

## Guv\*, CM, Ministers wish people on Krishna Janma

IT News  
Imphal, August 18:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Power Minister TH. Biswajit Singh among others wish the people of the state on occasion of Krishna Janma which falls tomorrow.

In his message, the governor La, Ganesan said that the festival of Krishna Janma (Janma Ashtami) celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and symbolises the divine richness of "Karmayoga", the way to attain spiritual heights through a ceaseless effort to achieve excellence in one's work. Lord Krishna's universal message, as given to us through the Bhagwat Gita, has guided us through centuries to stand firm in the fight for truth and justice against all odds.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh while wishing the people on occasion of Krishna Janma said that Shri Krishna's philosophy, which is timeless and universal, will guide our people and the State towards a more peaceful future filled with development and communal harmony.

"Shri Krishna gave us the most sacred teachings of Bhagavat Gita. May his message and philosophy dispel the darkness and light the lamp of wisdom in everyone's hearts", N. Biren said.

Minister Power/Forest & Env't/Agriculture/Sc & Tech, Th. Biswajit Singh in his message said that this festival reminds us of the eternal message of Lord Shri Krishna through Bhagwat Gita, affirming the foundation for building a harmonious society. Lord Krishna was an epitome of virtues like "truth, justice, respect for women, sacrifice and altruism", Biswajit wishes the people.

## 31st Manipuri Language Day

IT News  
Imphal, August 18:

To commemorate the inclusion of Manipuri language in the 8th schedule, the 31st Manipuri Language Day will be held on August 20, 2:00pm at Maharaj Chandrakirti Auditorium, Palace Compound.

The commemoration programme is jointly organized by Manipuri Language Day State Level Celebration Committee, a conglomerate of 17 organisations dedicated to Arts, Culture and Literature, Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Manipur, and Directorate of Language Planning and Implementation.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh, Konthoujam Govindas Minister PWD and Sports, Letpao Haokip, Minister Tribal Affairs and Hills, Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, Rajya Sabha MP and Committee Chairman Th Basantakumar, Education Minister will attend the commemoration function.

## State observes Sadbhavana Diwas

### Protecting lives and property of public is the motto of the Government: CM



IT News  
Imphal, August 18:

State observed Sadbhavana Diwas at the Banquet Hall of the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles today with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Power, Forest and Environment Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh as Chief Guest and President respectively.

Sadbhavana Diwas is observed every year on August 20, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. However, this year, the Diwas was observed today as August 20 falls on Saturday which is a closed holiday for Government Offices and August 19, 2022 too is a Gazetted holiday on account of Janmashtami festival.

The theme of Sadbhavana is to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony among people of all religions, languages and regions. The idea behind observance is to eschew violence and to promote goodwill among the people.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh maintained that the motto of the present Gov-

ernment is to protect the lives and property of the general public and as such the Government would always work for the welfare of its people irrespective of differences among different communities residing in the State. Continuing that Manipur is like a mini-India where people from different communities had been residing together for the last many years, he stressed the importance of phasing out all differences and marching forward together to make one Manipur within one India.

Stating the objectives of observing the Sadbhavana Diwas as to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony, the Chief Minister expressed that observance of the day is very important for a country like India which is resided by different communities. He further expressed his desire to make the observance more meaningful with every citizen following its basic theme of Sadbhavana in a real sense.

He further raised concern on exercising the freedom of speech by some people beyond the ambit provided un-

der the Constitution of India, causing harm to the interest of the general public and creating tension among different communities. He appealed to the public to refrain from such activities and asked them to come up with their grievances in the right forum and through their elected representatives so that it could be solved at the earliest.

Mentioning that the State's achievements in different sectors was due to prevalence of peace and support of the people, he expressed happiness that the public had begun to actively participate in the development works of the Government. This shows the true meaning of democracy with people's participation in governance, he added.

Power, Forest and Environment Minister Thongam Biswajit, while delivering his presidential speech, stated that the main objective behind the observance of Sadbhavana Diwas was to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony among people and to refrain from any form of violence. On the occasion, he recalled the distinctive thoughts and ideals of Former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and added that the latter had always worked for the peaceful co-existence among different communities and making a strong united India during his dynamic leadership.

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## Defence Minister felicitates 'Veer Naris' of Armed Forces personnel killed in Manipur landslide

### Assures full support of Ministry of Defence to the families



PB  
Imphal, August 18:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today felicitated the 'Veer Naris' of the Armed Forces personnel, who lost their lives in a recent landslide at Tupul in Manipur. The felicitation ceremony was organised at Bengdubi Military Station in Darjeeling district of West Bengal by Trishakti Corps. Thirty personnel - one officer, three Junior Commissioned Officers and 26 Other Ranks - of 107 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) 11 Gorkha Rifles were among the 61 people killed during the tragedy in June. Defence Minister presented

cheques of Rs seven lakh to each 'Veer Nari'. Thirteen soldiers, who got injured in the tragedy, were also felicitated during the event.

During the interaction with the Veer Naris and soldiers, Rajnath Singh paid glowing tributes to the deceased personnel, commending their bravery and dedication. He stated that the Nation will always remain indebted to the sacrifices made by the soldiers. He added that the Government is making sure that financial stability is provided to the families and dependents of the brave soldiers, assuring full support of Ministry of Defence. The Raksha Mantri lauded the Armed Forces for playing an important

role in completing the Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal Rail Line Project in a challenging situation. He said, the project is important for meeting the strategic and socio-economic needs of the country.

The Veer Naris and the soldiers conveyed their gratitude and appreciated the initiatives taken by Ministry of Defence and Indian Army to motivate the youth to join the Armed Forces.

Member of Parliament, Darjeeling Raju Bista, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, GOC, 111 Sub Area Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich and other senior officials of the Indian Army were present on the occasion.

