

At least 8 students died, many injured in tragic bus accident

IT News
Imphal, Dec 21:

At least 8 (eight) students (all girls including a teacher) died and several others were injured in a tragic bus accident on Old Cachar road in Bishnupur district today morning.

All deceased and victims of the accident were students of the Thambalnu Higher Secondary School, Yairipok Top Chingha in Imphal East. The students along with their teachers and non-teaching staff of the school were on their way to Leimatak along the Old Cachar road for an annual study tour in two buses – one for boys and male staff and another for girl and women staff.

According to first hand report from the Raj Medicity 26 injured were admitted to the hospital among which condition of 5 including the principal of the are in critical and have been undergoing treatment at ICU. 14 are undergoing treatment at RIMS hospital.



As per a report, the tragic accident happened at around 10.30 am this morning after the steering of the bus allegedly failed while taking a road diversion near Leimatak in-between Joujangtek and Tubul in Bishnupur district. The rolled upside down crushing all the passenger portion, which suggested the speed of the bus while making the diversion. Altogether there were over

48 students and teachers along with some non-teaching staff (all female) in the ill-fated bus bearing registration number MN01-2112. The other bus carried male students and staff, reports said.

Villagers of the nearby area have a hard time trying to rescue those caught inside the bus. According to report 5 (five) students died on the spot while (3) three succumbed at Bishnupur

district hospital. Others sustained serious injuries and the villagers and passers-by tried their best to rescue them. Those injured were immediately rushed to Hospitals in Imphal in available vans and other vehicles. 9 Ambulance also reportedly reached the spot. Our report said that 26 injured students, teachers, and non-teaching staff have been admitted at Raj Medicity hospital at North AOC here in

Imphal. Condition of 5 are reported to be in critical condition suggesting that the number of casualties may rise. Around 14 of the injured have been admitted at RIMS, and some injured students and teachers have been undergoing treatment at Bishnupur district hospital.

Shocking videos of villagers helplessly trying to rescue those inside the bus showed humanity still exists disregarding caste, creed, and communities of the state.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Health Minister Sapam Ranjan and other top government officials MLAs and Ministers visited at Raj Medicity and RIMS where the injured were undergoing treatment.

Shocked with the tragic accident, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh while sharing the pain and sorrow of the victims of the road accident announced ex-gratia and monetary assistant.

"Government will bear the Medical expense; Cash relief



“Government will bear the Medical expense; Cash relief of Rs. 5 lakhs for the deceased, 1 Lakh for those with serious injury, and 50 Thousand for those with minor injury” – CM N Biren

of Rs. 5 lakhs for the deceased, 1 Lakh for those with serious injury, and 50 Thousand for those with

minor injury” Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced while talking to media at Raj Medicity.

CM Biren soft launches 5G Network in State

IT News
Imphal, Dec 21:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh soft launches 5G Network in Manipur at the Cabinet Hall of the Chief Minister's Secretariat and further urged the service provider to focus on the border and remotest areas of the State.

Speaking at the formal launch programme, the Chief Minister highlighted the Prime Minister's vision regarding 5G Network, and said India had launched the 5G network on 1st October 2022, with an objective to transform various sectors including health, transport, logistics, agriculture, disaster management, etc.

He said making use of telecom infrastructure extensively for better governance is an integral part of the State's development strategy, and



added that 5G network offer manufacturers and telecom operators the chance to build smart factories, to take advantage of technologies such as automation and artificial intelligence.

The launching of 5G will improve the lives of the common man, raising the living standard of the people of Manipur and will also create

such needed employment opportunities as well as generating revenue for the State, he continued.

Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar expressed confidence that in the next six months each and every habitation, recognised villages in the State will have atleast 4G connection which will make connectivity in Manipur one of the best in the

North East region.

Rajnish Verma, CEO, Bharti Airtel, Assam and North East said Airtel is the first operator to launch 5G services in North East.

Additional Chief Secretaries MH Khan, P. Vaiphei, Vumlungmang Vualnam, other government officials and representatives of the Bharti Airtel attended by the event.

Renovations of Police stations underway; 5 structures inaugurate at Sekmai PS

IT News
Imphal, Dec 21:

Renovation works of modernizing police stations in Imphal West is being underway at 8 major police stations of Imphal west district. Among those new structures constructed at Sekmai Police station have

been completed and inaugurated today by the SP Imphal West.

