

Nitin Gadkari, Shivraj Chouhan out, Yediyurappa, Sonowal in; major revamp in top BJP body

Agency
New Delhi, August 17:

Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan were dropped from BJP's highest decision-making body on Wednesday, while former chief ministers BS Yediyurappa and Sarbananda Sonowal were included in the list.

Others on the BJP Parliamentary Board list include JP Nadda, Narendra Modi, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, K Laxman, Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Sudha Yadav, Satyanarayan Jatya and BL Santosh. The party also released a list of members of the BJP Central Election Committee (CEC) that

includes Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Fadnavis and K Laxman are the two crucial inclusions on the list, hinting at a promotion for the leaders. While BJP OBC Morcha national president Yediyurappa has been trying to gain grounds in Telangana, Fadnavis played a major role in forging an alliance with the Eknath Shinde camp that led to the toppling of Uddhav Thackeray government.

Talking to News18, Laxman said, "People in South India are looking towards PM Modi for developmental work, and I will raise his voice in my state." The party has tried to con-

sider the diversity while revamping the board. "There is evidently an emphasis on diversity. Sarbananda Sonowal is from the Northeast, L Laxman and BS Yediyurappa hail from the South, and Iqbal Singh Lalpura is a Sikh," sources said.

Sudha Yadav is a self made political leader whose husband was martyred in Kargil. Her inclusion shows the top-most respect to women and families of the armed forces, sources added. They further said that the board shows how the BJP rewards old workers and values the experience of its *karyakartas*.

"People like BSY, Satya

Narayan Jatia, K Laxman have given their lives to the party, building it brick by brick from the start," sources in the BJP said.

The Parliamentary Board is the governing body of Bharatiya Janata Party that takes day-to-day decisions on behalf of the national executive. The national executive sets up the highest decision-making body consisting of party president and ten other members. The board supervises the activities of the parliamentary and legislative groups of the party. It also guides and regulates all the organisational units below the national executive.

AMSU stages demonstration demanding repeal of CAA



IT News
Imphal, August 17:

The All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU), a constituent student body of North East Students Organisation (NESO) in Manipur also organised a protest demonstration in Imphal today.

The protest was organised by AMSU under the banner NESO urging the authorities concerned to implement a 12 point charter of demands which

includes implementation of Inner Line Permit (ILP) system in the entire NE region and repeal of Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The protest was held at the gate of AMSU headquarters in Imphal.

The other demands are updation of NRC (National Register of Citizenship) 1951, repeal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958, introduction of educational policy related to NE region, economic development, implementation of Assam ac-

cord, solving of unemployment problem, introduction of special constitutional status, separate time zone and other refugee problem.

Speaking to media on the sideline of the protest, Haobijam Chalamba, president of the All Manipur Students' Union said that they're urging the governments to implement the demands considering the vulnerability of the region's population in different areas.

contd. on page 4

Biswamitra's Eewai in International competition of 4th Nepal Cultural International Film Festival 2022



IT News
Imphal, August 17:

Khwairakpam Biswamitra's short narrative *Eewai* (Ripple) has been officially selected in the 4th Nepal Cultural International Film Festival 2022 to compete with 21 foreign films and three Indian films for the Best International Short Film Award. One film each from Belgium, Cambodia, Germany, Poland, Nepal/USA, Iran, South Africa, Ukraine, Leba-

non, Cameroon, Armenia, Sudan, China, Japan, Turkey, Canada, Italy, Hungary, Greece, United Arab Emirates, and Bangladesh, and four films from India are in the competition.

Festival authority says that 72 films from 34 countries for 15 different awards of the best feature film, documentary film, short film, animation film, women film, children film, human rights film and environment film in the international category and the best feature film, documentary film, short film, women film, children film, cultural film and environment film in the national category have been selected. The festival will be held for three days from December 8 to 10, 2022 at Kathmandu where guests, delegates and the audience will be able to enjoy the grand inaugural ceremony, closing award ceremony, some panel discussions, and Master classes along with screenings of nominated films.

The 23-minute film tells the agony of a mother whose little

child dies untimely. In the Meitei community of Manipur, a child who dies before he attains the age of 3 years is considered a bad omen to the family and all customary post-mortem ceremonies are deprived. But, for a mother, her child shall always be her child without considering the age. The film reflects the suppressed emotions and feelings of a mother.

Since time immemorial, there is a strong belief among the Meitei community that the spotted doves often seen taking foods around the courtyard of their homes are the departed souls of their near and dear ones. The Meiteis, thus, feed these birds with rice and pure water as a token of love and respect to the departed soul.

The film is scripted by Rebika Okram and produced by Samir Thingbajam under the banner Nongdon Mamkol. Khwairakpam Biswamitra is the screenwriter and director of the film. National award-winning actress Tonthoi is in the

lead. Henry, Rashi, Suniti, Homeswori, Chandrakala, Nandini, Naobi, Ananta Sharma, Baby Kevish Salam and Nghanthoi are in the cast. Romen handles the camera and Mohendro Kams edits the film.

Khwairakpam Biswamitra became famous in the Manipuri film industry as a director and an actor in his debut super hit film- *Kanaga Hinghouri* (1996) co-directed with Chan Heinsam where he played the role of Jaikishan, a drug addict. A pair with Kishorekumar, he co-directed another four super hit films- *Iral Oirage* (1997), *Anambashi Angbanani* (1998), *Aroiba Natte* (1999) and *Thamoinadi Kouhouri* (2001) produced by Chan Heinsam under Bright Film Manipur. He directed *Shiroi Lily* (2001) produced by S. Ibomcha Singh for SB Sons Film and *Yaoshanghi Meiri* (2002) produced by Laishram Lokendra for EUM Imphal. He played leading role in *Yaoshanghi Meiri*.

