

Guv greets people on 138th birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad

IT News
Imphal, Dec 1:

Governor of Manipur extends his heartiest greetings on the 138th birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India on 3rd December, 2022.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born on December 3, 1884, in Siwan, Bihar. He was an Indian freedom fighter and was a lawyer by profession. A prominent personality who greatly contributed to our national freedom struggle, he was sworn in as the first President of Independent India and went on to become the longest-serving head of state for 12 years.

Desh Ratna was an honorary title given to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, one of the prominent leaders of the Indian Nationalist Movement.

Book released

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2:

A Book with the title 'The Historical Maps of Manipur, Treaties & Documents' collected edited and written by Kakchingtabam Gunachandra Sharma was released today in a function held at Naorem Sanajaoba Public Library Hall, NRC building, near MU Main Gate, Chanchipur.

Vice Chancellor of Dhanamanjuri University, Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh attended the book released function as Chief Guest while Thongam Ajit, President NRC, Manipur presided over the function.

Author of the book Kakchingtabam Gunachandra Sharma while talking to Imphal Times said that he took over 4 years collecting documents and finding facts and documents in completing the book. He credited late prof. N. Sanajaoba for inspiring him in writing the book.

Dr. Arambam Noni, Faculty, Department of Political Science, DM University reviewed the book.

IMA appeals

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2:

The Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch is deeply concerned about the ongoing protest by the All Manipur Health Services Doctors' Association (AMHSDA) since the 26th November, 2022. The misunderstanding between the AMHSDA and the Govt. of Manipur will affect healthcare of the general public if protracted. The association urge the AMHSDA and the Govt. of Manipur to come to an amicable solution, to alleviate the plight of the public, at the earliest. The association further pray that things will soon come to normalcy.

CM inaugurates Two Months Language Training Programme for seven languages

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stated that there is no loss in learning different languages adding that our identity will not be compromised in learning languages. He was addressing the gathering at the inaugural ceremony of the "Two months local language training programme of seven languages" at Manipur State Film Development Society, Palace Compound today.

The programme was organised by the Department of Language Planning & Implementation, Government of Manipur.

Continuing his speech, N. Biren maintained that the idea behind the local language training programme is to maintain unity among different communities and go together as one, giving a true meaning of State. If different communities inhabiting the State begin to think only for their respective communities, the meaning of State will be lost, he added.

Mentioning that the programme is a long-term plan of the Government, the Chief Minister continued that he would go deeply in something



when learned or expressed in our mother tongue. As an example, he stressed the need for filing of First Information Report (FIR) by police in the local language of complainants adding that the latter can express more precisely in their own languages. Further stating the importance of learning different dialects, he informed that priority would be given to those candidates who know multiple local languages, in recruitment of the State Government's Job.

Expressing satisfaction that many students applied for the training programme, he even stressed the need to ex-

tend the language training programme for elders to create a healthy relationship among different communities. He also expressed the need to include the State's history in the syllabus of School Students to make our younger generations aware of our history and civilization.

Concluding his speech, N. Biren further raised concern on the worsening of our society, with the absorption of western culture without proper education, knowledge and infrastructure. He also urged all parents and guardians to restrict the usage of mobile phones by their wards

only for education and gaining knowledge, as it has become one of the factors for degradation of our society.

Education Minister Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, delivering his presidential speech, appreciated the Chief Minister's far-sighted vision and for coming up with the initiative of the local language training programme. He continued that the initiative would remain as a significant step in the history of Manipur adding that the same would help in bringing different communities of the State closer to one another.

contd. on page 4

7th Pay Commission: Central Govt employees expected to get next DA hike in March 2023

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 2:

Central government employees are likely to get some good news about their salary, going by the media reports. The reports indicate that after a 4 per cent hike in dearness allowance and dearness relief in September, the government might increase the DA and DR by another 3-5 per cent in March 2023. Lakhs of central government employees are also waiting for 18-month DA arrears, as per reports.

The government in September hiked DA and DR by 4 per cent, benefitting 48 lakh

central government employees and 68 lakh pensioners in the country ahead of Diwali and festive season. After the hike, the DA or DR increased to 38 per cent of the basic pay or pension, respectively, effective July 1, 2022. Before this, the DA was revised in March.

The DA hike has raised the dearness portion of central government employee salaries. For example, if somebody's salary is Rs 50,000 per month and has Rs 15,000 as the basic pay. You will now get Rs 5,100, which is 34 per cent of the basic pay. However, now after the 4 per cent hike, you will get Rs 5,700 per

month, which is Rs 600 higher. So, if you have a Rs 50,000 salary a month with Rs 15,000 as the basic pay, your salary will rise by Rs 600 per month.

The DA and DR hike is decided based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) for the period ending June 2022. Though the central government revises the allowances on January 1 and July 1 every year, the decision is generally announced in March and September.

In March, the Union Cabinet had approved to increase 3 per cent in DA under the 7th

Pay Commission, thus taking the DA to 34 per cent of the basic income. In 2006, the central government had revised the formula to calculate the DA and DR for central government employees and pensioners.

Dearness Allowance Percentage = ((Average of All-India Consumer Price Index (Base Year 2001=100) for the past 12 months - 115.76) / 115.76) x 100.

For Central public sector employees: Dearness Allowance Percentage = ((Average of All-India Consumer Price Index (Base Year 2001=100) for the past 3 months - 126.33) / 126.33) x 100.

KSA appeals Higher Secondary schools not to exceed examination fees fixed by COHSEM

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2:

Kangleipak Student's Association (KSA) has warned of serious consequences to all higher Secondary schools in the state if found taking extra charges while filling up form or appearing class XI and class XII final exam other than the fees fixed by the Council of Higher Secondary School Manipur (COHSEM).