The new structures inaugurated today at Sekmai Police station are 5 (five) wash rooms and a water storage tank.

Imphal West district Superintendent of Police Ksh. Sivakanta while inaugurating

the new structures said that inconveniences face by police personnel will be reduced with construction of separate wash rooms for male and female personnel. He said that renovation works for infrastructures at 7 other police stations have also been taken up and will be completed soon.

Foundation for 4 Police Outposts laid

IT News
Moreh, Dec 21:

Foundation stones for 4 Police outposts were laid today at the Indo-Myanmar border. Today's function was held at the playground of Haolenphai village and was attended by Letpao Haokip,

Minister of Tribal Affairs and Hills, Horticulture, and Soil Conservation.

The 4 police outposts are to be constructed at Haolenphai Village, Sunrise ground, Muslim Basti, and Kwatha Khunou.

The function was also attended by Clay Khongsai,

IPS ADGP/AP, Achin Haokip IG/AP-2, Gollanmang IPS, SP of Tengenoual District, and Y.Premjit Additional SP Tengenoual District.

A cash amount of Rs. 1000 was handed over to senior citizens attending the function as a gift for Christmas.

CM Biren inaugurates National Workshop on Organic Farming

IT News
Imphal, Dec 21:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated a Two-Day National Seminar Cum Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Farming: Health Hazards of Agro-Chemicals use in Food Production at the Court Hall, Manipur University, Canchipur.

Addressing the inaugural function, N. Biren Singh said that no matter how many seminars or discussions are conducted, we cannot achieve success, unless we work with on mission-mode with a target.

Highlighting a few achievements of the past few years, the Chief Minister lauded officials of Horticulture and Agriculture departments and said that these officials have work with sincerity and aggressively en-

suring massive change in the sector.

He elaborated that the overall land covered under organic farming in the State was just 5000 hectares in 2016 which has been expanded 37,900 in 2021-22, which is almost 200 times that of the 2016, with approval from the Centre.

Not only this, but production has also increased from just 25,000 MT to 2,59,400 MT now, he added.

Lauding the hard-work of the farmers and capabilities of the officials, N. Biren said that Manipur can be among the top States in the country. Today, Manipur has been adjudged Best Improved Small State for three consecutive years, he added.

Highlighting steps taken up in the State to encourage farmers, the Chief Minister said that

Rs. 80 crore has already been earmarked in the budget to buy-back rice from the State's farmers.

We are trying to bring the changes, the Chief Minister said stressing that we are moving forward with opinions, advice and suggestions from experts.

N. Biren also deliberated on the issue of water scarcity in the State and expressed concern over the depleting jungle cover of the State.

He strongly said there can be no water in the lakes and rivers, if there are no forests.

We are concentrating on ground water, he said, adding that installation of 550 ground-water tube-wells and 375 wells are under process in the State.

The Chief Minister further spoke on natural and organic farming and said both Prime



Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah have laid emphasis on natural and organic farming.

N. Biren Singh stated that a committee headed by an Additional Chief Secretary under a Cabinet sub-committee has been set up and a toll-free number will be announced soon to immediately assist and intervene to any issues raised by

farmers. Further deliberating on the natural and organic farming, the Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of natural fertilizers.

He said the government has also identified a site at Mayang Imphal area for composting phumdis from Loktak to organic fertilizer.

We are also encouraging

Nano fertilizer instead of chemical fertilizer, he said further highlighting the need to eradicate use of chemical fertilizers to build a strong and healthy society.

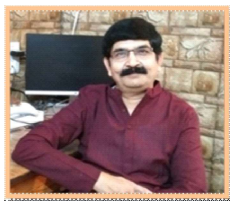
The Chief Minister also highlighted that the State will showcase women empowerment in the State during the March 17-18 G-20 event in the State by highlighting various achieve-

ments of the State's women including Ema Market, start-up woman entrepreneurs, etc.

Agriculture Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, Vice Chancellor, Manipur University, Prof. Naorem Lokendra Singh also attended the inaugural function.

The inaugural function will be followed by technical sessions on various related topics. The seminar cum workshop is being jointly organised by the Department of Economics, Manipur University and the All Manipur Progressive Farmers' Association (AMPFA) in collaboration with Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Manipur Centre, Imphal, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Services, Department of Fisheries and Directorate of Health Services.