IT News
Thoubal, August 17:

District Administration Thoubal is all set for a successful conduct of "Meeyamgi Numit" tomorrow (Thursday) at the Counting Hall of Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex, Thoubal from 9.30 am onwards. The normal program of "Meeyamgi Numit" is to be held on 3rd Friday of every month but due to general holiday the program is held a day earlier and is going to be held tomorrow. For smooth functioning and better facilitation & coordination "A Special dedicated Meeyamgi Numit Cell" have been already opened by the District Administration. For this a dedicated email ID has

also been opened and anyone can send their grievances to miyaminumit.tbl@gmail.com, three days ahead of every 3rd Friday of every month.

DLOs of various departments are also all set to be present along with necessary preparation and specific assistance for the people. They will settle or dispose the grievances at the spot itself if possible. Certain public services that can be delivered on the day will be arranged by concerned departments. They may include various beneficiaries oriented schemes like CMHT, PMJAY, Old Age Pension and disability related benefits.

Deputy Commissioner, A. Subhash Singh, IAS said the people of the District can use

this forum to address their grievances and submit their suggestion. They can submit their grievances in writing (on a plain paper) if possible, along with necessary documents so that the officials can process the matter in a speedy manner.

Meeyamgi Numit will start in the district from 9.30 am and the public can register themselves along with the necessary documents.

Meeyamgi Numit will be held on every 3rd Friday of the month and if 3rd Friday happens to be a general holiday then the previous working day Meeyamgi Numit is a service platform to address the grievances of people initiated by Chief Minister on May 15, 2017.

RPF clarifies

IT News
Imphal, August 17:

Proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) today clarified that the 5 individuals, which the state police claimed arrested as cadres of PLA on August 16 by combined team of Thoubal Police and Commando team are not related and have nothing to do with the activities of RPF or its armed wing PLA.

A statement by Bangkim, Assistant Secretary, Publicity, RPG said that the 5 individuals - Keidongbam Subol (43) @ Khommei, son of (L) K. Biradon of Wangbal Mayai Leikai, Paonam Manikanta (32) @ Amuyamya, son of P. Arun of Jirihath Lakhinagar present address Tentha Tuwabanda, Thambalmani (46), wife of Md. Tomba of Yairpok Singa Ethei, Sougajima Ronal (32), son of S. Sanayajima of Kakching Wairi Kamala Pareng and Naorem Briten (27), son of N. Rajendro of Kakching Khunyai Leikai are not related with the RPF or its army wing PLA.

By Pradeep Kapoor
New Delhi, August 17:

Bihar developments leading to the formation of new government without BJP will impact the politics in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh before 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Significantly, the main opposition party Samajwadi Party welcomed the latest turn of events resulting in humiliation of BJP.

Enthusied by the developments in Bihar, Samajwadi Party national President and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said on Quit India Day Bihar sent the message BJP baghavo (remove BJP).

Leader of the Opposition

in UP Assembly Akhilesh Yadav said that it was a good start in Bihar and political parties and people in others states too would stand against BJP.

Although opposition parties have welcomed the developments in Bihar, but nobody openly talked about alliance.

UP sends 80 members to Lok Sabha and there is realisation in opposition parties that only a mahagathbandhan like Bihar could stop BJP in UP.

It may be mentioned that from 10 MPs in 2009 Lok Sabha polls, BJP got 71 in 2014 and 62 in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Now enthused by the success in 2022 assembly

polls UP CM Yogi Adityanath has set the target for all the 80 seats in 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Samajwadi Party has claimed the party alone was capable to defeat BJP in UP. It may be mentioned here that SP has alliance with Apna Dal faction and RLD.

Akhilesh Yadav's uncle and President of Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party Shivalp Yadav who is out of the alliance with nephew said Bihar type of maturity was required in leaders of opposition parties, then only BJP could be defeated.

Another important backward leader Om Prakash Rajbhar of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party said that there

was need for backwards and Dalits to come together to defeat BJP. He said SP and BSP should join the alliance to defeat BJP.

It may be mentioned Rajbhar and his party were part of alliance with Samajwadi party but parted company after the elections.

The politics of alliance started in 1993 in UP when Samajwadi Party tied with BSP, and the combination came to power. But later on, the alliance ended in bitterness with both the parties blamed each other for the collapse of alliance.

Samajwadi Party joined the alliance with Congress in 2017 assembly polls and slogan was given with Rahul and Akhilesh Yadav moving in one

rath UP ko yeh saath Pasand hai.

However, BJP won the assembly elections and SP-Congress alliance collapsed.

Again in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Samajwadi Party entered into alliance with archrival BSP. Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati addressed joint rallies. Although Samajwadi Party could retain its five seats, but BSP went from nil to 10 seats. Even after the gain of 10 seats in Lok Sabha due to support from Akhilesh Yadav and his goodwill in minorities, Mayawati terminated the alliance.

Again in 2022 assembly polls Samajwadi Party entered into alliance with RLD, Apna Dal faction, Mahan Dal,

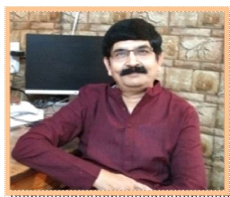
Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party, Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party. But after the polls there was much bitterness in alliance members and Mahan Dal, Shivalp Yadav and Om Prakash Rajbhar moved away.

Unless the main opposition parties reach to broader understanding and show the maturity like in Bihar then only, they can stop BJP in UP. Political observers feel that the national opposition parties should play a role in persuading the non-BJP parties to come to an understanding against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Only by restricting BJP to a minimum in UP, the opposition can hope to unseat BJP at the centre. (IPA Service)

Bihar developments are going to have impact in Uttar Pradesh in 2024 polls

Samajwadi Party has to take lead in forging a broader alliance against BJP

Show respect to National Flag



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

In India, during Independence Day & Republic day there is a new trend of selling flags made of paper and plastic, which is not fare. Ahead of Independence Day, the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flag made up of plastic and asked states and Union Territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code.