## Meeyamgi Numit & Hill Leaders' Day for Jiribam and Senapati District held today

IT News  
Jiribam, August 18:

The District Administration of Jiribam and Senapati organised Meeyamgi Numit (People's Day) and Hill Leaders' Day today at DC, Complex, Chingdong Leikai, Jiribam and Multipurpose Hall, Mini Secretariat, Senapati.

The programme at Jiribam was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam W. Malemnganba Chengelei, IAS,

Divisional Forest Officer, Rajesh Darade, IFS, ADM Jameson Hangshing, MCS, Addl. SP.E.L. Fimate, MPS along with SDO Jiribam, SDC Borobekra, DLOs and staff of the various departments.

Different Departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Social Welfare, CAF & PD etc., rendered services to many individuals of the district. Apart from providing other services, around 14 people were administered Covid Vaccines by

Jiribam CMO team led by Dr. N. Soroja Devi, MO, Jiribam.

The Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation distributed Sprinkler Irrigation set to the selected beneficiaries, CAF & PD Department distributed LPG Cylinders to the selected beneficiaries. 302 nos. of Old Age Pension Cards, 118 nos. of CM Widow Pension Scheme Cards were also distributed by Social Welfare Department.

Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam heard the grievances of

the people one by one and instructed the department officials for necessary action. More than 124 applications of various issues related to developmental works and other were received for further necessary action.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also administered the Sadbhavana Day Pledge to the department officials.

It may be noted that Meeyamgi Numit (People's Day) alongside Hill Leaders' Day is held every 3rd Friday of

the month to reach out to the people of the respective districts for addressing their grievances, handing out schemes and other benefits provided by the Government of Manipur. The objective is to make Government Citizen centric, proactive and programme implementation effective.

However, being holiday on August 19, on the occasion of Janmastami, the programme of Meeyamgi Numit and Hill leaders' Day has been preponed on

August 18, 2022.

On the other hand the District Administration, Senapati organised District Hill Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit for the month of August at Multipurpose Hall, Mini Secretariat, Senapati.

In today's programme, 51 grievances have been registered relating to Health related, PMAY-G, Agriculture, Fishery, Handloom and Textile, Education and many other.

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## KYKL's 29th martyrs' day observed under the spirit of revolutionary valor

IT News  
Imphal, August 18:

Proscribed group KYKL today observed 29th Martyrs' Day. The day is observed commemorating the August 18, 1993 Kha Patsangbam incident at which 3 of its cadres fearlessly fought the Indian Security forces and later killed themselves instead of surrendering to the security forces.

A statement by the outfit while paying tribute to all the revolutionaries from Kangleipak and WESEA who had sacrificed their lives while fighting for independence from Indian colonialism said that on August 18, 1993, three valiant members of Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL)—

Thounaojam Brojen @ Lakpa from Wangjing, Salam Ito @ Danger from Kha Patsangbam, and Ningthoujam Basanta from Kha Patsangbam—were being held captive when a combined team of the Indian security forces (CRPF) and Manipur commando surrounded a farmhouse in Kha Patsangbam from all sides.

It said that Security forces repeated over loudspeakers a call for surrender as it surrounded the three Pathous. However, the three valiant revolutionary cadres, who were fiercely loyal to their revolutionary principles and also who believed it was better to die than submit to the enemy, refused to surrender. Rather, they put up a good



fight against the enemy, who had far better weapons and ammunition than they did. All of this transpired at a crucial

moment when several forces working in different directions tried to destroy our organization, the KYKL.

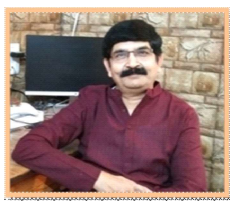
At such a crucial time, disclosing a party's secrets to the enemy is equivalent to destroying the organization and

the movement it led. Rather than giving the enemy access to the party's information, the three cadres who could understand the reality of the period and loved the nation fought the enemy for hours until the very end, when they killed themselves, salvaging the Kanglei revolutionary movement and the KYKL.

"KYKY has marked the day they gave their lives as 'Martyrs' Day', paying tribute to all the revolutionary cadres who gave their lives advancing the revolutionary movement forward, in honour of the lofty revolutionary ideals they cherished and the supreme sacrifices they made", the KYKL statement said.

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# Remembering Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

I remember the first words of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he was sworn as the 16th Prime Minister of India which was certainly more solemn than cheerful. "I have a pledge to redeem, and a promise to fulfill." Vajpayee was born into a high-caste Brahmin family in Gwalior, on Dec. 25, 1925. He was barely 15, but already steeped in Marxism, when a friend took him to a meeting of the Rashtriya Swamasevak Sangh (National Volunteer Service), a neo-fascist organization that has been the guiding force behind Hindu nationalism for much of this century. After entering the politics of the country, he climbed up step by step and now he is the spotless meticulous statesman of the Indian politics. He was the first politician, who addressed the U.N.O. in Hindi on 4th October, 1977. He was adorned with "Padma Vibhushan" by the Indian Govt. on 25th January, 1992. This was followed by another honor bestowed upon him by the U.P. Hindi Sansthan on 28th September, 1992. And then on 16th August, 1994 "Govind Vallabh Pant Award" was conferred upon him for his being the Best Parliamentarian.

He was the first Prime Minister of India who is regarded as non-controversial heart-throb of the country. He was held in high esteem not only by his party men but also by other members of the Indian polity. Undoubtedly, he was a great orator. He stood out to be a distinguished man in respect of his choice of words, effective pauses in between, sweet touch of sarcasm and humour, the style of speaking and above all, the quality of judging the moods of his listeners. Vajpayee's problem was that he proved to be more popular with the 344 million voters than did the Hindu nationalist movement, for which he has been the principal parliamentary standard bearer for 30 years. After coming into power Vajpayee had to face problems but he faced all the problems with courage and sincerity. He took many ups and downs in his political life with great equanimity and bears malice towards none. He was among the very few politicians who knew how to respect the viewpoint of their opponents. The poet turned politician achieved such as successful nuclear Pokharan-2 test, winning of Kargil war, starting of golden quadrilateral national expressway, growth rate of 5 percent or above per annum. Undoubtedly, he was a successful prime minister but his tenure experienced certain failures such as Indian airlines hijack by Taliban, attack of terrorists on parliament and riots in Gujarat. He was a great leader and one of the tallest politician of India and the world. Even enemies have liked his oratory skill and diplomacy. The way he maintained dignity in the Parliament was commendable.