Ramanujan the greatest mathematician of all time



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Every year, 22 December is observed as National Mathematics Day to mark the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, a legendary Indian mathematician. Mathematics plays a crucial role in understanding all sorts of subjects such as science, music, social studies and even art. **Srinivasa Ramanujan was a famous Indian Mathematician who lived during the British rule in India.** Ramanujan was born on 22nd December 1887 into a Tamil Brahmin

family in Erode, Madras. His father, Kuppuswamy Srinivasalingar hailed from Thanjavur district and worked as a clerk in a saree shop. His mother, Komalatammal, was a housewife and used to sing at a local temple. They lived in a small traditional home. He became well versed with the Brahmin culture and followed particular eating habits. Just before turning ten, he passed his primary education in English, Tamil, geography and arithmetic. His scores were the best in the district.

Ramanujan was one of the greatest mathematicians of India whose contribution to the theory of numbers has been profound. He was indeed a mathematical phenomenon of the twentieth century. Hemade some important contributions to the discipline, including number theory, infinite series, mathematical analysis, and continued fractions. He was deeply religious and united spirituality and mathematics. For him the zero represented the Absolute Reality. Researchers are still struggling to understand the source of his remarkable genius in mathematics. Since childhood, he was drawn towards maths and took a particular interest in learning the subject. He did not receive formal education in mathematics but had mastered maths in various sections. During his time in Cambridge, he grew close to the great mathematician named Hardy. He had been dealing with health problems since childhood. However, around 1918, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis after which he returned to his family in India and died in 1920.

Ramanujan found mathematics as a profound manifestation of the Reality. He was such a great mathematician and genius as transcends all thoughts and imagination. He was an expert in the interpretation of dreams and astrology. These qualities he had inherited from his mother. After his marriage, he took up a job as a researcher at Madras University. He graduated to working as a clerk based on his work in mathematics that he continually upgraded. He was the maths genius who said that "An equation for me has no meaning unless it expresses a thought of God." He always had a vision of scrolls of complicated maths unfolding before him.

A journal editor M.T. NarayanaIyengar has written that Mr Ramanujan's methods and presentation was terse and lacked precision and clearness. An ordinary person could hardly follow him. In England, he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts by Research degree.

In the year 1994, he died due to Tuberculosis and left the world. In the words of Hardy, Ramanujan had produced groundbreaking theorems and defeated him many times. He had never seen such theories in his life before. One of his famous quotes, "An equation means nothing to me unless it expresses a thought of God." Still lingers in our memories and thoughts. Even after his death, his contributions were important, especially when a lost notebook of his was found more than 50 years after his death, in 1976. Though he had almost no formal training in pure mathematics, his substantial contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions will always be remembered. His theories are still alive in a lot of people's brains and in school textbooks.

Mathematics: The Wonderful Language of the Universe

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

Let us discuss the very nature of the cosmos. What you may find in this discussion is not what you expect. Going into a conversation about the universe as a whole, you would imagine a story full of wondrous events such as stellar collapse, galactic collisions, strange occurrences with particles, and even cataclysmic eruptions of energy. You may be expecting a story stretching the breadth of time as we understand it, starting from the Big Bang and landing you here, your eyes soaking in the photons being emitted from your screen. Of course, the story is grand. But there is an additional side to this amazing assortment of events that oftentimes is overlooked; that is until you truly attempt to understand what is going on. Behind all of those fantastic realizations, there is a mechanism at work that allows for us to discover all that you enjoy learning about. That mechanism is mathematics, and without it the universe would still be shrouded in darkness.

Mathematics almost certainly came about from very early human tribes that may have used math as a way of keeping track of lunar or solar cycles, and keeping count of animals, food and/or people by leaders. It is as natural as when you are a young child and you can see that you have. Mathematics is both a natural occurrence and a human designed system. It would appear that nature grants us this ability to recognize patterns in the form of arithmetic, and then we systematically construct more complex mathematical systems that aren't obvious in nature but let us further communicate with nature. Johannes Kepler used mathematics to model his observations of the planets. This idea of the universe motivating us to understand more about mathematics can be inscribed in how Johannes Kepler used what he observed the planets doing, and then applied mathematics to it to develop a fairly accurate model (and method for predicting planetary motion) of the solar system. This is one of many demonstrations that illustrate the importance of mathematics within our history, especially within astronomy and physics. The story of mathematics becomes even more amazing as we push forward to one of the most advanced thinkers humanity has ever known. Sir Isaac Newton, when pondering the motions of Halley's Comet, came to the realization that the math that had been used

thus far to describe physical motion of massive. Isaac Newton bodies, simply would not suffice if we were to ever understand anything beyond that of our seemingly limited celestial nook. In a show of pure brilliance that lends validity to my earlier statement about how we can take what we naturally have and then construct a more complex system upon it, Newton developed the Calculus in which this way of approaching moving bodies, he was able to accurately model the motion of not only Halley's comet, but also any other heavenly body that moved across the sky.