Our PM Narendra Modi has already called for wide publicity and sensitisation of Central and state departments as well as the public to strictly use "paper flags" instead of plastic flags and ensure that national flags are disposed in ways that are consistent with the "dignity of the flag". Millions of patriots have laid their lives to achieve freedom and our National Flag is a symbol of their great sacrifice. Every true Indian knows the importance of this flag and would make sure that it continues to sway freely always. Our national flag is courage and inspiration for us. It makes us remember about the sacrifices of our great Indian freedom fighters. It makes us remember that how tough that moment was for them. Getting freedom was not so easy. We should always respect our flag and never let it go down for our motherland. Many sacrificed their life to save the honour of the Flag by not allowing it to fall down on the ground. Unfortunately people have forgotten to maintain the honour of the Nation. Abuse of national flags takes place on Independence Day and Republic Day, due to use of plastic flags. National flag is used by people in every corner, every crossroad, every shop, and every vehicle. Some proudly places by pinning up on the clothes. Someone even set on vehicles but it is painful to see our national flag in Garbage next day. Many unceremoniously dump the national flag to the dustbin while some throw it on the road or in gutter. The feelings of patriotism and loyalty to a country are entrenched in the minds of individuals right from the time they start going to school. While each child enjoys carrying a paper flag on the independence and republic day, parents must be very watchful in ensuring that the flag is treated with respect.

The plastic or paper Flags that are held in the hand on the 'Independence Day' and 'Republic Day' with great honour and love during the flag hoisting ceremony, are seen lying on the streets, drains, filthy places in the afternoon of the same Day itself.

Is this not an insult to the bold patriots who suffered bullets of the British and the Portuguese on their chest to save the honour of the Flag? Flag Code of India 2002, Section II, Point 2.2 (xiii) says that when the Flag is in a damaged or soiled condition, it shall be destroyed as a whole in private, preferably by respectful burning or by any other method consistent with the dignity of the Flag. The Flag Code of India, 2002 containing the provisions of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 governing the guidelines for display of the national flag of India clearly mentions that whoever in any public place shows disrespect to or brings into contempt the national flag shall be punished according to the law. According to Section 2 of 'The Prevention of insults to National Honour Act, 1971' - Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

There have been complaints that after Republic Day and Independence Day, flags made of plastic are often found lying on roads and gutters. It is observed that paper and plastic national flags are found strewn all over roads and even in gutters right from 26th January and it takes time to dispose of plastic flags.

The government has already passed orders banning the manufacture, sale, distribution and display of plastic national flags. According to our Flag Code, "The National Flag of India shall be made of hand spun and hand woven wool/cotton/silk khadi bunting." Necessary action as per Mumbai High Court's orders should be taken for prevention of insult of national flags. All heads of departments and other officials should take care to ensure that the national flag is used only in a manner consistent with the provisions of the flag code.

Our national flag is used in festoons. After all the celebrations, people just leave them there. The flags fall to the ground and are stepped on. Plastic flags are preferred by many political parties for the election campaign. The Model Code of Conduct bans the display of any banners or flags in public places.

The flags are not only environmentally unfriendly, but also physically hazardous as the loose ends of the twine they are attached to, fluttering from lampposts and buildings, pose a danger to two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. The burning of non-biodegradable waste, including plastic flags, releases dioxins into the atmosphere.

We must uphold its dignity even if it is at the cost of our lives. Showing respect for National Flag is a symbol for the moral values of the citizens of the country. Don't we think like the national anthem and pledge are printed in school textbooks, a message about national flags can also be printed. Our national flag should not be used as a festoon, rosette or bunting or in any manner for decoration. It should be hoisted on important national, cultural and sports events. The paper flags should not be thrown on the ground or discarded after the event and should be disposed of in privacy with the dignity of the flag. Efforts should be made to educate, and spread awareness to the people of the country through advertising, in print and electronic media, so that the proper usage and dignity of national flag should not suffer in any manner.

Sport in Nation Building & Sustainable Development

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Nation building is the process of unifying a country and solidifying its identity. A major part of building a nation is creating a sense of nationalism. Nation building involves both creating a sense of pride in one's country among the citizenry and also enhancing a country's status in the eyes of other nations, which, of course, is a chief way to build national unity and pride at home as well. People love to feel they come from a country that others admire and respect. People in a country have to feel that they are all part of the same nation and that they are proud to be part of that nation. Sport is one way to help make people feel this way.

Sports is actually an excellent way of doing this because it creates a unified goal and brands all the differing groups in the nation under one banner. There is a sense of camaraderie inherent in sports because, regardless of the ideological differences you may have against another individual; you both wholeheartedly support your team. For that reason, hosting international sporting events, such as the Olympics, can be a nation building exercise that brings much positive attention and can build a sense of prestige and good feeling about a country. The most likely way to use sport to build a nation is to promote the national team in some sport that is popular throughout the country. In most countries of the world, football (soccer) is a very popular sport. If the country has a national team that competes against other countries, the government can encourage people to follow that team. This will be particularly effective if the team is competitive. The people of the country can feel proud that they are associated with a team that is going out and winning (or going out and competing gallantly against overwhelming odds).

Sport, however, still faces many challenges to the fulfillment of its true potential. Too often we have seen examples of intolerance, racism, hatred and violence during sporting events. Sport organizations, managers, players and fans must do all they can to

combat these ills and fully harness the positive power of sport. Like many other areas, corruption also affects sport. Corruption kills sport, and no tolerance should be afforded to malpractice in sport, including doping. Our role is to keep fighting abuses and promoting the adoption of good governance, integrity and transparency. We must also seek to place the SDGs at the core of all sporting organizations. Sports are often praised for its potential to bring people together and to provide unity amongst people. Supporting a sports team unites people by providing them with a social link, something they all have in common: their excitement for a particular sporting event and the support for their team. This even works on a national level, as undoubtedly sporting events can help bringing a nation closer together and they can most certainly support nation-building.

Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives. Harnessing this tremendous potential of sport, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) has long been bringing people together through sport and supporting sport for peace initiatives, from mega sport events to grass-roots activities. These initiatives help sport achieve its fullest potential in realizing the Goals. Regular participation in sport and physical activities provides various social and health benefits. Not only does it have a direct impact on physical fitness, but it also instills healthy lifestyle choices among children and young people, helping them remain active and combat non-communicable diseases. A number of studies conducted by the World Health Organization have also highlighted that

physical exercise can stimulate positive mental health and cognitive development. Exercise has been linked to improvements in self-esteem and self-confidence, as well as positive effects for people struggling with depression and anxiety. Sport contributes to well-being regardless of age, gender or ethnicity. It is enjoyed by all, and its reach is unrivalled. For instance, the World Taekwondo Federation established the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation to promote the martial art in refugee camps around the world. Such initiatives raise awareness about the plight of young refugees and are fully in harmony with the SDGs, particularly with regard to health. Children and young people benefit tremendously from physical activity. Sport provides lifelong learning and alternative education for children who cannot attend school. By taking part in sport and physical activities alongside school, students are exposed to sport's key values, including teamwork, fair play, respect of the rules and others, cooperation, discipline and tolerance. These skills are essential for future participation in group activities and professional life, and can stimulate social cohesion within communities and societies. Given the personal and social development benefits sport offers, increasing access and participation is a primary development goal.

Additionally, sport can be used as a meaningful tool for the prevention of conflict and the promotion of long-lasting peace, since sport and its universality has the ability to transcend cultures. In its contribution towards peace, sport often provides safe environments at the grassroots and community levels, at which participants are brought together in the pursuit of common goals and interests; learn values of respect, tolerance and fair play; and develop social competencies. As a common denominator and shared passion, sport can build bridges between communities regardless of their cultural differences or political divisions. In times of conflict or instability, sporting activities can

provide participants with a sense of normalcy. Fundamental to the true enhancement of global development and the realization of the SDGs is the establishment of strong and cohesive partnerships. The world is more interconnected than ever and the global phenomenon of sport has the power to connect influential networks of diverse partners and stakeholders with a shared commitment to lasting development. In this regard, the world of sport can provide powerful partner and stakeholder networks committed to the use of sport for sustainable development.

Any major international sporting event like the Olympics or World Cup promotes universal brotherhood and gives one a sense of belonging to a larger global community. Sports people have always been very successful goodwill ambassadors for any country and have admirers across borders. The moment we hear "Brazil" or "Argentina", one of the first thoughts that cross our mind is that of football and its legends "Pelé" and "Maradona". Nelson Mandela's beautiful quote sums it up in a very meaningful way: "Sport has the power to change the world". It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than government in breaking down racial barriers. Despite many challenges, the vast positive power and passion of sport will continue to bring people together, promoting a more inclusive and peaceful world through its universal values and principles. Historically, sport has played an important role in all societies and acted as a strong communication platform that can be used to promote a culture of peace. It is, and will continue to be, one of the most cost-effective and versatile tools to promote United Nations values and achieve the SDGs.

(Writer can be reached to: sjugeshwor7@gmail.com)

Who weighs more?

By: Jona Princie Konsam

Durga bleeds and enjoys womanhood. Such stereotype must come to an end. Menstruation is a trouble topic in India. Society's 'extreme' orthodoxy never fades away. Victim blaming is another common issue. Some believe that wearing clothes that show their body parts invites doom to themselves. How is that true? It draws attention of the people to conduct misdeeds. It is hilarious to me to believe it in my heart! Man's accusing finger always points towards woman. People's thoughts are bigoted that women's only appropriate place is the kitchen. Their mandatory tasks are to cook; looking after children, in laws, elders. They are born to endure the pain and sufferings of the world. These are the mind-sets of the people. Recently, a class 10 minor Tamil girl was gang-raped by her own classmates and surfaced the video on the internet which has gone viral. And yes, SEX EDUCATION is a must.

On the contrary, men are also a victim of various issues. Not all men are wrong doers. But looking from the vast actions misconducted by men, they are often seemed as abusers, harassers etc. Women also take up the advantage of being woman. Surely a paradoxical statement! We all have seen the scene where a zomato delivery agent who was accused by a woman consumer. Slogans are made to hear everywhere. Awareness posts earthed firmly on the earth's crust, but still no one glued their eyes earnestly. The outcome of such acts leads to various detrimental consequences. It critically deteriorates the mental health condition of the individual, unable to face the outside world and fight the

urge to stand up, educational career and so on.

Besides men and women, we know there are lots more of sexual identities on this planet. LGBTQ+ has started to meet their recognition. Man who are not manly, who befriends more with female are coined 'homo'. Kids mockingly called them 'homo' when they saw them on the streets. I vividly recall the day during my school assembly when ma'am Principal told the teachers to teach the children, basically my juniors (6-7) to stop saying 'homo', even when they called among themselves just for the name shake. It may be just a simple word to those who don't grasp the idea of 'homosexual' or 'homo' but to those who are concerned about LGBTQ+, is a concerning subject. SEXUALITY IS A FLUID! It also depends. One shocking statement that grasped my ear and attention was "people who are not correctly and completely man or woman is a curse. The earth has been formed only for them and to expand their generation. They are outsiders". Bringing back the story of Shikhandi, a warrior of the time during Mahabharat who is responsible for defeat of Bhishma in partnership with the Arjuna, was a transgender or a feminine.