For many observers Vajpayee's successful navigation of what was called an "unwieldy coalition" was his biggest achievement; others praised his optimistic foreign policy while others applaud India's economy under his rule.

He was one of the first to voice India's opposition to the unequal Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and he made it clear that his country would sign NPT only when the nuclear power gave convincing evidence of their desire to ban and destroy nuclear weapons. He was also passionate about his desire to "see India take its place as a great nation," with a nuclear weapons arsenal commensurate to its size. He said "We have the capacity for a big bomb now. Ours will never be weapons of aggression."

He shared a special relationship with Lucknow, which he represented for a record five terms in the Lok Sabha, before illness forced him out of active politics since 2009. Though he was a staunch and devout Hindu epitome of Hindu tradition- yet the people of minority communities repose their unassailable confidence in him. In a move led by him, it tried to reach out to the country's 140 million Muslims to assuage their fears of being treated as second-class citizens. Those who have known Vajpayee for years say that for him the RSS was his alma mater where he had learnt the lessons of life and which had made a man of him. He once wrote, "[the] Sangh is my soul". But as a practical man, he was not ready to be dictated by the Sangh on every move that he made and every step that he took.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had once introduced Vajpayee to Winston Churchill as the future Prime Minister of this country who travelled a long way to emerge as India's towering politician, a leader who commanded respect and admiration not only of his party men but even of his rivals, not to speak of millions of his admirers across the world. The man was loved for his qualities of head and heart, his poetry, his integrity boldness, patriotism, qualities of forget and forgive, and the principle of consensus. He was one of the few who can brave the worst travails in life and political career, and came out unscathed. He was an eminent national leader, an erudite politician, a selfless social worker, forceful orator, poet, journalist and indeed a multifaceted personality. He was an ideal for the masses. The message that clearly sprang from his deeds was that even under the most trying circumstances we must never lose our values that have so long been our guiding star. As a parliamentarian he had been a member of Lok Sabha nine times and of Rajya Sabha twice. He transformed the Indian growth story. Interestingly the maximum drop in inflation happened during his tenure. His strong will power led to make country nuclear power. His dreams of providing quadruplicate connectivity to India with highways changed people's lives across country. Interlinking Rivers in country will prove a boon for country in removing water scarcity throughout country.

His exemplary service & leadership has had a very positive impact on India's growth trajectory. Staying in the politics for more than 60 years as active politician, both in opposition and the ruling party and retiring from it without any allegation on the character is one rare achievement. From an insignificant political player to a key leader, Vajpayee will be known for his several contributions. From leading a delegation at United Nations to introducing Lahore bus service to raising Kashmir issue, Vajpayee has really won the hearts of Indians and even opposition. Vajpayee was an outstanding artist, eminent poet and a true leader who always stood for the cause of the poor and downtrodden classes of society. Vajpayee's name will be written in golden letters in the history of India.

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# Myanmar-Bangladesh meeting on Rohingya repatriation: The mistrust of previous failures must be overcome

By: Parvej Siddique Bhuiyan

Rohingyas have rallied in the camp to return to Myanmar. Demonstration processions and rallies were held under the banner of the Rohingya community in a joint venture at Rohingya Camp No. 26 and 27 in Teknaf Upazila at 9.30 am on June 19, 2022.

Rohingyas have rallied demanding immediate repatriation. The rally was held on Sunday morning at the Lombashia camp in Ukhaia, ignoring the rain. Rohingyas took part in the rally under the banner 'Go Home'. On the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20th June, several rallies are expected to be held at different places in the Rohingya camp. In these rallies, they will raise some demands including trial of genocide and speedy repatriation.

Amidst these, despite having the ongoing crises around the world, there is some positive news for the world: Myanmar has expressed interest in accepting back/repatriating some Rohingyas in Rakhine. According to reports from media reports, the Myanmar-Bangladesh joint working group for repatriation of Muslim refugees held its fifth meeting via video conferencing on Tuesday (June 14, 2022). The meeting was reportedly attended by junta regime Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary U Chan Aye and Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry Secretary Masud Bin Momen. The issue appears to be extremely critical and significant at this time. Myanmar's military is beginning to recognize Rohingyas as Rakhine people (Myanmar). It is commendable that Myanmar recognizes the long-term realities. Myanmar, on the other hand, should show willingness and commitment to return the Rohingyas. It would be realistic if Myanmar ensured that its goodwill was put into action. Bangladesh has consistently emphasized the importance of facilitating the early repatriation of Myanmar's Rakhine state's displaced people.

The two parties talked about the problems of the verification process and how they aim to begin repatriating individuals who have been verified by Myanmar. According to media reports, they also discussed plans for voluntary returnee resettlement and trust-

building.

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According to the report, the Myanmar side discussed measures to ensure security and rule of law in Rakhine State, including the renovation of transit camps and houses in villages where returnees will be resettled; plans to create jobs and provide education and healthcare to returnees; and cooperation with partner countries, including ASEAN and UN agencies in the repatriation process.

The two sides discussed the issues with Myanmar's verification procedure and how they plan to start repatriating people who have been validated by Myanmar. They also reviewed plans for voluntary returnee resettlement and trust-building, according to state-run media.

The Myanmar side discussed measures to ensure security and the rule of law in Rakhine State, including the renovation of transit camps and houses in villages where returnees will be resettled; plans to create jobs and provide education and healthcare to returnees; and cooperation with partner countries, including ASEAN and UN agencies in the repatriation process, according to the report.