In one instant, our entire universe opened up before us, unlocking almost unlimited abilities for us to converse with the cosmos as never before. Newton also expanded upon what Kepler started. Newton recognized that Kepler's mathematical equation for planetary motion, Kepler's 3rd Law ($P^2=A^3$), was purely based on empirical observation, and was only meant to measure what we observed within our solar system. Newton's mathematical brilliance was in realizing that this basic equation could be made universal by applying a gravitational constant to the equation, in which gave birth to perhaps one of the most important equations to ever be derived by mankind; Newton's Version of Kepler's Third Law. You can still see where Kepler's 3rd Law remains, but with the added values of the gravitational constant G , and M and m representing the masses of the two bodies in question, this equation is no longer restricted to just our solar system.

What Newton realized was that when things move in non-linear ways, using basic Algebra would not produce the correct answer. Herein lays one of the main differences between Algebra and Calculus. Algebra allows one to find the slope (rate of change) of straight lines (constant rate of change), whereas Calculus allows one to find the slope of curved lines (variable rate of change). There are obviously many more applications of Calculus than just this, but I am merely illustrating a fundamental difference between the two in order to show you just how revolutionary this new concept was. All at once, the motions of planets and other objects that orbit the sun became more accurately measurable, and thus we gained the ability to understand the universe a little deeper. Referring back to Newton's

Version of Kepler's Third Law, we were now able to apply (and still do) this incredible physics equation to almost anything that is orbiting something else. From this equation, we can determine the mass of either of the objects, the distance apart they are from each other, the force of gravity that is exerted between the two, and other physical qualities built from these simple calculations. With his understanding of mathematics, Newton was able to derive the aforementioned gravitational constant for all objects in the universe ($G = 6.672 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$). This constant allowed him to unify astronomy and physics which then permitted predictions about how things moved in the universe. We could now measure the masses of planets (and the sun) more accurately, simply according to Newtonian physics (applied named to honor just how important Newton was within physics and mathematics). We could now apply this newfound language to the cosmos, and begin coercing it to divulge its secrets. This was a defining moment for humanity, in that all of those things that prohibited our understandings prior to this new form of math were now at our fingertips, ready to be discovered. This is the brilliance of understanding Calculus, in that you are speaking the language of the stars.

After Newton presented his physics equations to the world, mathematicians were ready and excited to begin applying them to what we had been keeping track of for years. It came to a French mathematician Urbain Le Verrier who sat down and painstakingly worked through the mathematical equations of the orbit of Uranus. What he was doing was using Newton's mathematical equations backwards, realizing that there must be an object out there beyond the orbit of Uranus that was also orbiting the sun. French mathematician who discovered the planet Neptune by using only mathematics and then looking to apply the right mass and distance that this unseen object required for perturbing the orbit of Uranus in the way we were observing it was. Neptune is more than just the 8th planet in our solar system; it is a celestial reminder of the power that mathematics grants us. As we moved into the 20th century, quantum theory began to take shape, and we soon realized that Newtonian physics and mathematics seemed to hold no sway over what we observed on the quan-

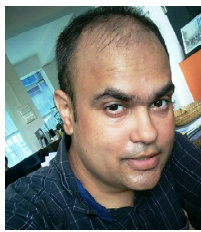
tum level. In another momentous event in human history, yet again brought forth by the advancement in mathematics, Albert Einstein unveiled his theories of General and Special Relativity, which was a new way to look not only at gravity, but Einstein's equation for the energy-mass equivalence, yet another incredible advancement for humanity brought forth from an ongoing mathematical dialogue. Image via Pixabay, also on energy and the universe in general. What Einstein's mathematics did was allow for us to yet again uncover an even deeper dialogue with the universe, in which we began to understand its origins.