I have a friend of mine who is considered himself a BISEXUAL. He would always tell me the stories about himself, how the people around him treated and called him. He desperately addressed that people of Manipur and even the whole India is not so supportive regarding this matter. He would come rushing towards me and shared copious of stories. The way he feels

comfort, safe and sound sharing all these strange topics with me that people assume is all I want. I want to let the people know that they are no less than us; they are not different than us. There are countless feminists, who worked for the betterment for all of them, including 'us'-men and women. But they are not just enough. All we need to change is our dirty mind-sets and accepts them heartily.

But how are we going to fight for our own rights? Will it be a complete fiasco in bringing a gender neutral society? Will it be impossible in bridging gaps between the endless inequalities? However, keeping this aside, ending the story with a so called 'good news' is all we can hype up. Several organisations have been established. They have flourished their names to a great extent in accordance with the works and contributions that had done for the state. As far as my knowledge goes, some of the organisations are GIRLUP KHONJEL, GIRLUP MANIPUR, MINGSEL FOUNDATION, LGBTQ MANIPUR and many more. Their efforts have made the people more aware about such gender-biased crisis. We better leave out pre ancient and out-dated thoughts behind and move on. Racism as well sexism must tear apart and work for the betterment of a one single human race. So here comes the question. Who weighs more? Is it questionable?

(The writer is an 11th grade student from Maria Montessori Sr. Sec. School. She has participated MUN (Model United Nations) thrice representing the countries Egypt, Kenya and India respectively.)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

9,062 fresh COVID-19 cases, 36 more deaths in India

Agency
New Delhi, August 17:

India on Wednesday recorded 9,062 fresh COVID-19 infections that took its tally to 4,42,86,256, while the number of active cases came down to 1,05,058, according to Union health ministry data.

The death toll climbed to 5,27,134 with 36 new fatalities, including six reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.24 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate stands at 98.57

per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 6,194 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.49 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.38 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,36,54,064, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent, it said.

So far, 208,57 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the coun-

try under the nationwide vaccination drive, it added.

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 1-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of 2 crore cases on May 4, 3 crore on June 23 last year and 4 crore on January 25 this year.

Kejriwal launches 'Make India No. 1' mission; healthcare, education in focus

Agency
New Delhi, August 17:

Delhi chief minister and AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced 'Make India No. 1' mission to make the country "number one" by focussing on health, education, agriculture, and employment. Addressing a gathering in Delhi, Kejriwal said that India has achieved a lot since its independence but is still lagging behind several nations that gained independence after it.

"It has been 75 years of independence. In these 75 years, we achieved a lot, India gained a lot but there's anger, a question among people that several small nations who attained independence after us, surpassed us... Why did India lag behind? Every citizen is asking this," the Delhi chief minister said.

"We have to make India the number 1 nation in the world once again. We have to make India great again. We are beginning a national mission called 'Make India No. 1' today. Every citizen of this country, 130 crore people have to be connected to this mission," he added.



Kejriwal said that opening schools, hospitals, providing employment to youths, and equal rights to women needed to make India number one in the world. He underlined that the mission should be a bipartisan movement and all political parties should join hands to make it possible. But in the same address, the Delhi CM, without taking names, attacked political parties over nepotism and cronyism.

He also appealed to people of India to end communal hatred and spread love.

"This is not the mission of any party; BJP-Congress people should also come together. All patriots should join (the mission). 75 years have been wasted in fighting (against

each other). Now 130 Crore people have to come together to make India No. 1," he said.

The announcement comes ahead of the assembly elections in Gujarat where the Aam Aadmi Party is trying to make major inroads.

Following the BJP's attack on the AAP over "freecbies", the party recently launched an online campaign asking people to support "Bharatvaad" instead of "dostvaad". "I am a taxpayer. My tax is for India's development. Not for loan write-offs of billionaires. Share if you support Bharatvaad not dostvaad," reads the post being shared widely by AAP members on social media and several common people also supported the campaign.

Northeast celebrates I-Day with full patriotic fervour

By Nava Thakuria
Guwahati, August 17:

All north-eastern States celebrated the 76th Independence Day with fanfare, where the people participated in the occasion with patriotic fervour defying the diktat from separatist armed militants. Though imposed a total shutdown on 15 August in five NE States, the militant outfits however did not mention about the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign starting from 13 August as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating India's 75 years of independence.

Chief ministers of the alienated region took the lead in hoisting the Tri-colour in respective State capital cities where they paid homage to all martyrs and freedom fighters who sacrificed everything in the struggle against the imperialist British forces to make India a sovereign nation. Addressing the people on the sacred occasion, they also highlighted the welfare schemes and future plans. Meanwhile, the north-eastern citizens joined in displaying the national flags in their residences for three full days.

It may be mentioned that a number of outlawed militant outfits including the United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) and the Yung Aug-led faction of Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim (Khaplang) called for a general strike in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya from the midnight of 14 August till 6 pm next day. Terming the I-Day celebration as fake, the militant groups asked the people to boycott any kind of celebrations on 15 August.

Terming Northeast as the western part of southeast Asian region, the insurgents claimed that even after 75 years of independence, the indigenous people here are suffering from financial debts and hundreds of other problems. Hence, it remains 'unfair, historically irrelevant, and worthless for a state, which is unable to stand by the suffering people in such a time of declining living standards' to



celebrate the I-Day, added their media statement.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while hoisting the national flag in Guwahati, firmly said that sovereignty is non-negotiable. Mentioning about the boycott call by the militants, he asserted that Assam is an integral & inalienable part of India and the exuberant celebrations and display of love for the Tri-colour by the public should be a lesson for those who dream of an independent Assam. Sarma urged the secessionist groups to join in the peace talks for the sake of development in the region.