A statement by Th. Johnson, Secretary General of KSA said that Authority of COHSEM in consultation with resource academicians had decided the amount required of conduct of the exam and

fixed the fees that the student need to pay.

"These fee structures should be followed by all Higher Secondary School", the KSA said.

On the hand the KSA, however give chances to schools who are against the decision in connection with the fixation of fees. It said that school authorities who are not satisfied with the decision to fixing the exam fee should timely compliant to the COHSEM. Instead of that if the school authority charges fees more the amount fixed by the COHSEM from the students, the KSA will not remain silent, the statement said.

Manipuri Short Film "Eewai (The Ripple)" continues to get accolades

IT News
Imphal, Dec 3:

Under the banner of Nongdol Mamikol, produce by Samir Thingbaijam, Directed by Bishwamitra and written by Rebika Okram.

Bishwamitra and Thonhoi was awarded for the 3rd Best Direction and Best Actress in the Global Independent Film Festival of India recently held on 30th Nov 2022 at Rabindra Okakura Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata.

The film will be screen at the 28th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF), Non Competition Section-Short and Documentary Panorama to be held on 15th - 22nd December, 2022.

The film has also got the official selection at the North-east India International Film Festival (NIIFF), Nagaland to be held on December 12-13, 2022 at Naithu Resort, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Earlier, Festivus film Fest, Canada has awarded Best film,



Honorable Jury Award at 11th Delhi Short International Film Festival, 2022.

Eewai has 16 entries in the International Film Festival around the Globe including semi-finalist, finalist and award winners.

Cinematographer - Romen, Editor - Mohendro, Music Director - Micheal Ngangom, Make-up - Gojen, Light Director - Brojen, Play back - Nganthoi and Subash, Thonhoi, Rashi, Suniti, Henary, Homeshori, Nganthoi are in the cast.

DESAM urges CM and Education Minister to include Manipuri performing art, Manipuri Sagol (Pony) in Class 9 and 10

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2:

Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister and Education Minister of Manipur urging the government for inclusion of Manipuri Performing Art (MPA) as an optional paper in Class 9 and 10 of BOSEM and introduction of Manipuri's Sagol (Pony) Riding as mandatory Co-Curricular activities as well as practical of MPA and Thangta in School Education.

"In the interest of the students of Manipur, DESAM) is

submitting herewith the proposal to Government of Manipur for opening an optional paper of MPA (Manipuri Performing Art) in class 10-0 and Pony Riding Course in School Education.

As a matter of Policy of the State Government as well as a follow up action of NEP 2020 optional papers of Manipuri Performing Art may be introduced in the school of Manipur from 9 to 10 standards to enable the students to understand and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of their own state before they do undergraduate in different fields of their choice. The Manipur Pony Conservation

and Development Policy also encouraged for introducing the Pony Riding to the students so as to popularize the Pony amongst the youths of state of Manipur", the memorandum stated.

It further added that the National Education Policy 2020 of India focuses in different aspects which would promote language and culture of every community. In NEP (4:31) local contents and flavor are clearly mentioned to incorporate in the school curriculum. It is also mentioned very clearly that cultural awareness and expression are among the major competencies considered

important to develop in children, in order to provide them with a sense of identity, belonging, as well as an appreciation of other cultures and identities. It is through the development of a strong sense and knowledge of their own cultural history, arts, languages and traditions that children can build a positive cultural identity and self-esteem. Thus, cultural awareness and expression are important contributors both to individual as well as societal well being (NEP 2020, 22:2). Schools/ school complexes will be encouraged to hire local eminent persons or experts as

"master instructors" in various subjects, such as in tradition local arts, vocational crafts, etc (NEP 2020:6).

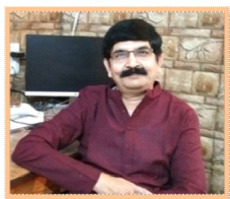
The DESAM memorandum also stated that performing arts of a community is a mirror that reflects the culture and value system of the community, performing art is the window through which one can see the cultural history of the society.

"Manipur is well known for her unique and rich cultural heritage. Her culture represents the perfect blending of aesthetic and ethical aspects in an extraordinary way which are very much necessary to cultivate in the

present education policy of the State as well as the Nation. The famous Manipuri Rasa Dance which has been one of the classical dances of India and the Sankirtana of Manipur which has been listed in the Intangible Heritage of UNESCO are the clear examples of the aesthetic aspects of Manipur culture while the international famed 'hockey on horseback' later came to be known as 'Polo' and Manipuri Thang Ta (Indigenous martial arts of sword and spear) are the clear examples of chivalry and ethical aspects of Manipuri culture.

contd. on page 4

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

2nd December is marked as the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. The focus to observe this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. The abolition of slavery has been seen throughout history as a way to have all people be treated equal. Slavery, also known as enslavement, is the condition of being a slave. It

is a practice where a group of people or a community of people are oppressed and are made to work as labourers without any remuneration. **Slavery** is a term that signifies the injustice that is being carried out against humans since the 1600s. The word "slave" is derived from the ethnic word "slav." It has derived in the English terminology from the old French word, "sclave" and Latin word "sclavus." Historians often find the use of the word "slave" and instead refer to the use of "unfree labourers" or "enslaved person." Whenever this word comes up, usually people picture rich white people ruling over black people. However, that is not the only case to exist.

Although modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. After a profound study, historians found evidence that suggested the presence of slavery in almost every culture. It was not essentially in the form of people working in the fields, but other forms. Slavery generally happens due to the division of levels amongst humans in a society. It still exists in various parts of the world. It may not necessarily be that hard-core, nonetheless, it happens. Slavery was officially abolished in the United States on February 1, 1865. However, racial segregation continued throughout most of the following century and racism remains an important issue today. This year's Day of Remembrance pays particular tribute to the many women who suffered and died during the slave trade. They experienced appalling violence, including sexual and reproductive enslavement, forced prostitution, repeated sexual assault, as well as forced childbearing and the sale of their own children.

