

More irregularities to the implementation of PMGSY exposed; Congress demand probe by CBI

IT News
Imphal, Dec 19:

President of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee has demanded SCBI probe to the gross misappropriation of PMGSY at various districts of the state.

Following a complaint published through local newspaper of the state, by the village authority of Ningthi in Kamjong Village, a team of MPCC led by its president K. Meghachandra paid an inspection visit to verify whether works implemented under the central sponsored scheme is being carried out properly. When visited the Ningthi Village in Kamjong district, the MPCC team found there was never a road construction conducted between Sampui to Pungyar road which is 16 km in length.

"Not even singling work was done in the road stretch which was already reported completion of road construction under the PMGSY", K. Meghachandra told media persons at the village.



Villagers of the area told that there has been no road construction in the road stretch between Sampui to Pungyar road which the government reported to have completed upto black topping.

Meghachandra told media persons at the village.

that the road stretch from Sampui to Pungya, which is 16 Km in length was reported completed construction under 2 phase of PMGSY scheme. One contractor called HVS Construction was the implementing agency of the package No. MN09152 at an estimated cost of Rs. 7 crore 65 thousand. And the same road stretch was again

constructed by another contractor identified as TS Ngairamei under the package No. MN0985 of the PMGSY. The department of RD and PR have reported the work to have been physically completed in 2020 and the total cost of the road construction which is Rs. 13 lakh 59 thousand have been released in 2021.

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Woman died after hit by a bullet while celebrating FIFA world cup

IT News
Imphal, Dec 19:

A 50 years old woman died yesterday night after she was hit by a bullet that penetrated inside her room, allegedly fired by some people celebrating the winning of the FIFA world cup by Argentina.

The lady was holding a 2-year-old baby in her lap when she was shot. Two bullets were fired at their residence. One of the bullets hit her.

The deceased woman has been identified as Salam Ningol Laishram Ongbi Ibetombi Devi, wife of Laishram Biramani, 69, of Singmei Wangma Bheigyabati Leikai in Imphal East.

According to the husband of the deceased woman, the lady was holding a 2 year old baby in her lap when she was shot. Two bullets were fired at their residence. One passed through their wall while the other hit the woman. The husband said that they heard gunshots amid the sounds of firecrackers being blasted outside by people for celebrations.

Since bleeding was not seen, they thought she was suffering from a heart attack when she fell unconscious. When rushed to hospital, she was declared brought dead.

Meanwhile, police have arrested the suspect of the gunfire identified as Khangembam Devkanta alias Bobby of the same locality.

The bullet hit the woman on the left side of her back as she was celebrating Argentina's win inside her house after watching the match with family members. Police sources said that the incident happened around 11:50pm.

The body has been kept at JNIMS Morgue for postmortem. Porompat police station has registered a case under FIR No. 342(12/2022)PRT-PSU/s 302 IPC and 25(1-C) Arms Act.

Locals suspect the residence was targeted since the shooter had earlier eloped with the woman's daughter. But the locals said that the matter was settled and the man married another woman.

Manipur High Court quashes order for appointment Dr. Ranjit as in-charge RIMS Director

IT News
Imphal, Dec 19:

Manipur High Court has quashed the order for appointment of Dr. L. Ranjit Singh as the in-charge director of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Imphal (RIMS) as the manner in which he was appointed was in a pick and choose manner and in complete violation of the provisions of

Rule 12(1)(iii) of the Rules and regulations of RIMS, Imphal.

The appointment of Dr. L. Ranjit as director in-charge of RIMS was challenged to the High Court by Dr. Hemam Priyosakhi Devi by filing a writ petition. The petition challenge the order

dated 12.10.2022 issued by the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, en-

trusting additional charge for the post of Director, RIMS to the respondent Dr. L. Ranjit for a period of 6 months, i.e., upto 11.04.2023 or till regular appointment of Director, RIMS or till further orders whichever is the earliest, coupled with a prayer for directing the official respondents to allow the petitioner to hold the post of Director, RIMS, Imphal, pending regular appointment.

National Photo Exhibition Deep Focus held at Manipur University



IT News
Imphal, Dec 19:

"Deep Focus" a National Photo Exhibition organized by the Department of Mass Communication, Manipur University was inaugurated today at Manipur University. The inaugural function was attended by renowned filmmaker and screenwriter Mayanglanglam Romi Meitei as Chief Guest alongside Prof. S. Mangi Singh, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Manipur University as Guest of Honor and Dr. RK Lilapati, HoD, Department of Mass Communication as Functional President.

The Guest of Honor of the inaugural program, Prof. S. Mangi Singh mentioned the

impact the film and media industry is giving to the society. Speaking to the function, Chief Guest Mayanglanglam Romi Meitei addressed that he was convinced on knowing the title of the exhibition and delighted to be a part of it. He also addressed the educational experiences that Deep Focus is giving. He continued "There is no greater discovery than the discovery of art. Even if the discovery of scientific devices has more number than art, no discovery can conquer the discovery of art but the debate on whether Robot is an art is still going on."

The Functional President of the program, Dr. RK Lilapati, HoD Department of Mass Communication, MU express

her gratitude on the response received from the public and also to the photographers and photo enthusiast from twenty states who have shown their keen interest in the exhibition and submitted more than 200 entries.

The exhibition "Deep Focus" is initiated by the students of Mass Communication. Focusing on the history of Manipur, the exhibition will act as an archive through the timeline of Manipur back in the days. Deep Focus is an exhibition of lifestyle followed during 60s, 70s and years before that. Varieties of vintage cameras, vintage photo printing equipment that were in use before the digital age are being displayed.