Muslim refugees in Bangladesh are unlikely to return to Myanmar for the time being, according to Arakan State analysts, due to the increasingly tense dynamics that have surrounded last year's coup, and the delicate situation in Arakan State in particular.

However, it is encouraging to see signs of movement in negotiations for the repatriation of Myanmar's Rohingya ethnic minority from Bangladesh, who were forcibly expelled from Myanmar in 2017. Myanmar understood that any delay regarding the repatriation can destabilize the region. It is true that Long-term uncertainty

about repatriation may encourage Rohingya refugees to engage in criminal activity. Many Rohingyas are becoming disgruntled as a result of the prolonged ambiguity surrounding their repatriation.

When the Rohingyas discover that there is no sign of the repatriation, they may engage more in human trafficking, prostitution, and illegal drug dealing. As a result, the entire region might be thrown off balance.

Bangladesh had previously signed bilateral agreements with Myanmar on October 30, 2017 and October 30, 2018. However, the world did not witness the accords being implemented. Despite the fact that Bangladesh is home to over a million Rohingya refugees. A total of 0.7 million new people has arrived, with 0.4 million already present. Bangladesh has demonstrated its humanity by sheltering such a large number of Rohingya Muslims. Myanmar, on the other hand, has long been a contentious issue both at home and abroad.

Bangladesh wants Myanmar to speed up the verification of Rohingyas so that they can begin their repatriation, which has been delayed for the past five years due to unfavorable conditions in Rakhine, according to the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh also highlighted the importance of maintaining the security, livelihood, and well-being of the returnees at the fifth meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of Rohingyas, which was conducted electronically.

Following deadly military campaigns in 2017, around 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh. The Rohingyas were unable to be repatriated despite numerous attempts, claiming that the conditions in Rakhine State were unsuitable and that they would lose their citizenship if they returned.

During the epidemic, no bilateral contacts occurred for more than two years. In January, Bangladesh and Myanmar had a virtual conference of the technical level "Ad-Hoc Task Force for Verification of Rakhine Displaced Persons."

Bangladesh intends to repatriate 750,000 Rohingya Muslims over

the course of many years. And this repatriation is meant to be voluntary and conducted in a secure setting. This approach will also involve the United Nations. Elections, military coups, and the Covid-19 outbreak in Myanmar have all slowed down the process of Rohingya repatriation. Discussions continued on January 26 at a virtual meeting of the two countries' technical committees.

Despite international criticism, Myanmar's government reached an agreement with Bangladesh to return the Rohingyas, but the process has yet to begin. Myanmar, on the other hand, has consistently used a variety of techniques to hinder the repatriation process. On the Rohingya situation, the international world has also been silent. They ended their 'responsibility' with boasting statements, on the contrary. PM Sheikh Hasina, has always acted humanely in the Rohingya crisis. In the end, Myanmar's existing interests should not be manipulated. Bangladesh, as always, must be watchful in this situation.

If we desire a successful and long-lasting repatriation of Rohingyas in Rakhine, the international community must now push Myanmar to follow certain international customary law on Rohingya repatriation. The Myanmar government must meet the following criteria:

1) At first, Myanmar authority must keep their word and implement the accord without any delay. Without the implementation of that, there is no outcome of that meeting. Myanmar must ensure that the repatriation of Rohingyas Muslims is safe, continuous, dignified, and long-term.

2) They should change the citizenship law of 1982. In Myanmar, they must recognize Rohingyas as a legal ethnic group.

3) The Rohingyas must have a safe haven in their birthplace Rakhine.

4) They must comply with the Kofi Annan Commission's (Advisory Commission on Rakhine State) recommendations and the Bangladesh Prime Minister's suggestions at the 74th, 75th, and 76th United Nations General Assembly.

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# How to stop Smartphone addiction in children



By: Vijay GarG

In today's digital age, it can be quite difficult for parents to keep their kids away from a screen. The proximity of digital technology is growing daily. Each home now has two to three smart devices. The online world is extremely addictive and can have a negative impact on a child's overall development.

"Smartphone addiction can have a negative impact on your child's mental health, social relationships, school performance and sleep habits. But it doesn't have to be that way! The good news is that you can break your child's Smartphone addiction with just a few simple strategies".

1. Acknowledge: It's hard to understand how much time kids

spend on their devices, but it's easy to spot the difference between kids who are just playing with their phones and those who are using them as a source of entertainment or distraction. One clear sign of Smartphone addiction in children is increased temper and tantrums related to losing access to a phone or tablet. The first step to breaking Smartphone addiction in kids is to recognize the symptom. Turning a blind eye may do more harm than acknowledging it exists and devising ways to tackle it.

2. Educate children on the side effects of too much screen time: You might have the urge to take away a Smartphone from your child every time they are on it. Setting rules without explaining the reasons behind them rarely have the desired effect. Before setting the screen-time rules at home, explain to your child the negative effects of too much screen time in a language that they will understand.

3. Set screen time limits: Set a daily limit on the amount of time your child can use a Smartphone. Setting a routine has been proven to be a great strategy to get kids to stick to rules and also reduce some of the stress associated with

raising young children. It is advisable that children below the age of 18 months should not be exposed to screens. Children between 18-24 months of age can be briefly exposed to high-quality children's programs under parental supervision. Children between 2 to 5 years of age should be allowed screen time of no more than an hour per day. For children above 6 years, parents can decide on a suitable time limit while ensuring that the child has plenty of opportunities for engaging in other activities and healthy sleep habits.

4. Digital-free zones at home: Try not to keep your child's phone in his or her bedroom when he or she goes to sleep. This can lead to bedtime struggles and maladaptive sleep patterns which, in turn, affect the overall growth and development of your child. Even in the absence of a set bedtime, make sure your child isn't spending excessive amounts of time staring at screens after dark. Additionally, no screen time around mealtimes, homework time and in public spaces. Even during tantrums, there is nothing wrong with being stern. Giving in to your kid's tantrums won't help them value rules because they will

learn to get away with it.