As you can see, mathematics is more than just a set of vague equations and complex rules that you are required to memorize. Mathematics is the language of the universe, and in learning this language, you are opening yourself up the core mechanisms by which the cosmos operates. It is the same as traveling to a new land, and slowly picking up on the native language so that you may begin to learn from them. This mathematical endeavor is what allows us, a species bound to our solar system, to explore the depths of the universe. As of now, there simply is no way for us to travel to the center of our galaxy and observe the super massive black hole there to visually confirm its existence. There is no way for us to venture out into a Dark Nebula and watch in real time a star being born. Yet, through mathematics, we are able to understand how these things exist and work. When you set about to learn math, you are not only expanding your mind, but you are connecting with the universe on a fundamental level. You can, from your desk, explore the awe-some physics at the event horizon of a black hole, or bear witness to the destructive fury behind a supernova. All of those things that I mentioned at the beginning of this article come into focus through mathematics. The grand story of the universe is written in mathematics, and our ability to translate those numbers into the events that we all love to learn about is nothing short of amazing. So remember, when you are presented with the opportunity to learn math, accept every bit of it because math connects us to the stars.

We are connected to the universe through mathematics...

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The Frontier Nagaland - Quest for the Final Freedom of 'Forgotten Man'



By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

"Liberty needs the state and the laws. But it is not given by the state or the elites controlling it. It is taken by regular people, by society. Society needs to control the state so that it promotes people's liberty instead of quashing it. Liberty needs a mobilized society that participates in politics, protests when it's necessary, and votes the government out of power when it can... For liberty to emerge and flourish, both state and society must be strong. A strong, mobilized society is needed to control and shackle the strong state."

~ Narrow Corridor, Darren

Acemoglu and James Robinson

A major development has been witnessed in the progress of the Eastern Naga People's Movement to restore their Constitutional Rights through a demand for a separate state 'The Frontier Nagaland'. Eastern Nagaland People's Organization-an apex civil society organization that represents all seven eastern tribes inhabiting the six districts of Eastern region of the state of Nagaland on 19th December, 2022 decided to stand firm on its earlier decision to abstain from participating in the upcoming State Assembly election in 2023. At the meeting held at Chang Khulei Satsang in Tuensang district on 19th December where the ENPO reaffirmed its earlier resolution to abstain from participating in the upcoming 2023 assembly elections.

Even though Election boycotts have no place in a functioning democracy; free and fair public participation being at the heart of the democratic process, however, boycotts have played constructive role to play in a democracy that is not functioning as it should be and where 'con-

stitutional rights of the people' have been constructively, systematically, seriously compromised.

I would like to examine the stand of ENPO from the angle of constitutional "Right to Protest" to publicly challenge and try to persuade the government to respond. This is a fundamental right of the people that stems directly from a democratic interpretation of various provisions of Article 19. Also, the decision of ENPO to abstain from Nagaland State Assembly Election, 2023 can be seen as 'Civil disobedience' which is the active, professed, non-violent, peaceful, lawful refusal of a citizen/citizens to obey certain laws, demands, decisions, orders or commands of a government (or any other authority) in the context of systematic alleged mass destruction of 'Constitutional Rights' of Eastern Naga people by the successive governments that came in power in the state of Nagaland since 1963 and to invoke the true spirit of democracy as well as to restore the constitutional rights of the Eastern Naga people by constructing a separate state- The Frontier Nagaland.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India recognized the right to peaceful protest, stating that "democracy and dissent goes hand in hand. In a democracy, the rights to free expres-

sion and peaceful protest-through words or/and acts are "treasured" and must be nurtured and safeguarded. Peaceful protest is a fundamental right of protestors and that peaceful protest should be tolerated in democracy.

Although the Right to Protest is not an explicit right under the Fundamental Rights, as said above, it can be derived from the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under Article 19.

Article 19(1)(a): The Right to free speech and expression transforms into the right to freely express an opinion through words or acts on the conduct of the government. Let us understand that the purpose of protest by a group, community, or individual is to express their disapproval or defiance of the actions, policies, statements, etc of the state, government, or organization.

Article 19(1)(b): The Right to association is required to form associations for political purposes.

These can be formed to collectively challenge government decisions.

Article 19(1)(c): The Right to peacefully assemble allows people to question and object to acts of the government by demonstrations, agitations and public meetings, to launch sustained protest movements.