3 drug traffickers including two women arrested in Bishnupur

IT News
Imphal, Dec 19:

Three drug traffickers – two women and a man were arrested along with two kilograms of high-quality opium, 3 mobile handsets, and some incriminating documents at Potsangbam Maning village in Bishnupur district on Sunday night, the police said here on Monday.

Based on reliable input regarding the movement of contraband drugs, the Bishnupur police commandos, women police of the Bishnupur police station, and Assam Rifle con-



ducted a joint frisking and checking at Potsangbam Maning. While frisking, 2 kilograms of opium have been seized from the alleged traffickers, the police said.

The contraband item was

packed in two plastic bags written on its cover with "sweet toast" and "bright detergents." Three mobile handsets and some incriminating documents have been recovered from them. During preliminary interro-

gations, the arrested persons disclosed that the contraband goods have been delivered to them by one Deven Singh, a resident of Malom, near Imphal Airport on Friday, the police said.

The arrested persons namely, Warepam Reshma Devi, T. Neini Jou, and Pukhrabam Shyam Singh along with the seized items were handed over to the Bishnupur police station for further necessary action.

They are booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, the police added.

An era of peace in North East since 2014, 80% decline in civilian deaths, 6000 militants surrendered : Anurag Thakur

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 19:

The policy focus of Government of India is 'Zero Tolerance Against Terrorism', Union Minister Anurag Thakur said today. In a detailed statement to the media at his residence, on the efforts of the Government to counter terrorism, Thakur said that while Government has worked on the legal front by strengthening UAPA, at the same time it has also taken steps at the enforcement level by giving National Investigation Agency a truly federal structure by introducing National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act and the collective effect of these measures has been a weakening

of the ecosystem of terrorism.

Highlighting that India has raised its concerns at the highest global levels, he said that in international conferences and meetings, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always pressed the world to unite against terror. The 90th Interpol General Assembly witnessed a participation of over 2000 foreign delegates and culminated in the announcement of 'Global Action Against Act of Terrorism', he added.

"The Governments resolve against terror has been displayed time and again from Surgical Strike to Balakot Strike. The action by our armed forces has caused a significant 168% drop in terrorist incidents in Jammu and

Kashmir. Similarly, we have achieved a 94% conviction rate in terror financing cases" Thakur said.

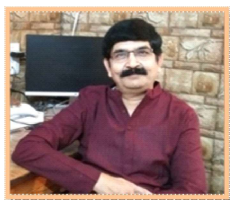
The Minister spoke at length about the efforts of the Government towards creating an atmosphere of peace in North East and said that an era of peace has dawned in North Eastern region of India since 2014 when insurgency violence has seen a sharp decline of 80 percent and civilian deaths have seen an 89 percent drop. Added to this is the achievement of surrender by six thousand militants since 2014, he underlined. The efforts of the Government to diminish capabilities of Left-wing extremists have caused a 265 percent drop in violent incidents, he further added.

The Government is committed to go beyond armed action to counter terrorism and has worked to create an atmosphere of lasting peace across the region. These peace treaties are a legacy of the achievements of the Government. Underlining this aspect, Thakur listed the peace agreements signed by the Government

1. Bodo Accord in January 2020,
2. Bru-Reang Agreement in January 2020,
3. NLFT-Tripura Agreement in August 2019,
4. Karbi Anglong Agreement Sept 2021,
5. Assam-Meghalaya Inter State Boundary Agreement in March 2022.

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Let us strengthen PSBs instead of Privatisation



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

One would have observed that PSBs have an important development role. The current management of most PSBs are as good as that of private banks. In fact, it is the level of NPAs which to a great extent differentiate between a good and a bad bank. In fact high level of NPAs in Indian banks is nothing but a reflection of the state of health of the industry and trade. It would be more appropriate to compare performance over a longer period. Privatization of

Banks will worsen the Banking scenario in the country. Today the schemes like *Jan Dhan Yojana* and MUDRA have been successful because of public sector banks and their rigorous implementation. The government has already privatised IDBI Bank by selling its majority stake in the lender to LIC in 2019 and merged 14 public sector banks in the last four years. It is terrible that the Indian banking industry, considered to be one of the strongest in the world has now to face the problem of NPA because of wilful defaulters and political pressure. It is certainly not fair to blame banks for lending huge amounts to Vijay Mallya despite his failing business. A wide range of academic studies points to a trend towards convergence in performance of PSBs and private banks since banking sector reforms were set in motion in 1993-'94. The public sector bank employees do seem to have risen to the occasion and by and large have been doing a really commendable job under difficult circumstances. There is no doubt that bankers have always performed the task given by the Government right from the time of nationalization. Bankers have always in the past stood like a rock and supported the Govt move and made the Govt scheme successful in its drive. Bankers need good reward for its work. The past history of private sector banks tells the failure. Before 1969, all banks, except the SBI, were in the private sector. Between 1947 and 1969, 559 banks failed.



The functioning of PSB has been criticized by those who want complete privatization of PSB. The need of the hour is strengthening existing banks and branches, making them a hub of all services. The decision of Government to privatise PSBs is totally unfortunate and unwarranted. What we need is to strengthen public sector Banks. Don't we think the government will have difficulty in providing low-cost financial services to rural and poor sections of society as the private may not like to extend its services to them? No doubt privatization of banks will lead to the profit driven approach for short time but on that path would it be possible to implement financial inclusion and other Government schemes which is one of the top agenda of RBI?