Globally, one in ten children works. The majority of the child labour that occurs today is for economic exploitation. Slavery was abolished only because Britain no longer needed slavery in order to make money for the country. Slavery was abolished because people finally realised how barbaric it was and how African people were not inferior to them. Slavery ended many lives and stole the future of successive generations. The descendants of those who were enslaved continue to face enduring social and economic inequality, intolerance, prejudice, racism, and discrimination.

In 1807, Britain passed the first legislation banning slave trading and by 1815, the British pressured the Netherlands, France, Spain, and Portugal to do the same. Nearly 5 years later in 1820, the United States made slave trading punishable by the death penalty and to this day, selling, transporting, and owning slaves is considered one of the worst violations of human rights the world has ever experienced. The United States officially abolished slavery in 1865.

Let us take collective action to reduce inequalities, eliminate racial discrimination, and end modern slavery. Today 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery. Children make up one quarter of these victims, while 71% of those enslaved are women. The onus is upon every Member State to eradicate trafficking, forced labour, servitude and slavery. None of us will be truly free whilst these people suffer. Let us renew our commitment to end modern slavery, so our children will live in a world free of racism and prejudice with equal opportunity and rights for all.

Preparation Tips for NEET UG Repeaters



By: Vijay GarG

It's a dream for students to crack exams like NEET in their first attempt and secure a seat in the college of their choice. We understand that it is a really heartbreaking moment when you fail in a competitive exam that could potentially pave a path for your future. But everybody deserves a second chance to prove them and achieve their goals. So, as the famous idiom goes, 'Fall seven times, stand up eight', you should also dust yourself and get ready for the race again to NEET 2023

Here are some useful tips to prepare for online NEET format. Make sure to follow

these NEET 2023 preparation tips to make the most of your drop year and get good ranks in the medical entrance exam.

1. Analyze previous year score

The first and foremost thing that you should do is to analyze your previous year's NEET results. This will give you a sense of what your strength and weaknesses are and will help you improve the weak areas over the course of time. This will provide a mirror to your preparation and aid you in the future when choosing the learning platform and study material.

2. Join an e-learning

Now that you've already taken the exam once, you most definitely are familiar with the syllabus and the pattern. Joining online NEET coaching rather than a more traditional classroom program will be perfect for you. It will give you the flexibility and time to self-study that you need to succeed. Further, as the exam format has changed now, online NEET preparation with live interactive classes or recorded video lectures will help you get ready for the computer-based test.

contd. on page 3

Pollution is our dreaded threat for the Planet



By: N. Munal Meitei

"Environmental pollution is an incurable disease. It can only be prevented." -Barry Commoner.

The National Pollution Control Day is observed on 2nd December to give honor to the people who had lost their lives in Bhopal gas tragedy on December 2-3 in 1984. Approximately 45 tons of methyl isocyanate escaped from the Union Carbide Industry claiming the death toll of 15,000 to 20,000 people with over half a million injured and suffering from various diseases. Much to the disgust of environmentalists, more than 400 tons of industrial waste lay present on the site still today. The deteriorating soil and water qualities has been blamed for generations worth of birth defects after the tragedy. The day reminds us on how to manage and control industrial disasters caused due to human negligence.

This day also creates awareness about the hazards and impact of pollution on environment, people and the mother earth. Celebration of this day also promotes co-friendly

practices like ban of polythene, encourage plantation, water conservation practices and spreading awareness on how to prevent the air pollution, water pollution, industrial pollution etc. to make our planet better place for all the living beings. It is important to note that each individual has a huge role to fight against pollution for the health and the planet. Every people need to cultivate a better attitude towards reducing pollution for the earth in every aspects. A clean environment cannot be achieved with the efforts of a selected few.

Pollution is one of the most common things that are making this earth dirty day by day. Air pollution knows no boundaries and engulfs everywhere that comes in its way. It's very dangerous and making pernicious effect on health of all living organisms. Plastic pollution is also degrading the soil, the skin of earth and killing marine lives incessantly.

According to the National Health Portal of India, every year around 70 lakh peoples globally die due to air pollution, 40 lakh of whom die from indoor air pollution. Pollution level for the country is so extreme that nine out of ten people does not have access to safe and pure air. Water and air, the two most essential resources of all living beings, have been so polluted by human activities. Hence it is high time to spread awareness on pollution and their adverse effects on our health and the mother nature.

Air pollution is responsible for

12.5% of all deaths in India. Which is to say that 1 out of every eighth death in the country is because of air pollution. The harmful gases in the air kill an average of 8.5 out of every 10,000 children in country before they turn 5 years old in which girls are more vulnerable (WHO-2018). While pollution was supposed to reduce average life expectancy by 1.5 years, new reports have suggested that life expectancy will be reduced by more than 2 years now.

A 2020 survey showed that out of the top 14 most polluted cities in the world, 10 are in India and Delhi being the most polluted city in the world. Household fuels used for cooking and heating purposes are the biggest contributor to the PM 2.5 values in the country. Coal burning in power plants and industries is a close second and third largest contributor. In the country, air pollution has become one of the major causes of frequent hospital visits. Most of the rivers in India are dressed with plastics and 86% of all of them considered "critically polluted". There are 351 polluted river stretches in India.

Air pollutants are so tiny that they seep through mucus membrane and other protective barriers and cause damage to your lungs, brain and heart. Not only does it harm an individual's health, but also damage the ozone layer and many other environmental deterioration.

It is a common practice that the government and the people of India

often neglect the seriousness of Air Pollution as just a winter issue. There is an instant need to understand that air pollution is not a seasonal issue but a national problem. Although the pollution rate was gradually reduced after the COVID lockdown which has led to an on surge of people going out, but once again we are negating all environmental gains earned during the lockdown period.