He also announced that the State government has decided to withdraw one lakh fresh and pending cases, precisely related to objectionable social media posts, to lessen the burden on the judiciary. He mentioned that Assam has no less than 400,000 pending cases and it has finally slowed down the speedy dispensation of justice. Now following the withdrawal of a large number of cases, the judiciary can give special focus on so many serious crimes. Sarma also highlighted many welfare schemes like Mission Basundhara, Mission Bhumiputra, Mission Sadbhavana, Orunodoi, etc.

Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu, while hoisting the national flag in Itanagar, mentioned that this year the frontier State has reached the golden jubilee year (marking fifty years of its naming) and it provides every Arunachali an opportunity to celebrate and plan for the future ahead. Khandu claimed that Arunachal is an ideal ex-

ample of wholesome development and the government has been following the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas.

Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga hoisted the Tri-colour in Aizawl and highlighted the government actions against the illicit activities (including drug trafficking) while maintaining the law & order situation across the State. He mentioned that a new cyber forensic laboratory was recently inaugurated in the capital city. Zoramthanga also spoke about the initiatives for village-based eco-tourism, agriculture development and health insurance coverages. He assured that the Aizawl civil hospital will be upgraded with funding from the DoNER ministry.

Meghalaya government chief Conrad Sangma, while hoisting the Tri-colour in Shillong, proposed to transform the State into a vibrant, globally recognized region by 2032. Insisting on youth employment, Sangma stated that entrepreneurship is the route through which the youth can become job creators (not job seekers).

Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang, while attending the I-Day function in Gangtok, announced a series of women's welfare schemes and also launched the mobile village clinics with an aim to deliver healthcare services to the residents in remote areas.

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio, while hoisting the Tri-colour in Kohima, remembered the freedom fighters with gratitude who gave their all, many even laying down their

lives, to get freedom for India. Tripura CM Manik Saha hoisted the national flag in Agartala and urged everyone to take a pledge to bring glory to India. Manipur government chief N Biren Singh hoisted the national flag in Imphal and revealed many actions against drugs smuggling, poppy plantations and other crimes. He insisted on connectivity, infrastructure development and women welfare initiatives.

A splendid Tri-colour boat rally on mighty Brahmaputra river was organised by the Dhubri district administration in western Assam on the eve of I-Day, where 75 machine boats, designed with the three colours national flags & balloons were put on march from Kachari Ghat to Chalakura Char (river island). Dhubri district magistrate Anbanmuthan MP took the initiative in collaboration with the BSF and State police to spread awareness among the people living in the Char-areas over the I-Day celebrations.

In Guwahati, CM Sarma flagged off a cycle rally from the city to Sivasaagar, which was organised for generating awareness on environmental conservation. He commented that in view of the dwindling forest cover, global warming has become a major concern. He called upon everyone to plant saplings and take care for their survival. Sarma also participated in a Prabhat Pheri (a traditional morning march starting from Kamrup Academy School), where school and college students joined in it to mark the beginning of nationwide Tri-colour festival.

Career Guidance

Fortune Teller of Language



By: Vijay Garg

Recently, Google has added twenty-four new languages to its machine translation system, including eight of the country's languages - Sanskrit, Bhojpuri, Dogri, Assamese, Mizo, Konkani, Maithili and Manipuri. Whereas it already had Indian languages like Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Thus far, Google has arranged for mutual machine translation between a total of one hundred and thirty three languages of the world, which has crossed

the global linguistic barrier including Indian. It is a great achievement to do. Google Translate is like a bridge that is always in people's pockets because of its convenience of working on mobile through the app. Yes, the question of translation quality is always relevant and it is here too, but in spite of all this it has started to translate well in many majority languages.

However, a number of encouraging conclusions can be drawn from Google's recent links to languages, the main one being that Sanskrit, a representative language of the Indian knowledge tradition, is still a capable machine. There was no translation system and today we are proud to have Google's research achievement on our forehead, secondly, they also have a language like Bhojpuri, which runs a parallel movement to get it included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of the country lives. Google i.e. the market has given its protection to Bhojpuri. Among these lan-

guages are also languages like Mizo and Konkani, whose speakers are comparatively small in number and come down in the order of numerical strength in the country.

So, now definitely Minority language-speakers should also expect from Google that their languages will be added to this list. There is also a big basis for such expectation that the technology Google is using in the current research process, it has used the 'Zero Shot' method, in which a linguistic corpus i.e. 'digital text' can also be used for artificial intelligence. Algorithms have been developed on the basis of this, whereas Google's early research was focused on the use of bilingual parallel corpus, and based on extensive collection. Obviously, this linguistic date Google steals from people's creative activities for free. However, it should also be seen in a positive way here that the more active a minority language-speaking person is in the world of the Internet through their language, the

more likely it is that Google will take care of their languages and help them. Also stand with mainstream languages on technological platforms. Surely he has his own interests in the midst of all this.

Well, looking at all this, some incidents during 2010-12 are being remembered, in which a late teacher, who was one of the pioneers of machine translation in the country, also has his own experiences. He was working for the Government of India in those days and, despite all the achievements of his research, at times seemed frustrated with the bureaucracy, in which the bureaucracy compared the machine translation system he was developing with Google, while the ability of both, No comparison was possible between resource and methodology. This was the period of machine translation in the country, when the rule-based system was at its peak and Google's statistical method was in its early stages was in a state. That is, the work of building a bridge on a river by add-

ing bricks one by one was being done in the country, which was also successful in the then circumstances, whereas Google's method is like making the same bridge overnight with a JCB machine.

The research of machine translation was going on in the country that in 2012, a top official associated with these works of the Government of India told in a personal conversation that 'No, now we will not do anything for machine translation, because Google is doing it. So, when we look at these efforts of Google today, it also makes sense. It is coming that the governments of the country have equal support in these achievements of Google, whether due to ignorance or inaction or lack of vision. After all, due to government policy vacuum, Google has made free use of our internet data and today it is making products out of it and serving it to us and in the choice less circumstances, we have no other work than to celebrate.