Poetry

The Beauty of Mother Nature

By: Irom Calvin

Lend your hands to save the nature
As nothing could heal its rupture
The earth has its own gesture
Which makes us feel the rapture.

The aroma of mud, after the rain
Which we breathe in,
Develops a positive feeling deep within
Making us feel calm and peaceful.

The climate's calmness
Develops a madness.
To begin an adventure
And create a whole new future.

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Intention To Cause Disorder Essential For Invoking Section 153-A: P&H HC

By: Parvez Alam (Advocate)

In the fitness of things and taking a most balanced holistic view, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has in a most learned, laudable, landmark and latest judgment titled *Karamjit Singh Gill vs State of Punjab* in CRM-M-45796-2022 (O&M) that was pronounced finally on December 13, 2022 while observing that intention to cause disorder or incite people to violence is the sine qua non for the offence under Section 153-A granted bail to Congress leader Karamjit Singh Gill who was arrested in August for wearing a t-shirt with picture of 1984 riots-accused Jagdish Tytler at Golden Temple. While the case registered under Section 153-A by Amritsar police accuses Gill of hurting the sentiments of Sikh with his actions, the Single Judge Bench of Hon'ble Mr Justice Sandeep Moudgil said that mere wearing of a t-shirt with a picture of "one of his favourite person with the words 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR BELOVED GODFATHER'" ... does not reflect any incriminating material or provocative act on the part of the petitioner to bring the case within the ambit of Section 153-A IPC." "The Court said that no iota of evidence has come forth even in the challan against the accused with regard to uttering of any word or by any other means which may cause hurt to the feelings of a particular community.

At the very outset, this brief, brilliant, bold and balanced judgment authored by the Single Judge Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court comprising of Hon'ble Mr Justice Sandeep Moudgil sets the ball in motion by first and foremost putting forth that, "The instant petition has come up before this Court invoking the jurisdiction under Section 439 Cr.P.C seeking regular bail in case FIR No. 103, dated 17.08.2022, under Section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (for short 'IPC'), registered at Police Station E-Division, Amritsar City."

To put things in perspective, the

Bench then envisages in next para that, "Dr. Anmol Rattan Singh, learned Senior counsel for the petitioner contends that he has been falsely implicated in the present case on false and baseless allegations while referring to the FIR dated 17.08.2022 (Annexure P-1) lodged on a complaint by one Sulkhan Singh, Manager, Sach Khand Shri Harmandir Sahib, Shri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar. He has drawn the attention of this Court to the story of the prosecution as recorded in the said FIR with the allegations attributed qua the petitioner, of which the relevant reads as under:-

"Sir, on dated 16.08.2022 one person came at Sachkhand Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, after taking a dip in the holy water and thereafter, wore a t-shirt having picture of Jagdish Tytler who was an accused of 1984 Sikh genocide and after clicking a photograph and without paying obeisance went out in his skoda car along with his security officials. Under a conspiracy he has tried to disturb the atmosphere and he has hurt the Sikhs sentiments. His activities are recorded in CCTV cameras. He is also having a security (gunman). From the social media we came to know that his name is Karamjit Singh Gill who is known as Chairman of SC/ST Cell Congress. Legal action may kindly be taken. Documents attached. Photocopy of Picture. Sd/- Sulakhan Singh Manager, Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Shri Darbar Sahib, Sri Amritsar."

As it turned out, the Bench clearly pointed out in this judgment that, "Considering the provisions, as envisaged in Section 153-A IPC and examining the contents of FIR, the test for the prosecution is to make out a prima facie case has to establish within the ingredients incorporated therein. Section 153-A IPC would apply if, a person is found doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony by promoting enmity between different groups on

the grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise promotes or attempts to promote disharmony or feeling of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or caste or community apart from other factors."

Be it noted, the Bench then enunciates in the next para that, "In the instant case mere wearing of a t-shirt with a picture of one on his favorite person with the words 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR BELOVED GOD FATHER', as is evident from Annexures R-2/3 and R-2/4 with the reply filed by respondent No.2 supported by seizure memo Tshirt (Annexure R-2/1), does not reflect any incriminating material or provocative act on the part of the petitioner to bring the case within the ambit of Section 153-A IPC. Moreover, from the identity of the petitioner it transpired that he is General Secretary, SC/ST Cell of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee as has been put on record by way of final report under Section 173 Cr.P.C."

While citing the relevant case law, the Bench then elucidates in the next para stating that, "The Apex Court in the case of 'Patricia Mukhim vs. State of Meghalaya and other' reported in AIR 2021 Supreme Court 1632 while deliberating on Section 153-A IPC held as under:-

"9. Only where the written or spoken words have the tendency of creating public disorder or disturbance of law and order or affecting public tranquility, the law needs to step in to prevent such an activity. The intention to cause disorder or incite people to violence is the sine qua non of the offence under Section 153-A IPC and the prosecution has to prove the existence of mens rea in order to succeed.

10. The gist of the offence under Section 153-A IPC is the intention to promote feelings of enmity or ha-

tred between different classes of people. The intention has to be judged primarily by the language of the piece of writing and the circumstances in which it was written and published. The matter complained of within the ambit of Section 153-A must be read as a whole. One cannot rely on strongly worded and isolated passages for proving the charge nor indeed can one take a sentence here and a sentence there and connect them by a meticulous process of inferential reasoning."

It cannot be glossed over that the Bench then minces no words to state unequivocally in the next para of this notable judgment that, "In the instant case no iota of evidence has come forth even in the challan against the present petitioner with regard to uttering of any word or by any other means which may cause hurt to the feelings of a particular community."