5. Encourage physical activities: Make sure your child is spending enough time away from technology at home to play outside or do other physical activities. If he or she is spending too much time on devices, consider limiting screen time at home. Joining the activities with kids are a great way to ensure that the physical games are enjoyable and stimulating enough to keep them engaged.

6. Media fast: While this sounds hard to implement, media fast can go a long way in breaking unhealthy Smartphone relationships. Set aside a week of the day during which no Smartphones and tablets can be used. On a no-device day, encourage your kids to participate in household chores, learn new activities or engage in arts and crafts activities.

7. Be a role model: Before you expect your child to follow screen-time rules, ensure that you are setting a good example yourself. Kids learn more from what they see than what they hear. Keep track of your own Smartphone usage and set rules for yourself as you do for your kids.



# India records 12,608 new COVID cases, 72 fatalities in a day

Agency  
New Delhi, August 18:

India saw a single-day rise of 12,608 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,42,98,864, while the active cases declined to 1,01,343, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on August 18.

The national death toll climbed to 5,27,206 with 72 fatalities, including 29 fatalities by Kerala, the data updated at 8 a.m. stated.

The active cases comprised 0.23% of the total infections, as the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.58%, the Health Ministry said.

A decline of 3,715 cases was recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.48%, and weekly at 4.20%, according to the Health Ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,36,70,315. The overall fatality rate to date stands at 1.19%.

According to the Ministry, 208.95 crore doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020. It crossed the



grim milestone of two crore on May 4, 2021, and four crore on January 25 this year.

The 43 new fatalities composed of eight from Delhi, six from Maharashtra, five from Haryana, four each from Punjab and West Bengal, three from Karnataka, two each from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh and one each from Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The death toll saw a jump - with 72 total deaths registered - as Kerala, Punjab and Goa carried out the reconciliation of data. With this, the death toll increased to 527,206, while the cumulative number of in-

fections stands at 44,298,864, according to the ministry.

While Kerala added 29 deaths in the backlog data, the health ministry said, reconciliation of data is being done by Goa and Punjab.

The deaths include eight from Delhi, six from Maharashtra, five from Haryana; four each from Punjab and West Bengal; three from Karnataka. While two each were reported from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh; one each from Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chandigarh, according to the ministry's state-wise data.

The active caseload de-

clined to 1,01,343 and currently constitutes 0.23 per cent of the cumulative infections. A decline of 3,715 cases was recorded in the active caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.48 per cent, and weekly at 4.20 per cent, the ministry data showed.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease has surged to 4,36,70,315. The overall fatality rate to date stands at 1.19 per cent.

Meanwhile, on the vaccination front, 208.95 crore doses of the Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

# Centre blocks 8 more YouTube channels for spreading fake news, and monetising it

Agency  
New Delhi, August 18:

The Union ministry of information and broadcasting earlier this week blocked eight YouTube news channels and one Facebook account for "spreading hatred among religious communities in India" and even monetising the content, the I&B ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

The orders to take down the YouTube channels, seven of which are India-based and one Pakistan-based, were issued on Tuesday.

"False claims were made in various videos of the blocked YouTube channels. Examples include fake news such as the government of India to have ordered demolition of religious structures; government of India to have banned celebration of religious festivals, declaration of religious war in India,

etc. Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony and disturb public order in the country," the ministry said in a statement.

The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 114 crores, and were subscribed by over 85 lakh users, the ministry said. The orders were issued under section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, which empowers the government to take down content that violates the integrity and sovereignty of the country.

The statement added that the YouTube channels were used to "post fake news on various subjects such as the Indian armed forces, Jammu & Kashmir, etc.". "The content was observed to be completely false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly rela-

tions with foreign States," it said.

"They were making money by spreading propaganda," a person familiar with the development said.

The I&B ministry said the "blocked Indian YouTube channels were observed to be using fake and sensational thumbnails, images of news anchors and logos of certain TV news channels to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic".

With several tranches of blocked since December 2021, the government has so far blocked 102 YouTube-based news channels and several other social media accounts.

I&B minister Anurag Thakur last month said the Centre blocked 94 YouTube channels, 19 social media accounts and 747 uniform resource locators (URLs) in 2021-22 for spreading fake news.

# Farmers begin 75-hour strike in Lakhimpur Kheri, call for minister's sacking

Agency  
New Delhi, August 18:

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Thursday started a 75-hour-long strike in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri. Thousands of farmers from various outfits under the SKM from Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh arrived in Lakhimpur Kheri in cars and buses.

"Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, national organisation secretary Bhudev Sharma and some other prominent leaders arrived here on Wednesday for the dharna," the district president of BKU-Tikait, the local convenor of the agitation, Dilbagh Singh Sandhu, told news agency PTI on Thursday.

The main demands of the 75-hour-long strike include the withdrawal of cases against farmers in connection with the



year-long protests against the Centre's three farm laws which were rolled back in 2021; a law on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the withdrawal of the Electricity Bill 2022.

The farmers have also sought justice for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence on October 3 last year, and have demanded the sacking of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra.

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# Switch Mobility reveals new EiV 22 electric double decker in India

Agency  
New Delhi, August 18:

Ashok Leyland subsidiary Switch Mobility has expanded its reach in the electric bus market with the launch of the new EiV 22 double-decker e-bus. Highlighting the underpinnings of the EiV 12, the EiV22 is India's first all-electric air-conditioned electric bus and has a range of up to 250km per charge. Switch Mobility has already received orders for the bus which will be used by Mumbai's BEST. The order is for 200 buses with Switch Mobility to handle the vehicle's operations and maintenance through its subsidiary OHM Mobility.

Speaking to carandbike, Mahesh Babu, CEO, of Switch Mobility India said that the buses would be operated out of two depots - Kurla and Colaba - with the first units to be delivered in Q4 FY2023.