A pollution-free environment is very necessary for everyone to do all the tasks in a better way and to remain disease free. Pollution can result in making the people behavioral change and avoid concentration in any of the activities which can result in incomplete of their goal.

Pollution can be reduced by changing our habits such as using public transports, turn off the lights when not in use, recycle and reuse, not to plastic bags, reduction of forest fires and smoking, less use of fans and air conditioner and to enhance afforestation. Planting trees provides a lot of benefits to the environment including the oxygen.

India needs a network of air quality checking stations in every parts including the rural areas. There is also an emerging need for holistic research on rural air pollution. The government need to implement schemes to mitigate the pollution. Only then on coming the National Pollution Control Day-2022, we can sustain the essence of India.

(The author is a Environmentalist, email-nmunal@yahoo.in)

The poll panel reform as suggested by SC is the need of the hour



By: Jayanta Sharangthem

India has a federal structure of governments with powers divided between the centre and the states. Each has its own jurisdiction. But we, the people of India, frequently notice that every government that comes to power uses the government institutions and organs as per its wishes so that the government gets some profit from them. Now, there is no balancing between the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature. The legislature is dominating the two. The central government has recently brought the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) so that the centre can have a firm hand in controlling the judicial system. The government is trying to control the national media, including social media. Anchor Ravish Kumar has resigned from NDTV after the news channel was acquired by the Adani Group. The majority of national news channels broadcast irrelevant news in order to divert people's attention away from national issues such as unemployment, economic slowdown, hunger index, rupees slowing against the dollar, and so on. These days, there are so many paid and sponsored news channels and social media groups supporting government agendas.

When the election is about to be scheduled, state governors, state election commissioners, secretaries, SPs, and DCs are frequently changed or posted. Every party that comes to power in the centre uses CBI, ED, EC, income tax, etc. after destroying their independent command and making

them do what the government wants. When questions arise about the government's illegal actions, the government tries to harass and arrest them under the provisions of UAPA, making it difficult for them to be released on bail. We all know that when the opposition party or someone speaks against the government, an income tax raid, CBI search, or ED search against them is sure to happen in the following days. Surprisingly, there are no raids or scams in states where the ruling party is affiliated with or the same as the ruling party in the center. All these show that these central institutions, which have to work independently, become puppets of the central government. This is against the very structure of our Indian Constitution. If this trend continues, a dictatorship form of government will undoubtedly emerge in the future. To avoid this incorrect interpretation of acts and laws, it is necessary to update and amend the flaws in our constitution, because only time reveals the flaws after they are implemented.

The Modi government and the Supreme Court are locked in a battle where each wants to set the boundary for the other. This fresh stand-off between them over the selection of the Chief Election Commissioner of India comes after Kiren Rijju's remark that only in India do the judges appoint judges. The Supreme Court questions the central government's "tearing urgency" in appointing Arun Goel as Election Commissioner. Mr. Arun Goel was a secretary in the government on Friday. He took voluntary retirement that day and was appointed as Election Commissioner on Saturday, and took charge on Monday. The SC further questions the Centre to show what prevailed upon the government to initiate the process in a manner that everything is done in the shortest possible time, superfast: the same day process, the same day clearance, the same day notification, the same day

application, the same day acceptance, and the same day appointment. The file has not even travelled for 24 hours.

The Supreme Court then orders Attorney General R. Venkataramani to produce the files pertaining to Mr. Goel's appointment on November 23 after petitioners claim it was done "hurriedly," in fact, the very next day as the critical Gujarat election approaches and the court is hearing a series of petitions seeking to insulate the Election Commission of India (ECI) from political influence by establishing a "neutral and independent mechanism." But the government strongly resisted it. This rush by the government smells like some sort of design. The Supreme Court, after inspecting official files on November 24, said the appointment of Arun Goel as Election Commissioner was done with "lightning speed," the procedure taking less than 24 hours from start to finish on November 18. Actually, the vacancy was there from May to November 18. Now, what prevailed on the government that everything needed to be done within the shortest possible time? It is very clear that the authorities forced Goel to resign in order to appoint him as the CEC.

The appointment of the CEC becomes a strategy to keep opposition parties in check. The ruling parties always play the blame game to win the election at any cost. When the CEC is on the side of the ruling parties, no one can dare question the electoral process. If there is any complaint or resistance, it is being rejected by the EC. Again, when the winning numbers after the election are close between the opposition and ruling parties, the political party whose party is in the centre always dominates and forms the government by hook or crook, thereby overthrowing the law of the land and buying and selling elected persons in the election like vegetables in the market. The latest examples that we all witnessed happened in Manipur, Maharashtra,

and Madhya Pradesh. But the Election Commission of India has been a silent spectator to these murders of laws. After the revocation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir by the Centre, the EC of India will announce the election dates only when the political party at the Centre has a favourable time to win the election in J&K. It is so because the EC acts and dances to the rhythm of the government at the centre.

Are the laws of this land not equal for all? NCPCR writes to the EC seeking action against Congress for using children as props to fulfil its political agenda. After this, Rahul visited the EC as well. On the contrary, during the Gujarat election campaign, PM Modi was seen with a child and used derogatory language against the opposition, comparing them to terrorists. The UP CM use words that may cause communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, while campaigning in Gujarat, expressed that if Modi is not re-elected in 2024, then "Love Jihad," in which Shradha Walkar was killed into pieces, will rise in every city of India. Today, politicians use such statements targeting a particular community to secure vote banks. They even try to promote 'one religion, one language'. Such statements and the promotion will only create communal tensions and will ultimately break the bond of the unity in diversity. We all know that kings' rule came to an end with time. The rule under the Mughals came to an end too. And then the rule under the British also came to an end. The same was true of the Congress regime after India gained independence. This present government will follow suit too. Nobody can stop time because time is both the killer and the creator of all things. I mean, the parties come and the parties go. But the nation should not be divided for the sake of a few votes.

contd. on page 3

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com.