While citing yet another relevant case law, the Bench then points out in the next para of this most commendable judgment that, "In another judgment 'Balwant Singh and another vs. State of Punjab; (1995) 3 SCC 214' the Supreme Court examining the question to make out prima facie case under Section 153-A IPC held as under:-

"9. Insofar as the offence under Section 153-A IPC is concerned, it provides for punishment for promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever or brings about disharmony or feeling of hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities. In our opinion only where the written or spoken words have the tendency or intention of creating public disorder or disturbance of law and order or effect public tranquility, the law needs to step in to prevent such an activity."

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Lending a helping hand as Ni-kshay Mitra to eliminate TB

By: Vinod K Paul

In 2018, the Prime Minister set an ambitious target of eliminating TB in the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global timeline. This spurred all-round acceleration in India's efforts to prevent, detect and treat TB. The government is providing free TB diagnosis, newer drugs and treatment modalities along with patient support including financial and nutritional benefits.

Public health experience has showed us that under nutrition and TB form a vicious cycle. Poor nutritional status predisposes an individual to get infected by the disease, or have a dormant disease manifest clinically. And, TB, a serious systemic disease, leads to depletion of nutrient reserves and aggravation of under nutrition. Optimum nutritional support to TB patients improves weight gain, adherence to therapy, muscle strength, quality of life, robust recovery and reduced mortality. Good nutrition also prevents relapse of the disease. With a sharper focus on the nutritional improvement among TB patients, Union Health Ministry launched the Nikshay Poshan Yojana in 2018 as part of National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) which provides direct cash benefit transfer of INR 500 per month to TB patients on treatment. Since 2018, over 1830 Cr have been disbursed to about 70 lakh beneficiaries under this initiative.

It is a well-established public health dictum that community participation and support provide a decisive edge to health programmes. Large-scale country-wide health programmes such as smallpox and polio eradication, ongoing Universal Immunization Programme, Poshan Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the recent COVID-19 management action became a success only through *Jan Bhagidari* (people's participation). Community participation plays a key role in mass awareness, behaviour change, demand creation, clearing myths and in convincing the reluctant to embrace services. The success of these health programmes reinforced our belief that a further augmentation of multi-sectoral approach involving community and institutional-stakeholder support in TB elimination is required. This can play a pivotal role in addressing the social and nutritional determinants, thereby contributing toward the attainment of national goal.

Jan Bhagidari forms the core principle of the recently launched Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan to provide additional support to TB patients. Under this country wide Abhiyan, *Ni-kshay Mitras* can adopt and care for TB patients. *Ni-kshay Mitras* are volunteers and they could be individuals, NGOs, co-operative societies, corporates, elected representatives, institutions (private and public) and even political parties. They commit to help the TB patients through nutritional support, nutritional supplements, additional investigations and vocational support. The support is provided only after consent from the patients, and a *Ni-kshay Mitra* can engage for a duration ranging from six months to three years. The support is delivered on your behalf by the district TB program teams in a transparent way. None of the other care and medical services being provided by the government gets affected by this voluntary community initiative. It is simple to become a *Mitra* by accessing a user-friendly digital platform designed for supporting persons with TB at *Ni-kshay 2.0* portal; <http://communitysupport.nikshay.in>.

Compassion, empathy and concern for the TB affected citizen is at the heart of the scheme. The model of *Ni-kshay Mitra* is unique in the history of TB elimination in India as on one hand it has ushered in a ray of hope to the TB patients, and on the other hand fosters community connect with the program. This public health initiative has already shown brilliant uptake. It is heart-warming that within three months of its launch, more than 52,000, *Ni-kshay Mitras* have registered. Over 13.36 lakh patients are on TB treatment and approximately 10 lakh people have consented to be connected to *Ni-kshay Mitra*. It has steered more confidence in us for providing the continuum of health services for the TB patients.

The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan should be seen as a people's movement within a much larger public health and medical endeavour to make TB history. Active case detection and diagnosis, anti-TB treatment (including that for drug-resistant forms), public-private participation and IT enabled program implementation etc. - all the tools are being fully mobilized. Tribal districts and hard-to-reach populations are getting special attention. We have to break the chains of TB transmission in every hamlet, every village and every city. No TB patient can be left behind. I and my family members have adopted seven TB patients in Himachal Pradesh.

It is also our duty to de-stigmatise TB disease. It is not the fault of the individual that s/he got the disease. Evidently, there is still a huge potential to increase *Jan Bhagidari* for the noble cause eliminating TB from the face of our beloved nation.

I urge the readers to join the swelling brigade of thousands of *Ni-kshay Mitras*. Helping a TB patient could avert ruinous downside of a family due to wage loss. Your humanitarian support could save the life of a TB patient who is mother, father, brother, sister or a spouse of a fellow citizen. Mahatma Gandhi said, "To give pleasure to a single heart by a single act is better than thousand heads bowing in prayer."

TB Harega, Desh Jeetega!
(The author is Member (Health) NITI Aayog and a Nikshay-Mitra. Views are personal)

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Migration of Youth from North-Eastern States

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 19:

The Government has no data in this regard for the last three years. However, as per the Census 2011, there are 1,52,05,214 migrants in the North East Region (NER) states. Of these, 93.80% (1,42,62,490) are intra-state migrants and only 6.20% (9,44,050) are inter-state migrants. The all-India figure for inter-state migration is 11.90% and 88.10% for intra-state migration. The top three states to which inter-state migration from the NER States occur are West Bengal (39.56%), Delhi (7.66%) and Maharashtra (7.4%).

