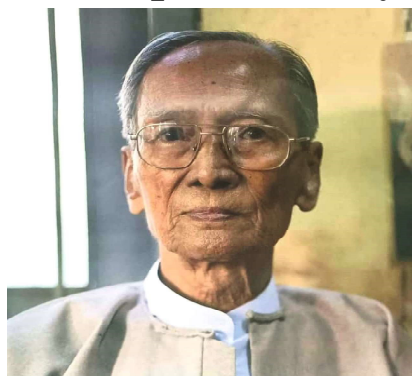
Director, Health Services Manipur, Dr. Kh. Sasheekumar Mangang, P.D. MSACS, H. Roshita Devi, IAS, Director JNIMS, Dr. L. Deben Singh graced the occasion as President and Guests of Honours respectively. A rally was also flagged off as a part of the observation.

Burmese translator of Mera Naam Joker passes away

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, August 16:

Acclaimed Rakhine author Maung Paw Tun, who translated popular Hindi novel Mera Naam Joker of Khwaja Ahmad Abbas into Burmese language, passes away. The award winning writer-translator, who was suffering from colon cancer, breathed his last at 9:45 am on August 13, 2022 at his residence in Yangon city of Myanmar (also known as Burma and Brahmadash).

Born as Khin Maung Soe on 14 May 1935 to the family of Maung Pu (father) and Aye Tha (mother) at Shwemyetwa village under Manung township of Rakhine State in British Burma, Maung Paw Tun completed his secondary education in his native town and arrived in Yangon (formerly Rangoon) for matriculation and



college education. He received a bachelor's degree in history in 1973 and started working as a stenographer. Later he worked as an editor of magazines namely Pen, Cherry, and Cee-

bwaa-yay.

He entered into the world of literature with the translation of Russian story Seven-Year-Old Girl in 1958. Maung Paw Tun translated at least 30 nov-

els into the Burmese language. His first novel was Revolt on the Nile (published in 1974). He received the national awards for translation works namely Kantayya San-yay-aing (1997) and Kam-kyaa-ma Ah-kyin-thaa (2006). He was honoured with Myanmar national literature award for lifetime achievement in 2014.

Mentionable is that Kam-kyaa-ma Ah-kyin-thaa is the Burmese translation of Hindi novel Mera Naam Joker, based on which the 1970 blockbuster Hindi movie (with the same title) was produced. Directed by Raj Kapoor, the film has casts including Raj Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Simi Garewal, Kseniya Ryabinkina, Padmini, Manoj Kumar, Dharmendra, Dara Singh, Rajendra Kumar, etc. It was partly shot in Moscow with the participation of some Soviet Union actors.

RPF.....

A statement by Bangkim, Assistant Secretary, Publicity, RPG said that the 7 individuals - Chingakhom Basanta (38) @ Khambaton, son of Ch Ningthembi of Andro Khuman Nunyumbi, Moirangthem Jitst (22) son of M. Manjit of Kakching Ningthou Leikai,

Konjengbam Romio (28), son of K Raghu, of Moirang Konjengbam Maning leikai, presently staying at Awang Sekmai Koujgleima, Phanjaobam Rabi @ Luwangngamba (26) son of P Kula of Andro Labaojam Ching leikai, Salam Mangijao (55) son of late S

Tombi of Kakching Wairi Salam leikai, Naorem Manoj (23) son of N. Nobin of Luker Mayai Leikai and Samurailatpam Akas @ Muston (19) son of S. Rajesor of Kakching Wairi Saban Bamon Leikai are not related with the RPF or its army wing PLA.

ZLR, NNC/FGN....

A statement by the FGN said that the said person reported to have been arrested identified as R. Dinpatrei @ R. Jashua @ John Ramei, son of Namdiatdia Riamei from Rangkhung village, Noney district, Manipur was dropped from the National Workers on August 12, 2021 by Gen (Retd) Vijalei Metha, Kedahge of the FGN due to their antinational activities. "After dropped from na-

tional worker, R. Dinpatrei imposter himself as active worker and collected money in the name of Zeliangrong region NNC/FGN. So, Captain David/ Chagai warned him not to collect money. For that reason R. Dinpatrei killed captain David on January 10, 2022 at Lungthaolang Village area, Cachar, Assam", the statement said.