For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

Four Africans Running International Job Racket Nabbed by Mumbai Cyber Crime Police

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 2:

Four African nationals—two men, two women, were recently arrested from Sangvi, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Lonikarbhore areas of Pune, by the Mumbai Cyber crime police on charges of running an international job racket and duping gullible job-seekers.

The accused were arrested on the night of November 22 and were remanded to police custody till Saturday, December 03, a press release issued by Mumbai Police on Wednesday read.

The accused were identified as: Greenwale Ndhlovu (26) from Zambia, Dorcus Nakabuka (32) from Uganda, Cecilia Nghinasheni (22) from Namibia and Tosin Onkar Don (27) from Ghana. They had come to India on student or medical visas and were running the racket from their rented apartments in the Sangvi, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Lonikarbhore areas of Pune in Maharashtra.

An FIR (No 57/2022) has been registered with West Region Cyber Police station, Bandra Kurla Complex in North West Mumbai and the accused have been booked under sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120 B of Indian Penal Code, sections 66 (c) and 66 (d) of the Information Technology Act 2008 and section 14 of Foreigners Act 1946.

The fraudsters impersonated as David J Ranz and sent email through IDs—hlvisamumbai@cis-usembassy.in and careers@whitingturners.com similar to that of the American



Two of the four accused arrested in connection with job racket by Mumbai Police.

Embassy, offering jobs and visa in the US. They asked job seekers to deposit money in the six bank accounts they operated, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Cyber Police Balingh Rajput said.

Incidentally David J Ranz is a career member of the US Senior Foreign Service who has been serving as US Consul General in Mumbai since August 2019.

The accused defrauded many people between April 05 to July 01, offering allures like OLX, lotteries, lucky draws and gifts. The first offence was registered on October 15, when a private bank employee from Andheri in North West Mumbai duped of Rs 26,37,473/-, approached the police. The woman had responded to an advertisement in April that offered a US visa and job. She was asked to pay Rs 26 lakh for the same, which she did. However, when they demanded more money, she got suspicious.

The police then used the location of internet routers to trace the accused, who were running a syndicate out of Pune. An investigation team comprising senior inspectors Suvarna Shinde, Mahendra Jadhav, Poonam Jadhav traced the fraud to Pune where the suspects lived under the pretext of education and medical treatment. The passports of three accused had expired and only one had a valid visa.

The investigation was challenging, since the accused had nothing registered in their own names, be it mobile numbers, bank accounts, email accounts or even devices used in the crime. They were using Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) every time they used the internet. The police were able to find one online payment transaction made from an internet router based in Pune since the router was registered in the actual name of one of the accused. This provided a crucial lead.

They accused had purchased the e-mail addresses and numbers from one criminal gang and bank accounts in other peoples' names from another gang. The police team recovered 13 mobile phones, 4 laptops, passports of different countries and three internet routers from them. Draft messages, email letters and other literature, pen drives and hard disks were seized. They were smart enough to buy the SIM cards in someone else's name.

There are cases registered against the gang in Hyderabad and Mumbai. Now their suspected involvement in two to three more cases registered in Mumbai, is being verified. The police have also found a possible link between this racket and another one busted earlier this year, where 18 accused were arrested for luring victims with the promise of part time jobs through social media, DCP Rajput said.

275 new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours, Active infections now bellow 5,000

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 2:

India recorded a single-day rise of 275 new coronavirus infections, while the count of active cases has dipped to 4,672, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The total tally of COVID-19 cases in the country now stands at 4.46 crore, it showed.

The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 5,30,624 with one fatality being reconciled by Kerala and one death reported from Chhattisgarh in a span of

24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Active cases now comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the ministry.

A decrease of 95 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload of the country in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,41,37,617, while the case fatality rate was

recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 219.93 crore doses of vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and the one-crore mark on December 19, 2020.

3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind gathers speed and momentum towards its inauguration on 5th December 2022

New Delhi, Dec 2:

With 4 days to go for the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind Inauguration, the excitement of the Blind Cricketers from 7 countries is heating up as Blind Cricket is considered one of the best sporting events globally.

The World cup, an initiative of Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) in association with Samarthanam Trust for the disabled, has been organizing this championship since 2012. Samarthanam perceives Sports as a medium to improve inclusion and encourage persons with disabilities on various fronts. Since its inception, the trust has reached out to more than 30,000 visually impaired cricketers.

The 3rd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind from December 5th to December 17th 2022 is organized to mark the World Disability day celebrations universally. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of dis-

ability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Indian legendary cricketer Yuvraj Singh the brand ambassador for the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind says "I am thrilled to be a part of the 3rd T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind as the Brand Ambassador. I commend and appreciate the spirit of visually impaired cricketers for their passion for Cricket and determination to fight everyday challenges. It is a different world, but it is a world of Cricket. Cricket has no boundaries. And I believe this game taught me How to Fight, how to Fall, how to Dust Myself off to get up again and Move Forward. So I urge and invite everyone to support this great initiative."

The participating nations for World Cup 2022 are **Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the host, India**. 150 Players will be participating from all the countries and tournaments are in 9 Cities PAN India and will consist of a total of 24 matches.

The inauguration of World Cup in Delhi on December 5th 2022 in Delhi at Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium, Gurugram, will witness a ceremonial march past by all the participating teams, followed by cultural events, celebrity appearances and dance performances by well-known artists. The Guests at the inauguration are **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Hon'ble Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, **Pralhad Joshi**, Hon'ble Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, **Yuvraj Singh**, Former Indian Player, Brand Ambassador 3rd T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind, **Dr Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar**, President Cricket Association for the Blind in India.