The Government has taken various initiatives to improve employment opportunities for youth including those in the NER. These include the interlinking of the 'Udyam', 'e-Shram', National Career Service (NCS), and the Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM). Besides, the NCS portal of the Ministry of Labour & Employment (ML&E) has been integrated with State portals including most States of NER. 25 NCS centres for scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) have been established, out of which 06 are in NER in addition to the 02 centres for the differently abled. NCS has also partnered with Microsoft and launched 'DigSaksham', a joint digital skills initiative for employability through digital skills. M/o L&E has also launched the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana' (ARBY), to boost the economy, increase the employment generation in the post-COVID recovery phase and to incentivize creation of new employment along with social security benefits and restoration of loss of employment during COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the Skill India Mission, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) under which, various interventions in

States, including NER, are being made. These include institutional strengthening at State & district level; quality assurance of skill development programmes; and inclusion of marginalised population in skill development programmes. MSDE also implements the Accelerated Mission for Better Employment & Retention (AMBER) project that aims towards improved employment and retention of candidates post completion of short-term skill development training program. MSDE has issued the Notification of Common Norms (2015) wherein, 30% or the last tranche of base cost of all skilling schemes is being incentivised for placement. Under the Norms, an additional amount for skilling is provided in Special Areas including NER States. Further, post-placement support @ Rs. 1,500 per month for Special Areas including NER States is also provisioned. The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, under MSDE imparts 388 training programs such as Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP), Skill Development Program (SDP), Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Program (ESDP) etc. During financial year 2021-22, 10,116 participants have been imparted training under various programmes.

For improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), promoting higher education and for encouraging children belonging to economically weaker section of the NE region, the University Grants Commission (UGC), under the Ministry of Education (MoE) has launched the 'Ishan Uday' scholarship scheme for NER. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) facilitates expansion of educational development in NER by providing opportunities of higher education, training, skill development and other initiatives through its network of 09 Regional Centres (RC) and 535 Learners Support centres (LSCs) in the NER. Under the scheme of setting up of 20 Indian Institute of Information (IIT) in Public

Private Partnership (PPP) mode, 03 such IITs have been set up in NER. The North Eastern Regional Office of UGC provides financial support for construction of hostels for boys in SC/ST concentrated districts. The Department of Sports has established a National Sports University (NSU) in Imphal to focus on sports education and provide support to the sporting talent of the region.

The Ministry of Rural Development implements schemes, including in the NER, for creating employment and supporting livelihoods. These are the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), and Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).

The North East Handicrafts and Handlooms Corporation Ltd. (NEHDC) under Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) provides handholding support to the artisans and weavers of the NER by skilling them and creating market linkages to enable them to continue their traditional skills and provide them gainful employment. The North Eastern Council (NEC) under MDoNER has launched the 'Advancing North East' portal - a one stop solution for career and livelihood for the youth of NER.

In order to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Central Government had enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 which provides different safeguards against the exploitation of migrant workers.

This information was given by Minister of Development of North Eastern Region G. Kishan Reddy in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer "INS Mormugao" Commissioned

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 19:

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (D-67), second warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, was commissioned in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on Sunday.

On his arrival, Singh was presented with a guard of honour. The Commanding Officer Captain Kapil Bhatia then read out the Ship's Commissioning Warrant. The Naval Ensign was hoisted onboard for the first time and the Commissioning Pennant broken (unfurled) on the main mast while the national anthem was played by the Naval Band. Singh unveiled the Commissioning Plaque, dedicating the ship to the service of the nation.

The event marked the formal induction of the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Warship Design Bureau and constructed by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

In his address, Singh described INS Mormugao as one of the most powerful indigenously-built warships which



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (fifth from left) with Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant and officers on board INS Mormugao.

will significantly enhance the country's maritime capabilities and secure national interests. She is one of the world's most technologically-advanced missile carriers. With over 75% indigenous content, it is a testimony to India's excellence in design and development of warships. The warship will meet the present and future needs of our country as well as of our friendly countries across the globe," he said.

We are now among the top five economies of the world. According to a report by investment firm Morgan Stanley, we will be among the top three economies in the next five years. Singh said. He also paid glowing tributes to former Defence Minister late Manohar Parrikar, who hailed from Goa and had launched

INS Mormugao in 2016.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar in his speech stated that the commissioning of INS Mormugao is indicative of the large strides India has taken in warship design and building capability over the last decade. He added that the warship is a true illustration of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiative and it reinforces the Navy's commitment to supporting India's transformation into a global ship-building hub.

INS Mormugao Measuring 163m in length and 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes, INS Mormugao is packed with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as Surface-to-Surface Missile and

Surface-to-Air Missiles. The ship is fitted with a modern Surveillance Radar which provides target data to the gunnery weapon systems. Its Anti-Submarine Warfare capabilities are provided by the indigenously-developed Rocket Launchers, Torpedo Launchers and the ASW helicopters.

Named after the historic port city of Goa on the west coast, the ship is equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare conditions. INS Mormugao has a complement of about 300 personnel.

History

The ship was launched on September 17, 2016 and commenced sea trials on December 19, 2021, coinciding with 60 years of Goa Liberation. The commissioning on December 18 is significant as it was the same date in 1961 when Operation Vijay was launched to liberate Goa from Portuguese rule.

Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh and CMD, MDL Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad (Retd) also attended the commissioning function.

Contd. from Page 2

Intention To Cause Disorder....