These rights, in cohesion, enable every citizen to assemble peacefully and protest against action or inaction of the State. Right to Protest ensures that people can act as watchdogs and constantly monitor governments' acts. It provides feedback to the governments about their policies and actions after which the concerned government, through consultation, meetings and discussion, recognizes and rectifies its mistakes and omissions.

The Constitution of India has empowered the public to act as a watchdog and monitor the government's every move. As a result of injustice or misuse of power, the public while exercising the constitutional mandate, has often acted as a watchdog and protests have been held.

The majority of protests are driven by political waves, which are also a sign of the collective organization of people to compel the state or government to address their issues and take steps to overcome them. In general, protests work in two ways. First, it shows the community or group, or individual that they disagree with the policy, and second, it helps governments identify their own shortcomings and work to make them better.

The constitutional guarantees in the form of Fundamental Rights guar-

anteed to the every citizen of India go a long way in strengthening Indian democracy and allowing space for peaceful dissent within our political system. The right to protest through word or action, even to the extent of peaceful civil disobedience will go a long way in safeguarding the right to protest which makes dissent co-existent with democracy.

India attained its Independence through peaceful struggle. Passive resistance, civil disobedience and Satyagraha are well known instruments of protest. They essentially involve peaceful and non-violent methodologies of protest. Satyagraha is an instrument where truth is used for assertion. ENPO as a guardian organization of our Eastern Naga people know very well as to where it stands in this time of historical challenge and complicated circumstances.

The political awakening of the Eastern Nagas empowered them to take bold steps in the spirit of the Constitution. This is for the first time in the history of modern Nagaland, common Nagas have finally awakened to their constitutional rights and determine to carve their own social, political, economic, cultural destiny in a separate state- The Frontier Nagaland.

contd. on page 3

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Fifth Scorpene Class Submarine "Vagir" delivered to Indian Navy

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 21:

The fifth Scorpene class submarine "Vagir" of Project P-75 (Yard 11879) built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, was delivered to Indian Navy on Tuesday. The submarine will be subsequently commissioned into Indian Navy as "INS Vagir".

The Acceptance Document was signed by Vice Admiral (Retd) Narayan Prasad, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), MDL, and Rear Admiral C Raghuram, Chief Staff Officer (Tech), Western Naval Command, in the presence of Commanding Officer (designate) Cdr S Divakar, MDL Directors and Navy personnel at MDL.

Vagir, launched on November 12, 2020 and underwent a comprehensive and rigorous set of tests and trials, to ensure delivery of a fully combat worthy submarine, capable of operation in all modes and regimes of deployment.

She can undertake missions-Anti-Surface, Anti-Submarine, Intelligence gathering, Mine Laying, Area surveillance etc. She is designed to operate in all theatres of operation, showcasing interoperability with other components of a



MDL and Indian Navy officials with the Acceptance Document at the launch of submarine "Vagir". (Inset: Vagir).

Naval Task Force. It is another potent platform, making a transformational shift in submarine operations.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD MDL said that with the delivery of Vagir, India cements its position as a submarine building nation and that MDL has lived up to its reputation as one of India's leading shipyards with capacity and capability to meet requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy. The delivery of five Submarines-"Kalvari", "Khanderi", "Karanj", "Vela" earlier and now "Vagir", has reaffirmed India's membership in the exclusive group of submarine building nations. MDL continues its saga of "self-reliance", "AatmaNirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India"

initiative of the Government of India.

The state-of-the-art technology utilized in the Scorpene has ensured superior stealth features (such as advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape etc.) and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons.

The sixth Scorpene submarine - "Vaghsheer" launched on April 20, 2022 is getting ready for trials. The Scorpene project would not have achieved the current progress without the unconditional support of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence and Indian Navy throughout

its various phases of construction, the CMD said.

With construction of the Leander and Godavari class Frigates, Khukri class Corvettes, Missile Boats, Delhi and Kolkata class Destroyers and the newly inducted Visakhapatnam class of Destroyers, Shivalik class Stealth Frigates, the Shishumar-class submarines (SSK) and the Scorpene submarines, the history of modern day MDL almost maps the history of indigenous warship building in India.

Now the MDL has commenced design and construction of a Midget submarine which is proof of concept for subsequent indigenous submarine program. MDL today is capable to build 10 capital warships and 11 submarines simultaneously, the CMD stated.