The Guests at the press meet for the 3rd T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind 2022 in Constitution Club, New Delhi, included Mr Venkat Sundaram, Former India First Class Cricketer, Dr Mahantesh G

Kivadasannavar, President, Cricket Association for the Blind in India, Mr E John David, General Secretary CABI, I Ajay Kumar Reddy, Captain, Indian Blind Cricket Team, Venkateswara Rao Duma, Vice-Captain, Indian Blind Cricket Team.

Venkat Sunderam speaking on the occasion said "It's a wonderful effort by Samarthanam Trust to host the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind. I applaud the energy, passion and commitment of the Visually impaired cricketers and am proud of them as a Cricketer myself. I eagerly look forward to watch, follow and enjoy the Ball and Bat game"

Dr Mahantesh G.K. President CABI and Founder Managing Trustee Samarthanam commented: "The 3rd T20 World Cup in India promises to be a spectacular event, we are looking forward to witness the matches. I hope people come to watch, in large numbers to cheer and support Blind Cricket and make the atmosphere incredible. There is nothing better than being a supporter, sitting in the stands and soaking it all in.

E. John David, the Chairman of CABI Selection Committee and the General Secretary of Cricket Association for the Blind in India says "Winning the World Cup in 2012 & 2017 was very special to us because it meant so much to so many. Our players who have been selected, have gone through rigorous schedules, discipline, hard work and I am sure the best 16 with the spirit of sportsmanship are geared up to win the World cup for the 3rd time"

I. Ajay Reddy says "My Team with the 16 Players are all motivated exceptionally and are geared up to improve, achieve and succeed. They have been working so hard to make themselves more challenging and become the best every single day. Mentally and physically they have groomed themselves well. Excitement is building up as we our comrades"

The World Cup will consist of a total of 24 matches to be played in 9 cities PAN India.

Contd. from Page 2

The poll panel reform as suggested by SC.....

We all know that every government tries to select the "yes" man for the head of every government institution, including the CBI, ED, EC, military chiefs, governors, and presidents, so that the government has overall control over others. To save the very soul of this democracy, it is time to give these government organs independent powers so that they can work and make decisions on their own. Now-a-days, the politicians say anything that comes to mind in their statements.

Home Minister Amit Shah said that no one can stop the re-writing of history to free it from distortions. But let me ask some questions. Who had written Indian history incorrectly? Can the RSS rewrite the history that when the whole congress under Gandhi protested against the British to leave India but the RSS were against the Congress stand? Who killed Mahatma Gandhi? Can you rewrite the history of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi? Can you rewrite the history that even after India got

independence, for many years, the RSS did not hoist the national flag at its headquarters?

From Nehru to Modi, our constitution has undergone a lot of amendments. With the passage of time, amendments become increasingly necessary. We agree with the provisions given in the constitution that any individual, whether he or she is literate or not, who has the people's support can become an MLA, a minister, a lawmaker, or the people's decision-maker, keeping highly qualified persons like IPS,

IAS, scientists, doctors, educationists, scholars, intellectuals, etc. under them. But I will say there should be a minimum educational qualification to become an MLA. The big question is: how can an illiterate minister make laws or decide the fate of this land? How can he or she analyse the merits and demerits of any government decisions? Real growth is when it starts checking and correcting the defects in our constitution. Running water is cleaner than pond water. In order to achieve bal-

ance between the three pillars of executive, judiciary, and legislature, reformation is very necessary. If the EC is to act independently, the corruption during the election may be curbed to some extent, and the political parties may not be able to align the EC towards them. Hence, as suggested by the Supreme Court of India, an independent and neutral election commission of India, which is out of the control of the ruling and opposition parties, is the need of the hour.

Preparation Tips for NEET UG.....

3. Practice a lot

Practicing different and abundant questions will be the key to success in your next attempt. When you practice questions, you are revising as well as strengthening your concepts at the same time. It's like that age-old proverb, killing two birds with one stone. So, solve as many questions as you can. Moreover, it will also prepare you for the revised exam pattern. Choose different online tests for NEET 2023 like Daily Practice Tests, Mock Tests, and Previous Year Papers.

4. Be in a comfortable environment

Comfort and peace of mind are paramount to preparing for a competitive exam. You can

concentrate on your studies only when you have simple things like your meals and laundry sorted. So, let go of those worries by staying near/at your home and opting for a digital alternative Live that will help you prepare according to your own personal needs, preferences, and pace. With the live interactive classes, you will be able to attend the classes at your home without wasting hours on the daily commute.

5. Know your saturation point

Studying for 15 hours straight does not mean you are preparing for NEET 2023 well. You should strive for studying hard as well as smart. You can ask your teachers to mentor

you in the right direction and not exhaust yourself too soon. Instead of reading the same thing time and again to understand the concept, you can look for alternate mediums like video lectures to quickly get the things.

6. Make an effective plan

A routine can take you places, especially when it comes to cracking competitive exams like NEET. You need to consistently revise and improve your scores in order to succeed. Make an effective timetable and syllabus breakdown throughout your time, and strictly follow the same to complete preparation in time.

7. Do not feel disheartened

Believe in yourself and try

your best. Reward yourself when you achieve small goals like an average high score in practice tests or revision multiple times. This will keep you motivated and pumped up to work hard for longer periods of times.

8. Keep calm in stressful situations

Taking up tests will help you to maintain a cool and calm demeanor in the actual exam. The mock test is designed to provide you a test like an experience that will definitely help you in conquering the last-minute nerves. Such tests are deliberately made a bit tough to help students prepare more for the final exam. So, if you score less on these exams, don't

lose hope; rather, check the detailed reports provided by the teachers and improve yourself.

9. Practice previous exam papers

Many a time in exams like NEET, questions are repeated or asked along the same wavelength. Practicing previous year papers will do wonders for your preparation. You will get a sense of the level and type of questions and if you're lucky, you may even get one or two same questions.