Most significantly, the Bench then minces no words to unequivocally hold in the next para that this noteworthy judgment that, "I have gone through the entire case record including the challan prepared under Section 173 Cr.P.C. and considered the submissions of respective counsel for the parties. It is true that except wearing a T-shirt with a photograph of a leader of his own party by the petitioner, no overt act has been attributed against him and there is no material whatsoever even to infer that the petitioner was acting under any pre-orientated plan as al-

leged or to suggest that by words either spoken or written or by any other means as enumerated under Section 153-A IPC, he incited anyone to create violence or promote communal hatred. The intention to cause disorder or incite people to violence is the sine qua non of the offence under Section 153-A IPC and there is no existence of mens rea for the prosecution to succeed."

Needless to say, the Bench then mandates in the next para of this learned judgment that, "Therefore, having found no prima facie material against the petitioner to constitute an offence punishable under Section 153-A IPC, this Court is of the view that the benefit of bail can be extended to him. It is also weighs in the mind of this Court that investigation in the case is complete, challan stands filed and the petitioner is already in custody for 3

months and 23 days, as is evident from custody certificate dated 12.12.2022."

As a corollary, the Bench then holds in the next para that, "Accordingly, it is ordered that the petitioner shall be released on bail on furnishing bail bonds and one local surety to the satisfaction of learned Chief Judicial Magistrate, Amritsar, however, in order to facilitate trial the following conditions are imposed on his bail:-

(i) If the petitioner is having any Pass Port, he will surrender the same before the Investigating Officer immediately.

(ii) He will record his appearance at the police station before the Investigating Officer once in a week.

(iii) He will not try to influence any of the witnesses of the case directly or indirectly."

For sake of clarity, the

Bench then clarifies in next para specifying that, "However, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Amritsar may relax any of the conditions under (i) or (ii) or both in appropriate circumstances."

Finally, the Bench then concludes by holding finally that, "In terms of the above, the present petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. is allowed. Ordered accordingly."

In essence, we thus see that the Punjab and Haryana High Court has taken the most commendable decision to make it absolutely clear that intention to clear disorder is essential for invoking Section 153-A of IPC. If there is no intention then an accused can definitely not be convicted for offence under Section 153-A of IPC. So the accused who is a Congress leader was thus rightly granted bail by the Court. No denying!

The way forward



By: Vijay GarG

The higher education sector in the country may finally see a much-needed overhaul, with a focus on skills and multidisciplinary education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed a four-year honours degree, in sync with the blueprint for higher education outlined by the new National Education Policy (NEP). NEP seeks to build a flexible higher education ecosystem that encourages students to learn at their own pace, instead of finishing graduation in three or four

years at one go. That would need a radical shift in the mindset of Indians. The NEP says it will make India a Vishwa Guru - a global leader - in education in collaboration with some of the world's best institutions.

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This basically means students will learn at their own pace. It is perhaps an effort to encourage skills-based training, and students can return to finish their honours course when they need that knowledge the most, or when they can spare the time. This would need a shift

It encourages a multi-disciplinary approach to higher education to promote holistic and skill-based education. This vision is clearly spelt out in NEP. A student will dig deeper into the chosen subject, and also learn the best of other disciplines. IITs have been encouraging a similar approach over the years, and the NEP says these elite institutes will lay even greater emphasis on it going forward. The four-year programme will have multiple exit opportunities for the student - at one year (certificate), two years (diploma), and three years (degree). Students can rejoin within three years of exit and must complete their bachelor's degree within seven years.

This basically means students will learn at their own pace. It is perhaps an effort to encourage skills-based training, and students can return to finish their honours course when they need that knowledge the most, or when they can spare the time. This would need a shift

in the mindset of Indian families, who essentially see education as something to be finished in one shot.

The new education policy aims to migrate the education system to an academic credits-based system. Credits awarded to a student for one programme by a university can be transferred to or redeemed by another institution. It essentially gives a student mobility and he or she can study in different academic institutions and be awarded a degree based on the bank of credits. The education ministry has already launched the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), which has on board 56 central and 430 state universities, including Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

This is definitely the way forward if the education sector of the country is serious about a paradigm shift in the post pandemic era.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DIRECTORATE OF HANDLOOMS & TEXTILES

NOTICE

Imphal, the 13th December, 2022

No. HL-157/H&T/2020 (II): In pursuance to Government letter No. HL-1010/3/2022-TCI-T,C&I dated 09.11.2022 and based on the marks secured in the personality test/interview by a Selection Committee held on 24.06.2022 for engagement of Textile Designer (TD), the merit list of the candidates who appeared before the Selection Committee on 24.06.2022 is enclosed in Annexure.

2.0: Engagement of TD for implementation of Handloom Cluster Projects under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) shall be made on this merit/rank basis against the immediate requirement of TDs under NHDP from time to time and Manipur Reservation Rules, 2011. In case where two or more candidates secured equal marks, merit/rank is decided based on Date of Birth with the older candidates being placed higher in the merit/rank.

3.0: Based on this merit list, counselling of candidates of the merit list will be held on **21.12.2022 at 10.00 a.m.** in the Directorate of Handlooms & Textiles, Manipur.

Sd/-

(K. Lamlie Kamei)

Director of handlooms & Textiles,
Manipur

Media show of "Wangma Wangmada", held Media Show

IT News
Imphal, Dec 19:

A media show of the much-awaited Manipuri feature film, "Wangma Wangmada", was held on December 17, 2022 at Catch & Cook, Phojing Lambal, Nambol at 4pm.