The statement said that Dinpatrei recently extorted money from 10 villages in

Manipur from January to July month 2022. And has been serving monetary demand to six villages of Manipur.

The statement of FGN said that R. Dinpatrei was a gang leader who is extorting money from the public in the name of Zeliangrong Region NNC/FGN. The outfit said that action will be taken against him as per provision of the party constitution.

Sports

Durand Cup football kicks off today

Agency
Kolkata, August 14:

The Indian domestic football calendar will start with the 131st edition of The Durand Cup, which will start today.

After rescheduling the Kolkata derby because of an unfortunate history related to both the clubs on that day. In a match in the Calcutta Football League on August 16, 1980, 16 football fans dies in a riot and stampede at the Eden Gardens. FC Goa will open the tournament instead, against Mohammedan SC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.

The Durand Cup is the oldest tournament in Asia and was started in 1888. Hence, holds all the more importance in Indian Football, with the tournament being the first among three (Durand Cup, Indian Super League, Super

Cup) in an extended football calendar.

It is named after its founder Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, who served as the foreign secretary of British India from 1884 to 1894. It first began as a football tournament for different departments and regiments of Armed forces (of British India and native India).

The 131st edition of the Durand Cup will feature 20 teams with all of them divided into four groups of five teams each.

All 11 Indian Super League clubs will be participating in this edition of the Durand Cup along with five teams from I-League and four teams from the Armed forces.

GROUPS

Group A: Jamshedpur FC, Bengaluru FC, Mohammedan FC, Indian Air Force FT

Group B: Emami East Bengal, ATK Mohun Bagan,

Mumbai City FC, Rajasthan United, Indian Navy FT

Group C: NEROCA FC, TRAU, Hyderabad FC, Chennaiyin FC, Army Red FT

Group D: Odisha FC, NorthEast United FC, Kerala Blasters FC, Sudeva Delhi FC, Army Green FT

Indian Super League champion Hyderabad FC, which is in Group C, will start its campaign against TRAU FC on August 22 at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.

West Bengal, Assam and Manipur will host the Durand Cup 2022, changing its single-location format to a multi-city format for the first time.

The designated stadiums for the tournament are Salt Lake Stadium (Kolkata, West Bengal), Naihati Stadium (Naihati, West Bengal), Kishore Bharati Stadium (Kolkata, West Bengal), Khuman Lampak Stadium

(Imphal, Manipur) and Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium (Guwahati, Assam)

The Kolkata derby between ATK Mohun Bagan and Emami East Bengal will be played on August 28 at the Salt Lake Stadium.

FC Goa won the previous edition of the Durand Cup, beating Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 in extra time, with Edu Bedia, Goa's captain, scoring the winner.

East Bengal and Mohun Bagan are the joint-most successful teams in the tournament, having won it 16 times each. Mohun Bagan won its last in 2000, while East Bengal in two more titles since, in 2002 and 2004.

The 2022 edition of the Durand Cup will be live telecast on Sports18 and can be watched/streamed online through the OTT apps Voot and JioTV.

FIFA suspends All India Football Federation due to 'third party influence'

Agency
New Delhi, August 16:

FIFA has suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to "undue influence from third parties", world soccer's governing body said on Monday.

The suspension also means that the Under-17 women's World Cup, which was scheduled to take place in India from Oct. 11-30, cannot be held in the country as planned.

The Supreme Court of India had disbanded the AIFF in May and appointed a three-member committee to govern the sport, amend the AIFF's constitution and conduct elec-

tions that have been pending for 18 months.

In response, FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation sent a team led by AFC general secretary Windsor John to meet Indian football stakeholders and laid down a roadmap for the AIFF to amend its statutes by the end of July and subsequently conclude elections at the latest by Sept. 15.

"The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF's daily affairs," FIFA said on Monday's statement.

Earlier this month, the Indian court ordered elections to

be held promptly and said the elected committee would be an interim body for a period of three months.

The elections of the AIFF, formerly led by FIFA Council member Praful Patel, were to be held by December 2020 but were delayed due to an impasse over amendments to its constitution.

"FIFA is in constant constructive contact with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in India and is hopeful that a positive outcome to the case may still be achieved," FIFA added.

According to FIFA statutes, member federations must be free from legal and political interference in their respective countries. FIFA has previously