10. Give it your all, hope for the best

Just have faith in your preparation and hard work, and hope for the best. Have confidence in yourself.

Pension Pass Book Lost

I, the undersigned, Salam Premila Chanu, have lost my pension pass book (P.P.O. No. 141903053) on the way between Moirang to Imphal on 25/10/2022.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Salam Premila Chanu
Moirang Patlou Leikai, Moirang
Bishnupur District, Manipur.
Contact No. 9862997462

“We don’t need to be told what to do on democracy”: India at UN

Agency
United Nations, Dec 2:

India does not need to be told what to do on democracy, the country’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, who assumed Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of December, said here on Thursday.

India on Thursday assumed Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of December, during which it will host signature events on countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism. The Presidency will bring the curtains down on India’s two-year tenure as elected non-permanent member of the powerful UN organ.

AD
Ms Kamboj, India’s first woman Permanent Representative to the UN, will sit in the President’s seat at the horse-shoe table. On the first day of India’s presidency, she addressed reporters in the UN headquarters on the monthly programme of work.

Responding to a question on democracy and freedom of press in India, she said “to that I would like to say that, we don’t need to be told what to do on democracy.

“India is perhaps the most



ancient civilization in the world as all of you know. In India, democracy had roots going back to 2500 years, we were always a democracy. Coming down to very recent times, we have all the pillars of democracy that are intact - legislature, executive, judiciary and the fourth estate, the press. And a very vibrant social media. So the country is the world’s largest democracy.

“Every five years we conduct the world’s largest democratic exercise. Everyone is free to say as they wish and please and that is how our country functions. It’s rapidly reforming, transforming and changing. And the trajectory has been very impressive. And I don’t have to say this, you don’t have to listen to me. Others

are saying this,” Ms Kamboj said.

In the special briefing about the UNSC presidency, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN said, “Over the last two years of our membership of the council, I can say with confidence that we have been shouldering responsibilities well and making every effort to reach the different voices within the council so, as to ensure that the Council itself speaks in one voice as far as possible on a variety of issues,” adding “We will bring the same spirit to our December presidency.”

She also said that the focus will be on two major themes, the first one is an all-encompassing theme focused on building a new orientation

towards reformed multilateralism and the second one is a “focus on the global counter-terrorism approach and the way forward.”

Giving more details about the schedule of the UNSC presidency, Kamboj said that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will chair two high-level signature events that will take place on December 14-15.

The high-level open debate on the theme - “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: New Orientation for Reformed Multilateralism” is scheduled to be held on December 14. The open debate will encourage the UN members to take the conversation forward on reforms in the current multilateral architecture with the UN at its Centre to make it “more representative and fit for purpose.”

On December 15, a high-level briefing on the theme - “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Global Approach to Counter Terrorism - Challenges and Way Forward” will seek to build a consensus on the principles of a global counter-terror architecture. The high-level briefing aims to enhance the Delhi Declaration adopted during the special meeting of the counter-terrorism committee held in October in India.

Drone with 5kg Heroin Recovered Near International Border in Punjab

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 2:

A drone was found from a field near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab’s Tarn Taran district along with 5 kg of heroin, police said on Friday.

The hexacopter, an unmanned aerial vehicle with six rotors, was recovered in a joint

operation by the Punjab Police and the Border Security Force.

“Tarn Taran Police in a joint search operation with BSF have recovered a hexacopter drone equipped with modern technology & packets containing heroin weighing 5 kg from fields near the Indo-Pak border,” Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav

tweeted.

On November 28, two Pakistani drones were gunned down by the BSF along the India-Pakistan border in Amritsar and Tarn Taran districts.

Two hexacopters were carrying around 10 kg of heroin which were recovered by the BSF troops.

Contd. from Page 1

CM inaugurates Two Months.....

Stating that the Education Department had taken up many initiatives to improve the education system, the Minister informed that the Department had even sought funds from external funding agencies to improve the infrastructure of educational institutes and to address the shortage of staff. He further informed that the Education Department would come up with new uniforms (T-shirts and Check shirts) for Government schools from the next academic session. He also mentioned that a Command & Control Centre had

been constructed at Bapupara for real time monitoring of schools and added that the Central Government had also sanctioned Rs. 3 crore for implementation of the same.

Th. Basanta Kumar expressed his hope that the current Government would bring a revolution in the education system of the State, keeping the merit system in the forefront.

It may be mentioned that the 2 months training programme for seven local languages including Meitei, Tangkhul, Pumi, Rongmei,

Anal, Paite and Thadou will be held at Johnstone Higher Secondary School on pilot basis. 40 participants will be given training for each language.

Commissioner (Education) H. Gyan Prakash, Director, Department of Language Planning & Implementation L. Nandakumar Singh, Resource Persons, Officials of Department of Education (S) and Department of Language Planning & Implementation, Government of Manipur, participants of training programme also attended the inaugural function.

DESAM urges CM and Education.....

On other hand, The importance and significance of Manipuri Sagol (Pony) which is also a part of our History, Culture and Identity in critical stage and became endangered. It is the need of the hour to introduce a Pony riding course to the school education so that the new generation could understand the strong sense of our own cultural identity, belongingness and self esteem,” it said.

In UPSC (IAS) Main Exam paper of Manipuri, there are units on performing arts, such as, Lai Haraoba, Maha Rasa,

Indigenous games-Sagol Kangjei, Khong Kangjei, Kang, Legend, Folk tale, Folk Song, Ballad etc. However, many of our students are quite unaware of the performing arts. It is strongly felt that with the aim and objective to promote and preserve rich cultural heritage of Manipur within the Institutional mechanism, optional paper on Manipuri Performing Arts may be introduced in phase-wise in High School and Higher Secondary level in order to provide the students a sense of identity, belonging, as well as an appreciation of other

cultures and identities.