Directed by renowned film director, Krimil Soraisam, and Marketing & Distributed by MesoTV, this film promises to be a spectacular cinematic ex-

perience. The stars of the film include Kaiku, Bala, Nicky and Edhou.

"Wangma Wangmada" tells the story of a new style of storyline related to Manipuri society. It is forced to confront their social taboo and prejudices and learn to embrace their life with optimism and courage. It's a unique test of sad yet entertaining family drama. The film follows their struggles to keep the family together and to over-

come the difficulties. It is a unique mix of sad and comedies that audiences won't soon forget. This film is sure to be a hit with audiences of all ages. It is an uplifting

The press show is concluded with a special Q&A session with the director and casts. The media show of the film was attended by the cast and crew of "Wangma Wangmada", including cast and crew and media personals.



Social Problems in North-Eastern Region

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 19:

The strategy being taken to restrict/control by the Government to social problems such as human trafficking, drug abuse, HIV and to improve literacy in North-Eastern region during the last five years are as under:

(i) While it is the primary responsibility of respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations (UTs) to take necessary steps for preventing and countering human trafficking as "Police" and "Public Order" are State-List subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by undertaking various initiatives and measures in this regard. MHA has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs 98.86 crores under "Nirbhaya Fund" to all States and UTs during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 for strengthening the existing Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and for establishing new AHTUs covering all districts of the States and UTs. MHA also provides financial assistance to States and UTs for holding "Judicial Colloquiums"

and "State level conferences" on periodic basis for sensitizing judicial and police officials and to make available to them updated information on latest provisions of law relating to human trafficking. MHA has also been issuing advisories and guidelines to States on preventing and countering the crime of human trafficking. Further, the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 was amended in 2019 to authorise the National Investigation Agency to investigate cases of human trafficking under Sections 370 and 370A of Indian Penal Code having inter-State and international ramifications.

(ii) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) is implementing the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in the country including the 8 North Eastern States under which financial assistance is provided to (i) 'State Governments/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations for Preventive Education and Awareness Generation, Capacity Building, Skill development, Vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts, Programmes for Drug Demand Reduction by States/UTs etc. and (ii) 'NGOs/ VOs for running and maintenance of Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA), Community-based peer Led intervention (CPLI) for early Drug Use Prevention among Adolescents and Outreach and Drop In Centres (ODIC) and (iii) Addition treatment facilities (ATFs) in Government Hospitals'.

A Toll-free Helpline for de-addiction, 14446 is being maintained by the Ministry for providing primary counseling and immediate referral services to the persons seeking help through this helpline. Ministry through its autonomous body National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) and other collaborating agencies like SCERTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan etc. provides for regular awareness generation and sensitization sessions for all stakeholders including students, teachers, parents etc.

MoSJE launched Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 372 identified districts including 67 districts of North Eastern States with an aim to create awareness about all effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher education institutes, university campuses, schools and reaching out into the community and garnering community involvement and ownership of the Abhiyaan. In the North Eastern Region, so far 16,50,309 people have been reached under NMBA including 23027 women, 55441 youths, and 2126 educational institutions.

(iii) National AIDS Control Programme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is implementing the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) since 1992 to respond to the HIV epidemic across country including in the North Eastern Region. Currently, phase-V of the NACP is under implementation as a fully funded Central Sector Scheme through State/UT AIDS Control Societies (SACS) for the period of 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2026. North Eastern States has been focused under NACP Phase-V across the care continuum of HIV prevention-detection-treatment.

Integrated action plans have been prepared by SACS in these States for tailored HIV response through comprehensive three-pronged strategy of prevention, detection and treatment for HIV supported through critical enablers of awareness generation, laboratory services and strategic information management with communities being the center of response.

12,500 citizens were rescued under Operation Ganga in February-March 2022, 2.67 Indian citizens were rescued from Afghanistan in Operation Devi Shakti.

Speaking on the status these efforts have created for India in the world, he said that India is increasingly being seen as a country that readily offers all assistance to other countries in their times of crisis and also as one that acts strongly against terrorism, while a neighboring country is only seen as one sheltering terrorism and propounding values of violence.

Contd. from Page 1

More irregularities to the implementation of PMGSY....

Earlier, the MPCC team led by its president K. Meghachandra had paid inspection visit to the implementation site of PMGSY at Churachandpur district, Noney and Tamenglong district and have been alleging misappropriation of fund by withdrawing the construction amount without constructing the work sanctioned under the various phases of the PMGSY package.

"We felt that misappropriation of the PMGSY scheme would have happened at only some area but in reality almost all works under the PMGSY turn out to be ghost work and the fund have been withdrawn without completing or constructing the road stretch.

Meghachandra said that the MPCC now felt that the matter be put to the notice of the RD and PR at the central

as well as to the notice of the prime minister.

Villagers who companioned the Congress team said that the so called "Go to Hill" scheme turn out to be fool the people of the hill region. He said that they promise developmental works on lips service only.

K. Meghachandra while talking to the press demanded probe by the CBI to the PMGSY scam in the state.

An era of peace in North East....

Speaking on the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, the Minister said that AFSPA roll back has been only a matter of discussion all this while but the Government rolled it back from a large part of North East including the whole of Tripura and Meghalaya. It remains in force in only 3 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, 60 percent of Assam is free of AFSPA, 15 police stations under 6 districts have been taken out of the category of Disturbed Area, Disturbed Area notification has been removed from 15 police stations in 7 districts, the Minister informed the media.

The Minister also delved into the rescue operations run by the Government over the years. Highlighting that rescuing Indian lives in distress are of a paramount concern for the Government and the country has been on the fore front of running rescue operations across the world, Thakur listed the achievements.