"So we are going to start the supply from the last quar-



ter financial year and close the order by June," Mahesh Babu said. Speaking on the vehicle's operations he added "The BEST team will hand over two depots to us, one is likely to be Kurla and Colaba. They will house the buses. Their chargers will be deployed at these two depots and we will use them exclusively for it."

The double-decker bus has a seating capacity of up to 65 passengers with the lower deck also designed to accommodate standing occupants. The EV 22 uses a 231 kWh capacity

Nickel Cobalt Manganese (NMC) battery pack featuring liquid cooling and dual gun charging - the same as on the EiV 12. The electric bus features a powertrain supplied by Dana with the battery pack assembled at the company's plant. The battery cells meanwhile have been sourced from China.

Babu also said that the company's previous expertise in making an electric double-decker bus for UK markets played a role in the development of the model. Answering

a question on the topic, he told carandbike, "Substantially, absolutely, all the operational runnings, some of the lightweighting of the technologies, we have used from that here. A lot of learnings have been cross deployed into the Indian design."

Switch says that the new EiV 22 despite having an additional deck and more passenger capacity, it weighs only about 18% more than the EiV22. To ease of ingress and egress the buses will be equipped with front and rear doors and a pair of stair cases to access the top deck.

Switch has said that the new EiV 22 will attract benefits under the FAME II scheme with the buses being manufactured at its plant in Ennore, Tamil Nadu. The buses will be manufactured as powered chassis units at the plant with the body for the buses for Mumbai being manufactured by a partner on the outskirts of the city.

Contd. from Page 2

# Myanmar-Bangladesh meeting on Rohingya.....

5) Analysts warn Bangladesh to be cautious if Myanmar decides to repatriate 700 individuals. They must stay true to their word. Myanmar must affirm that it would return all Rohingya refugees stuck in Bangladesh.

6) They must be committed to making the process a continuous one. The Rohingya people would be repatriated in a continual stage.

7) Bangladesh needs to strengthen its diplomatic ties. In light of the projected

Rohingya repatriation, Bangladesh must take a comprehensive stance on the Rohingya issue in many forums. Third parties, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and even third countries, can be involved in the process.

8) Myanmar must treat Bangladesh as a friendly neighbor. It is not conceivable for Myanmar and Bangladesh to swap neighbors. In essence, Myanmar and Bangladesh must cooperate in a neighborly

manner. To overcome the long-standing Rohingya conflict, Myanmar and Bangladesh must deepen their connections. Resolving the regional humanitarian problem would benefit the entire region of South Asia and Southeast Asia.

9) Myanmar must have goodwill in order to engage Bangladesh positively. The international community is hoping for a long-term solution to the Rohingya problem. The safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingya individuals from Bangladesh to Myanmar would require a solution to the

Rohingya situation.

Myanmar's proposed Rohingya repatriation, all assurance to Bangladesh procedure at its fifth meeting via video conferencing, on the other hand, must be smoothly implemented, ongoing, and long-term. We don't want just paperwork, virtual meeting, verbal promises. We want a safe, dignified repatriation which need to be smoothly and promptly implemented.

(The author is a contemporary issue, Security and Strategic Affairs Analyst based in Dhaka)

## BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER, MANIPUR, AT IMPHAL AFFIDAVIT

I, Sameer Vikayat Sayed, aged about 21 years, S/o Vikayat Sayed resident of Room No. 510 Prince Park, 5th Floor P.M.G.P. Colony Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400017 and at present Unipok Khaidem Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur do hereby take oath and solemnly affirm as under ->

1. That, I am a law abiding and bonafide citizen of India residing in the aforementioned place of residence i.e. Room No. 510 Prince Park, 5th Floor P.M.G.P. Colony Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400017. This is true to the best of my knowledge.
2. That, in all my Academic documents/records including my birth certificate my surname and my name has been recorded / written as Sameer Vikayat Sayed and my father name as Vikayat Sayed. This is true to the best of my knowledge.
3. That, to avoid any confusion and discrepancy in future, my name Garich Khongbantabam and my care taker name Kh. Ramen Singh recorded in Aadhaar Card no. 828844318208 has been changed to Sameer Vikayat Sayed as my name in place of Garich Kh. and father name Vikayat Sayed in place of Kh. Ramen Singh any my address to be written / recorded as Room No. 510 Prince Park, 5th Floor P.M.G.P. Colony Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400017 in place of Unipok Khaidem Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur as per my above said Academic document/ records including my birth certificate and the same has been sworn before the Oath Commissioner. This is true to the best of my knowledge.
4. That, from this day and date my name will be known as Sameer Vikayat Sayed instead of Garich Khongbantabam and my father name as Vikayat Sayed in place of Kh. Ramen Singh and my address Room No. 510 Prince Park, 5th Floor P.M.G.P. Colony Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400017 in place of Unipok Khaidem Leikai and as such I appeal to all the concerned authority to address my name as Sameer Vikayat Sayed and my father name Vikayat Sayed of Room No. 510 Prince Park, 5th Floor P.M.G.P. Colony Dharavi, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400017 as and when required.

Verified that the contents of the above paras nos. 1 to 4 of this Affidavit are all true to the best of my knowledge. Nothing material has been concealed therein.

Dated/Imphal  
the 18th Aug., 2022

Signature of Deponent

By: R.K. Emily Devi  
Advocate  
R.K. Emily Devi  
Advocate  
B.A., (Eng.) LL.B

Ch. Dorendro Singh  
Oath Commissioner, (Judicial)  
Imphal West, Manipur  
Resd. No. 4327079



# Next round of GST readjustment to lead to more price increases

## Risk of runaway inflation as more items set to lose exemption

By K Ravendran  
New Delhi, August 18:

A brief respite in retail inflation registered for July may not be of much assurance about price stability as another GST readjustment is threatening to push up prices of items of mass consumption.