The curriculum of the Performing Arts may be in the following: 1. Dances of Manipur: Traditional Dances of Manipur including the tribal dances, Classical Dances of Manipur. 2. Music: Folk Song, Musical Instruments, Khongjom Parva, Moirang Parva, Narrative Art (Wanliba), pena etc. 3. Manipuri Sankirtana, the Intangible Heritage (UNESCO) 4. Lai Haraoba, Laithou Toubu. 5. Theatre, Sumang Kumhei. 6. Art of Arambai, Sagol Kangjei, method and technique of Pony Riding etc.

Assam Rifles organised a lecture on Agnipath Scheme in Thoubal District

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2:

Phundrei Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organized a lecture on Agnipath scheme at village Langthel, Thoubal District, Manipur today.

The lecture focused to educate and create awareness among local youths with respect to various aspects and benefits offered by the Agnipath Scheme to join defence forces. Emphasis was also given to resolve the queries related to

the opportunities available to agniveers post completion of 4 years tenure. The youths were satisfied with the response and expressed their enthusiasm and motivation to join armed forces as an Agniveer. A total of 72 youths participated in the

event.

The efforts for creating awareness by giving a thorough insight of Agnipath scheme had been highly appreciated by the youths and they expressed their gratitude towards Assam Rifles.

Sports

Japan, Spain, Morocco and Croatia also advance World Cup last 16

Agency
Doha, Dec 2:

Day 12 of the World Cup in Doha saw huge disappointment for the German team, who crashed out of the tournament early for the second time in a row, while Japan stunned Spain 2-1, winning their group for the first time in their history.

Japan stun Spain 2-1 as both advance to World Cup last 16

Japan scored twice early in the second half to come up from behind and defeat Spain 2-1, and then advance to the round of 16 of the World Cup.

Alvaro Morata scored first for Spain in the 11th minute at the Al Khalifa International Stadium on Thursday, but Japan rallied after halftime. The Spanish striker rose highest to head a cross home, scoring his third goal in the tournament.

Ritsu Doan equalised in the 48th minute with a left-footed shot from outside the box just minutes after coming on as a substitute at halftime, and Ao Tanaka added the second one from close range a few minutes later.

It took about two minutes for video review officials to confirm the ball had not gone out of bounds before the goal. Japan finished top of Group

Group E										
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts		
1 Japan	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6		
2 Spain	3	1	1	1	9	3	6	4		
3 Germany	3	1	1	1	6	5	1	4		
4 Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	3	11	-8	3		

Group F										
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts		
1 Morocco	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7		
2 Croatia	3	1	2	0	4	1	3	5		
3 Belgium	3	1	1	1	1	2	-1	4		
4 Canada	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0		

E, with Spain finishing second on goal difference - consigning Germany to elimination, despite a 4-2 win over Costa Rica on Thursday.

Germany defeat Costa Rica 4-2 but fail to advance

Despite winning a rollercoaster match against underdogs Costa Rica, Germany have failed to advance to the Round of 16 of the World Cup in Qatar after Japan stunned Spain in the other Group E

match.

Four-time champions Germany defeated Costa Rica 4-2 at Al Bayt Stadium on Thursday but the victory was bitter-sweet as they finished third in the group, crashing out in the group stage for a second consecutive time.

In a simultaneous match taking place at Khalifa International Stadium, Japan shockingly defeated favourites Spain 2-1, allowing both of those

teams to advance at the expense of Germany and Costa Rica.

The match started sluggishly, with Costa Rica having a difficult time making it out of their end and an early goal by German forward Serge Gnabry did not help that momentum. However, a rapid-fire second half, with the lead being traded between the teams, stirred the dreams of Costa Rica fans - until Kai Havertz's brace and Niclas Fullkrug's goal at the end of regulation time snuffed out their hopes.

Notably, history was also made in this match as French referee Stephane Frappart became the first woman to officiate a men's World Cup clash.

Morocco's historic win over Canada to secure World Cup advance

Morocco have defeated Canada 2-1 to book their place in the round of 16 of the football World Cup in Qatar.

Hakim Ziyech gave Morocco the lead in the fourth minute, before Youssef En-Nesyri made it 2-0 at Al Thumama Stadium on Thursday, December 1. Nayef Aguerd's own goal in the 40th minute gave Canada some hope, but nothing changed for the remaining part of the game.

The final whistle sent Morocco players storming out on the pitch to celebrate, as their



The first female-led trio to officiate a men's match in a FIFA World Cup takes to the field

rocco players storming out on the pitch to celebrate, as their fans in the stands erupted in joy.

It is the second time in Morocco's history that they have progressed past the group stage of the World Cup, the first being in 1986 in Mexico.

Canada, meanwhile, will return home without earning any points, as they had done in their only other World Cup appearance, also in Mexico, 36 years ago.

The final whistle sent Morocco players storming out on the pitch to celebrate, as their

supporters in the stands jumped and hugged each other.

Draw puts Croatia into World Cup last 16 and Belgium out

Croatia advanced into the last 16 of the World Cup after holding a stuttering Belgium to a 0-0 draw, sending their European rivals "golden generation" out of the tournament with barely a whimper.

The result on Thursday saw Zlatko Dalic's men qualify in second place in Group F behind Morocco, who beat already-eliminated Canada 2-1 in the other game to secure top

spot.

Neither side had a shot on target in a dull first half, and Belgium brought on striker Romelu Lukaku at the break, but it was Croatia who sprang to life, with Marcelo Brozovic and Luka Modric drawing saves from Thibaut Courtois in quick succession.

Lukaku rattled the post with a fierce shot from close range on the hour as Belgium pushed desperately for the goal that would send them through, but Croatia held firm to extend their unbeaten run in the World Cup group stage to six matches.