1. 22,500 citizens were rescued under Operation Ganga in February-March 2022,

2. 67 Indian citizens were rescued from Afghanistan in Operation Devi Shakti.



3. In one of the biggest successes of rescue operations, 1.83 crore citizens were brought back home during COVID19 crisis, under Vande Bharat Mission in the year 2021-22.

4. India rescued 654 people from Wuhan in China.

Not just Indians, India has also offered a helping hand to foreign citizens under distress. In 2016, under Operation Sankat Mochan, 155 people including 2 Nepalese citizens were brought back from South Sudan. 5000 Indians were rescued from Nepal during Op-

eration Maitree while 170 foreign nationals were also rescued from Nepal. Operation Rahat 6,710 people were rescued from Yemen including 1,962 foreigners.

Speaking on the status these efforts have created for India in the world, he said that India is increasingly being seen as a country that readily offers all assistance to other countries in their times of crisis and also as one that acts strongly against terrorism, while a neighboring country is only seen as one sheltering terrorism and propounding values of violence.

Sports

Tears of relief and joy as Messi lifts World Cup for Argentina

Agency
Lusail (Qatar), Dec 19:

They leaped into the air. Their fists pumped in delight. Finally it was all over, and they had won.

Gonzalo Montiel had just scored the decisive penalty for Argentina to defeat France in the dramatic final of the World Cup in Qatar and become champions once again after their last triumph in Mexico 36 years ago.

In the stands of packed Lusail Stadium on Sunday, those in blue and white screamed and hugged in an explosion of relief and jubilation. What had preceded were 120 minutes of nail biting normal time and extra-time action, which saw France twice come from behind to send the 3-3 deadlock into a penalty shootout.

"I can't describe the feelings I have right now," Argentina fan Pablo Ramirez told Al Jazeera with tears in his eyes shortly after captain Lionel Messi lifted the trophy.

"It's the best day of my life," said the 34-year-old, who made the journey to Qatar from Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires.

"Finally, we are champions again," the businessman



(L-R) Argentina's Enzo Fernandez holds the Best Young Player award, Argentina's Lionel Messi holds the Golden Ball award, Argentina's Emiliano Martinez holds the Golden Glove award and France's Kylian Mbappe holds the Golden Boot award.

said. "It's been too long. ... I thought France would win after that comeback. I was shaking so much."

He wasn't the only one. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni was also visibly emotional as he dedicated the victory to his parents.

"I cannot believe that we have suffered so much in a perfect game," he told reporters after the final. "Unbelievable, but this team responds to everything."

"I am proud of the work

they did. With the blows we received today, this makes you emotional. I want to tell people to enjoy. It's a historic moment for our country."

Argentina took the lead in the 23rd minute when Messi scored from the penalty spot to become the first player to find the net in all four knockout rounds at the same World Cup.

They widened their lead in the 36th minute when winger Angel Di Maria finished a superb team move that started

on Argentina's half.

La Albiceleste remained in control until about 10 minutes before the end of normal time when French superstar Kylian Mbappe pulled one back from the penalty spot.

And less than two minutes later, Mbappe stunned the Argentina fans with a second goal, which sent the game into extra time.

Messi responded with his second goal of the night in the 108th minute to put Argentina up 3-2, but a handball in the

box by Montiel gave Mbappe the chance to convert his second penalty and France to level again.

In the shootout, Argentina keeper Emiliano Martinez saved Kingsley Coman's spot kick while Aurelien Tchouameni also missed the target for France before Montiel scored Argentina's fourth penalty to end it all.

Argentina fan Carlos Ruiz said he had never felt so nervous in his life.

"My heart was in my throat," he said in describing his emotions after France's equaliser during normal time.

"I could barely sit still," said Ruiz, who grew up near Buenos Aires but now resides in Tampa, Florida. "It was a nerve-wrecking but an incredible match, and for Messi to win it finally in his last World Cup, ... he is definitely now as big as Diego [Maradona]."

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner had won all there is to win as part of a football team - except the most coveted prize of all.

"It's insane that it happened this way," Messi, 35, told reporters after the match. "I really wanted this. I knew God was going to give it to me. Now I will enjoy it."

Messi says he will not retire from Argentinian national team

Agency
Lusail (Qatar), Dec 19:

Argentina's World Cup-winning captain Lionel Messi has quashed speculation and pledged to continue playing for his country, despite realising his lifetime ambition of winning the sport's biggest prize.

"I want to keep experiencing a few more matches as world champion," the 35-year-old told Argentinian television following an epic penalty shoot-out victory over France in the World Cup final in Qatar on Sunday.

"I was lucky to clinch every title in my career, this

was the only one missing," Messi said. "I want to take this one there [to Argentina] and enjoy it with everybody else."

Messi opened the scoring for Argentina with a 23rd-minute penalty and also found the net in extra-time for the 3-2 in the 108th.

France's 23-year-old superstar Kylian Mbappe completed his hat-trick to take the game to a shoot-out, in which he and Messi also scored.

Messi, now indisputably one of the greatest players the game has ever seen, had said the tournament in Qatar would be his last World Cup.

"Look at this trophy," the Paris Saint-Germain forward said. "It's beautiful. We suffered a lot, but we did it. I can't wait to be in Argentina to see how crazy this is going to be."

Argentina fan Augusto

Fasio felt the same. "I can't wait to fly back home," the Mar de Plata resident told Al Jazeera in Qatar. "I want to be with my people when the team comes home. We will be partying for a week."