Assam reports 10 new cases of Japanese Encephalitis, 1 death

Agency
Guwahati, August 17:

As many as 73 people have died of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in the past 46 days in Assam, while a total of 371 cases of the vector-borne disease have been detected in the state during the period, a National Health Mission (NHM), Assam report said.

At least 10 fresh cases of JE were reported from across the state in the past 24 hours while the fatal disease claimed another life in Sonitpur district on Tues-

day, the report said. While Jorhat district recorded three new cases in the last 24 hours, Dhubri recorded two cases, followed by Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Karbi Anglong, Sonitpur and Tinsukia districts with one case each, respectively, the NHM report added.

Japanese encephalitis is a viral infection that spreads through mosquito bites. It is most common in rural areas in southeast Asia, the Pacific islands and the Far East, but is very rare in travellers.

Document Lost

I, the undersigned have lost Death Certificate of my late wife namely (L) Thoibi Devi, issued by the Health Department, Government of Assam on the way between Dibong Khumou to Jiribam Bazaar on the 10th August, 2022.

Finder are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Rajmani Singh
Bagkhal, Forest village
Lalpani Pt-II, Cachar, Assam
7005200089

BJP launches 'Desh ki Badli Soch' campaign to laud Modi, target Cong

Agency
New Delhi, August 17:

The BJP has launched a social media campaign — 'Desh ki Badli Soch' (country's mindset has changed) — to project Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a favourable light by comparing his Independence Day speeches with those of his Congress predecessors.

On Tuesday night, the party shared on its Twitter handle many graphics quoting parts of speeches made by Modi and his predecessors Manmohan Singh, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

One such tweet alleged that Nehru did not pay tribute to fallen soldiers in his 1963 speech, which came after the 1962 war with China. It noted that Modi in his 2020 address remembered those who made the supreme sacrifice in the conflict with Chinese forces in



Ladakh.

Sharing a clip from Singh's addresses in 2008 and 2009 lauding prime ministers from the Nehru-Gandhi family, the BJP accused him of "remembering selective idols and appeasing a family". The party contrasted it with Modi's 2014 speech in which he said the country has reached where it is due to the contributions of

all its government heads.

In 1975, after imposing the Emergency, Indira Gandhi justified it as "bitter pills" to "cleanse" different aspects of national life. On the other hand, Modi in his 2017 speech, cited democracy as India's "biggest strength", the ruling party claimed.

Citing China's attack on India in 1962 despite the

'Panchsheel' agreement with the country, the BJP accused the Congress leadership of having a soft policy on Kashmir and Ladakh and claimed that Modi has maintained a tough stand.

The BJP has been targeting the leading figures of the Congress in its social media campaigns.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday alleged a "self-obsessed" government is hell-bent on "trivialising" the sacrifices of freedom fighters and asserted that her party will strongly oppose such attempts made for political gains.

Gandhi's attack came a day after the BJP released a video narrating its version of events that led to India's partition in 1947 and for which it tangentially blamed the top Congress leadership at the time. The video showed pictures of Nehru and Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Survey for Road construction in Chandel conducted



IT News
Chandel, August 17:

Joint re verification survey of affected land and property owners is being carried out on the Chakpikarong-Aigejang section of Chakpikarong

Khongtal road to be taken up by the BTRF.

During the survey/re-verification DC, Chandel Mayanglambam Rajkumar, ADM, Md Firoz, SDO Chhrom Somrendro Singh, Asst. Executive Engineer and Junior

Engineer 84 RCC/25BRTF and other line department officials were present. DC, Chandel seeks people support and cooperation for smooth conduct of Survey so that the road construction can be started soon.

Fourth advance estimates for 2021-22 of major agriculture crops released

PIB
New Delhi, August 17:

The fourth advance estimates of production of major agricultural crops for the year 2021-22 have been released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The production of Foodgrains in the country is estimated at 315.72 million tonnes which is higher by 4.98 million tonnes than the production of foodgrain during 2020-21. The production during 2021-22 is higher by 25 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of foodgrains. Record production is estimated of rice, maize, gram,

pulses, rapeseed and mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said that, this record production of so many crops is the result of the farmer-friendly policies of the Central Government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as well as tireless hard work of the farmers and the diligence of the scientists.

As per 4th Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during 2021-22 is as under: Foodgrains 315.72 million tonnes, Rice 130.29 million tonnes (record), Wheat 106.84 million tonnes, Nutri / Coarse

Cereals 50.90 million tonnes, Maize 33.62 million tonnes (record), Pulses 27.69 million tonnes (record), Tur 4.34 million tonnes (record), Oilseeds 37.70 million tonnes (record), Groundnut 10.11 million tonnes, Soyabean 12.99 million tonnes, Rapeseed and Mustard 11.75 million tonnes (record), Sugarcane 431.81 million tonnes (record), Cotton 31.20 million bales (each of 170 kg), Jute & Mesta 10.32 million bales (each of 180 kg).

Total production of Rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 130.29 million tonnes. It is higher by 13.85 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 116.44

million tonnes.

Production of Wheat during 2021-22 is estimated at 106.84 million tonnes. It is higher by 2.96 million tonnes than the last five years' average wheat production of 103.88 million tonnes.

Production of Nutri / Coarse Cereals estimated at 50.90 million tonnes, which is higher by 4.32 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 46.57 million tonnes.

Total Pulses production during 2021-22 is estimated at record 27.69 million tonnes which is higher by 3.87 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 23.82 million tonnes.

AR provides medical aid to snake bite victim

IT News
Imphal, August 17:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) extended life saving medical assistance to a snake bite victim of Khoirentak village, Churachandpur district, Manipur today.