Retail inflation was steady in June, although well above the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance limit for over six months. Inflation as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) was reported steady at an annual 7.03 percent in June, down by 0.1 percent from the previous month. The improvement, though marginal, was attributed to lower fuel and cooking gas prices, which offset higher services and food costs.

The Reserve Bank has also been raising interest rates as part of its inflation management strategy. But governor Shaktikanta Das has warned that inflation is unlikely to be brought within the mandated target, until at least the end of the year. It is against this setting that there is a move for

further readjustment of the GST rates, which would warrant prices of items of daily use to go up further.

It has now been revealed that the GST council may withdraw some more exemptions and raise the tax rates further to correct the remaining instances of inverted duty. An inverted rate structure is a case where GST rates on inputs materials are higher than outward supplies. By way of example, automobiles, electronic items, urea and other fertiliser inputs segments have duty inversion.

The decision by the GST council at its previous meeting had accepted a ministerial committee report on the correction of inverted duty and exemptions. As a result, pre-packaged and pre-labelled retail packs, including curd, lassi and butter milk, have since been brought under GST. The panel is currently further studying tax issues relating to casinos, online gaming and horse racing, the conclusions of which are keenly watched due to the high interest into these activities. The

earlier proposal was to levy a 28 per cent tax on these activities, but the issue is being reviewed lock, stock and barrel.

The decision to enforce a 5 percent GST levy on pre-packaged and labelled food items has been controversial right from the moment the new measure was announced. It also caused a lot of confusion over the tax liability on loose items sold by retail shops, particularly food items. With the difference between branded and unbranded products having been eliminated for GST purposes, it created utter confusion among customers as well as merchants. Later on it was clarified that loose packed items sold by shop owners will not attract the new rate.

Also attracting higher GST rates were hotel and hospital room rents while exemption given on services extended by RBI, IRDAI, SEBI, FSSAI and GST was also withdrawn. All this will have an implication for the inflation rates, but leaving a higher impact is the correction in the case of food and food-related items.

While a GST rate of 5 percent was made applicable on branded cereals, pulses, and flour when the new regime was rolled out, this was amended to tax only such items which were sold under registered brands on which enforceable right was not foregone by a supplier. However, soon rampant misuse of this provision by reputed manufacturers and brand owners was noticed, with the result that the GST revenue from these items fell significantly.

The group of ministers, who could not reach a consensus at their last meeting on the inverted duty structure, has the mandate to review various items to help minimise refund payout, and review the GST exempt list with the objective of expanding the tax base and eliminate breaking of input tax credit.

Under GST, a four-tier structure exempts or imposes a low rate of tax 5 percent on essential items and levies the top rate of 28 percent on cars and de-lux goods. The other slabs of tax are 12 and 18 per cent. (IPA Service)

# Voluntary Blood Donation held

IT News  
Imphal, August 18:

One day awareness program on Voluntary Blood Donation was held at Wangkhei Thambalkhong Thong Manak today.

Dr Th. Bamkim Secy Indian Red Cross Society Imphal west as resource person, talking in critical importance of voluntary donation to save many lives in need of emergency blood transfusion. The program was organised

by Social Upliftment Association, in association with State Blood Cell State Health Mission Society, Manipur, Manipur Voluntary Health Assn and Young Women Help Association. More than 50 persons attended the program.

# AR foils narcotics smuggling

IT News  
Imphal, August 18:

Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police foiled narcotics smuggling in Tengnoupal yesterday.

Based on a specific input, a joint team of Assam Rifles and Manipur Police launched an operation and intercepted a vehicle near Divisional Forest Office, Tengnoupal. On thorough checking of the vehicle, 2,625 Kg of Brown Sugar packed in 65

Soap Cases were recovered. The seized narcotics are assessed to be worth Rs 5.25 crores. The seized narcotics and two drug peddlers were handed over to Tengnoupal Police Station for further investigation.

Contd. from Page 1

# State observes Sadbhavana....

He continued the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh has always worked to bring equal development in both hill and valley areas through various initiatives. The Government had left no stone unturned to bridge the gap in development across the State and to maintain the aged old relationship among different communities, he added. The Minister stressed that misunderstanding and mistrust arising between

any community could be redressed through political dialogues which is imperative for maintaining a healthy relationship and peaceful co-existence.

During the observation, the Chief Minister led the other dignitaries and officials in taking the solemn pledge to work for the emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of caste, region, religion or language. The pledge further read to resolve all differences through dialogue and

constitutional means without resorting to violence.

Cabinet Ministers, Member of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and Senior Civil and Police Officials also attended the programme among others.

Artists of Shri Shri Bal Mukunda Dev Government Music College, Imphal performed the opening and closing song as a part of the observation.

# EPCH seeks Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Shipping's intervention for relief from high freight/container charges

New Delhi, August 18:

Handicrafts sector plays a prominent role in the country's economy by earning much needed foreign exchange through exports and also generating substantial employment for craftspeople's. This decentralized sector has buyer driven overseas markets which demand innovative and quality products.

The pandemic has disrupted the Exim logistics across the globe due to which the exporters have been facing shortage of containers and higher charges. The Handicrafts sector is working hard to come out of the situation and is looking forward for

the better business and foreign exchange earnings. Recently, the freight charges in India have been increased drastically leading to uncompetitive business scenario globally for handicrafts exporters, however the Competitor countries have decreased the freight charges, whereas the Indian exporters are facing increase in freight cost. Despite all the challenges the export of handicraft in the year 2021-22 has reached Rs. 33253.00 crores (US\$ 4459.76 million) showing an increase of 29.49 %.

Raj Kumar Malhotra, Chairman-EPCH informed that The US Government has recently passed a law named

Ocean Shipping Reforms Act of 2022 to curb arbitrary and improper functioning of shipping and logistics. By this law, the Federal Maritime Commission has been given powers to stop unfair trade policy being adopted by shipping lines. According to the latest information, these shipping companies have drastically cut the fare of containers (40' high cube) going from China to USA, which was around USD 15000 few months ago and has been drastically reduced by over 60% thus reducing to around USD 5500, while the fares of containers going from India are at US\$10,000. As a result, an additional shipping fee of about

US\$5000-US\$6000 is being charged for the fare of a container going from India to USA.

Rakesh Kumar, Director General-EPCH, informed that the EPCH has requested Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Shipping to intervene in the matter and provide an alternate viable solution both in the short-term as well as in the long term. A similar mechanism as in USA may be introduced in India also to keep check on the freight charges. Further, in order to provide some relief to the handicrafts exporters, container freight subsidy to the exporters of handicrafts may be considered.

# Meeyamgi Numit & Hill Leaders' Day....

During the event, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Senapati distributed various items under various departments to its beneficiaries. They are 4 Knapsack Sprayer, 4 Urea issued by District Agriculture Office; 5 CMHT cards issued by

medical department; and, 2 Manipur Yarn Pass Book issued by District Handloom and Textile.

In the later, Sabhavana Day pledge has been administered to all the participants.

It may be mentioned that District Hill Leaders' Day and

Meeyamgi Numit is observed a day ahead of its actual day in the district due to general holiday on Friday.

The programme was attended by ADM/ CEO ADC, ADSP, all the BDO's, DLO's and various general public leaders.

# KYKL's 29th martyrs' day....

As per the statement, the 29th Martyrs' Day was successfully held at its CHQ, 1st CHQ, 1st Bn, 2nd Bn, 3rd Bn, unit, transit camps, and other locations inside and outside Kangleipak by honouring the martyrs with floral tributes and condolence salutes.

The statement said, "in light of the unfathomable degree to which the revolutionary ideal has been eroding among the Kanglei revolutionaries in re-

cent years, celebrating the day and reminiscing their sacrifices have become even more significant. The revolutionaries of that time were the ones who were willing to give their lives for the cause and to defend the vanguard organization. However, what is now being witnessed are the people who are not only undaunted to give in to the enemy when the organization and the movement it leads are in danger, but who are also unhesitating

to leak the organizational secrets to the enemy in order to further their own selfish interests. Over the past few years, we have even witnessed numerous leaders abandon the organization rather than giving it their best to ensure the movement's survival. Now is the perfect time to rediscover in ourselves the spirit of dedication and revolutionary ideals that the three Pathous embrace while keeping all of these realities in mind".

# Sports

## Durand Cup 2022:

# Chhetri, Krishna guide Bengaluru to a 2-1 win over Jamshedpur; Odisha FC Thrashes North East United FC 6-0

Agency  
Kolkata/Guwahati, August 18:

A 10-man Bengaluru FC withstood a spirited challenge from Jamshedpur FC before emerging 2-1 winner in a Group-A league match of the Durand Cup, at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Wednesday.

Bengaluru started well and created the first scoring opportunity in the first minute. But the goal remained elusive as midfielder Danish Farooq failed to produce the desired finish.

Facing a team of spirited young boys from the reserve side of JFC, Bengaluru took some time to find its rhythm. The former Indian Super League (ISL) champion finally opened the scoring from a set-piece situation in the 23rd minute when the Indian captain Sunil Chhetri nodded home a corner from new signing Prabir Das.

The change of ends saw the arrival of the team's another prized signing Roy Krishna, who soon combined with Chhetri to produce the insurance goal for Bengaluru in the 56th minute.

The second goal was a fine outcome of top class football as Krishna played a dummy on a Parag Shrivastava floater to allow Chhetri unchallenged access inside the Jamshedpur box. The latter then complimented with a perfect cross that Krishna had no problem in slotting home.

BFC suffered a setback after seeing its newly signed left-back Hira Mondal collecting his second booking of the match following a rash foul on Jamshedpur midfielder Hijam Lenin Singh near the hour mark.

JFC used the opportunity to pull one back as Rishi Volleyed home a finely set free-kick from Vikash Singh in the 61st



minute. Jamshedpur tried hard to find the equaliser but the Bengaluru defence held strong to ensure the win.

In what turned out to be a clinical and professional performance in the end, Josep

Gombau's confident Odisha FC (OFC) rode on a first-half-brace, which included three team strikes in 23 minutes, by Jerry Mawhimthanga, to run out comfortable 6-0 winners against NorthEast United FC

(NEUFC), in Assam's first ever Durand Cup game at Guwahati's Indira Gandhi Athletic stadium on Wednesday.

The first game of Group D meandered a little in the second half but with Isak's late

strike lightening it up, Odisha put in another three-goal blitz in nine minutes to complete half a dozen.

The damage had been done in the first half for Subam Rabha's rebuilding side by the trio of Jerry, Nandhakumar Sekar and Spanish midfielder Pedro Martin primarily. The end just put an authoritative stamp on a story which had been written much before.

Had it not been for the good game that Nikhil Deka had under the bar for the Highlanders, the damage could have been far greater.

Odisha were on the attack from the initial stages itself barring a couple of early forays by the Highlanders. Jerry opened the scoring in the 14th minute, concluding with a fine finish to a well-worked out team move. Eleven minutes later the Ejuvenaut's keeper Lalthuammawia Ralte got into

the act with an accurate throw-out across the field to find Nandhakumar on the left. The Salem lad showed a bit of trickery to take out two defenders before nailing a shot in the top corner.

Jerry got his second a few minutes later, getting at the end of a Raynier, Pedro, Nadha move to put the game at rest.

Odisha came out comfortable in the second half with the natural inclination of asking NEUFC to make the play but their opponents were not in it on the day. Gombau brought out his substitutes and all three responded with goals showing the hunger in the team.

Isak it was first with a brilliant header off a Nandha corner and then Diego Mauricio with a wonder free-kick, before Thoiba Singh in the final minute of the game tapped the six to make it a day to forget for the Highlanders.