A 29 year old lady named Miss Akimkom was bitten by Venomous snake on Right foot and was having symptoms of gross local swelling and fever. The individual was rushed by villagers to the Unit hospital of Assam Rifles at Kangvai.

The Medical staff examined and immediately rendered life saving medical care to the individual alongwith Anti Snake Venom Administration and stabilized her condition. The lady was referred to District hospital for further management.

Contd. from Page 1

AMSU stages demonstration...

The AMSU will also launch various forms of agitation under the banner of NESO until the demands are fulfilled, the student leader said. Shouting slogans and

holding placards which read Update NRC, Implement ILP to the entire NE region, Repeal CAA, Repeal AFSPA, Adopt an education policy for NE region based on Culture & his-

tory of NE, Solve unemployment problem immediately, the students of different educational institutions in their school uniforms took part in the day's protest.

Sports

FIFA ban fails to dampen spirit of Durand Cup as 131st edition begins with pomp and fanfare

Super sub Faslu Rahman help Mohammedan beat FC Goa 3-1

Agency
Kolkata, August 17:

The dark clouds hovering over Indian football failed to dampen the spirit of the Durand Cup, as the 131st edition of Asia's oldest tournament of the sport kicked off with much pomp and fanfare at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan here on Tuesday.

Kolkata giants Mohammedan SC kicked off their Durand Cup campaign with a stunning 3-1 come-from-behind win over defending champions FC Goa in Kolkata on Tuesday.

FC Goa drew the first blood when young midfielder Muhammad Nebil struck from a counterattack to give his side an early lead.

The Black Panthers had to wait until the second half to find an equaliser when in the 49th minute 29-year-old Manipur forward Pritam Singh drew parity off a delightful cross from winger Sheikh Faiz.

Egged on by a boisterous home support, Mohammedan

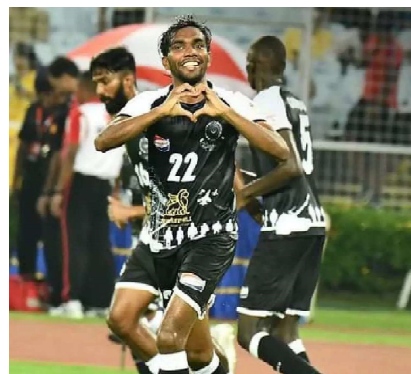
SC brought in midfielder Faslu Rahman in the 78th minute of the game, and the 27-year-old gave headed the ball into the net and earned MSC the all-important just six minutes later.

Rahman was also instrumental in the third and final goal as he assisted skipper Marcus Joseph in the 93rd minute who sealed the deal and put the final nail in the coffin.

Mohammedan could have made it 4-1 but three of its players failed to convert a sure-shot goal in the 96th minute following a pandemonium in FC Goa's box.

With this win, the Black Panthers clinched the all-important three points and lead their Group A table.

The game was preceded by an opening ceremony where Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal was Chief Guest. There were Army Bands on display and star singers Papon and Rewben Mashangwa rendered the tournament theme song, before the Chief Guest was introduced to the players and support staff of both teams.



While the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) suspension by the sport's world governing body, FIFA may have far-reaching consequences, with the country set to lose the hosting rights of the U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup slated in October, the festive atmosphere during the Durand Cup opener revealed very little about the sombre reality.

For the first time in the

tournament's history, 11 Indian Super League (ISL) teams will be among 20 others, who will be vying for the top honour.

The tournament also features five I-League clubs and the rest four from the Armed forces.

"We are really sad for the ban but football can't stop, so we are here in full strength to support our team. I'm sure better things will prevail soon,"

said a Mohammedan SC fan.

However, the Indian Football Association secretary (IFA) Anirban Dutta seemed a little worried over the FIFA ban.

"Not just the U-17 Women's World Cup, the AFC Cup Inter-zonal semifinal match of ATK Mohun Bagan too will be affected," Dutta told reporters here.

"This will also have a negative impact on the I-League, ISL and also the players. Clubs won't be able to sign any foreign players. I just hope that it's restored soon," he added.

The ban is a first in AIFF's 85-year-old rich history and FIFA has said the transgression constitutes a serious violation of its statutes.

"Many clubs and players will suffer because of this. If the ban is not lifted, the U-17 Women's World Cup won't happen and our semi-final also remains a cloud of uncertainty. We can't even sign players," Mohun Bagan secretary Debasish Dutta said, terming it as a "black day" for Indian football.

"Those who are responsible for bringing the sport to disrepute should be penalised. We hope in the SC hearing tomorrow everyone keep their ego aside, sacrifice their chairs (posts) and save Indian football," he added.

Having qualified to the main round earlier this year, India are also slated to play the AFC Asian Cup next year and the suspension will jeopardise the national team's chances.

"It's not a joke. We should have given a thought to it. But we are hoping for the best,"

former footballer and Mohun Bagan legend Satyajit Chatterjee said.

Stating that Indian football needs a clean-up, former Indian goalkeeper Sandip Nandy said bringing in players into administration is the key going forward.

"Why are we not giving importance to ex-players? Look at the BCCI, Indian cricket is run by (Board president) Sourav Ganguly and we also have the legendary Rahul Dravid as the head coach. That's the way forward in football too," Nandy said.

Notification

This is to inform that 'The N.K. Academy' Lillong Chajing Meitei Lamkhai, Imphal West District Manipur P. O. & P. S. Wangoi Regd. No. 1468/SR/1W/2018 will be changed to "Iboto Memorial Academy" (IMA), Wangoi Wahangbam Leikai, Wangoi Sub-Division, Imphal West, Manipur - 795009.

Any objection from interested person to the change of name can be made within 7 days from the publication of this notification.

Sd/-

Wahangbam Cheng Cheng
Secretary
Iboto Memorial Academy (IMA)
Wangoi Wahangbam Leikai