In another development, "Arnala", the first of anti-submarine warfare corvette being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers for the Indian Navy, was launched on Tuesday in Chennai. The name "Arnala", has been chosen to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala in Palghar district (Maharashtra) by the great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Spreading rumours about a newspaper's demise

By: Nava Thakuria
Guwahati, Dec 21:

If anything can be viral in social media these days, why not rumour about the untimely demise of a prestigious newspaper! And it happens only in India! The country's premier English daily The Statesman's origin edition in Kolkata was recently stated to be closed down. The grand old Statesman House (4, Chowringhee Square, Kolkata-700001) was also rumoured to be sold to a businessman in 2019. But in reality the newspaper, often termed as a symbol of prestige for its readers, continues publications from New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Siliguri and also Kolkata.

Even the Bengali Statesman has been published regularly from the capital city of West Bengal (and also Siliguri) since it was launched in 2004. Both the newspapers have maintained the actual spirit of journalism with active support from millions of its valued subscribers. No doubt, like all other English publications in India, The Statesman too faces a massive crisis particularly developed during and after the global Covid-19 disaster.

Origin of the news is sourced at an ex-journalist (and now a famous Bengali cultural personality Anjan Dutt, who 'took up the pen to write about this in the typical Statesman style' using his facebook space. Dutt understandably worked in The Statesman at the age of 21 and was there to learn how to write. "I was told by my immediate boss, Ellis, that many people read The Statesman to improve their English, not just news," said Dutt. For records, he was communicated by this writer over his piece in facebook, but no response was found. "I was fortunate enough to have walked the resplendent

corridors with legendary editors and assistant editors who spiked my articles whenever it was fat with description and thin of information. Spiked again when they lacked atmosphere and was filled with information. I had no fixed office hours so I could faff around throughout the week, but had to have my 1500 words of no faffing on Ellis's desk by Thursday noon," added Dutt.

I often had to chase senior assistant editors to Chota Bristol to get my article sanctioned when my boss was indisposed, remembered Dutt adding, a whole legion of editors like Nihal Singh, Lindsay Emmerson, Sunanda Chatterjee, Desmond Doig... critics like Dharani Ghosh, who taught me that nostalgia is not mourning the past..... So I, along with many of you, will always remember the fun of Calcutta Notebook. Miss the Vintage Car Rally and whatever it stood for.....

"This was the building where my boss gave me a job when I was not earning anything from doing theatre and could write what he believed to be decent reading. It was here where the same boss, five years later, told me to leave and concentrate on performing arts because that's my future. A real place of work is not what teaches you what you are doing, but what you should be

doing," wrote Dutt. He concluded the piece writing as 'this piece would have been spiked if I wrote it as an obituary'.

Founded in 1875, The Statesman has a long history of truly independent journalism. It's a direct descendant of two newspapers namely Indian Statesman (published from Bombay/Mumbai and The Friend of India (published from Calcutta/Kolkata). Indian Statesman was started by Robert Knight, who was previously the principal founder and editor of The Times of India. Knight merged the two papers in January 1875. Initially it was managed by a British corporate group.

The Statesman vehemently opposed Indira Gandhi's Emergency in 1975-77. Earlier the newspaper published a number of sensitive images reflecting the Bengal famine (1943) despite the British colonial government's severe censorship. Those images played a major role in changing world opinion on imperialism. A founding member of Asia News Network, a grouping of 22 Asian newspapers, The Statesman is widely regarded for its serious news reportage, analytical articles and usage of standard English language.

An amazing facebook post indeed!

AR celebrates Christmas with locals

IT News
Imphal, Dec 21:

Shangshak battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR(South) celebrated Christmas by distributing chocolates and biscuits to school children of Koso, Tuimem and Lamlang village in Kamjong and Ukhrul District, Manipur.

The troops of Assam Rifles, on the occasion of Christmas

and New Year extended their heartfelt wishes to the villagers and wished them good luck for the coming year.

This noble gesture of the security forces will surely go a long way in bridging the gap between the security forces and the locals and was wholeheartedly appreciated by the entire Tangkhul fraternity, especially the villagers.

Contd. from Page 2

The Frontier Nagaland - Quest....

The stand taken by ENPO to boycott assembly election is not at all ambiguous but a crystal clear. The Eastern Nagas have proved their metal by showing the courage to completely abstain from participating in the recently concluded Hombil Festival. Moreover, the apex body of Eastern Nagas also decided to demand resignations of all the party workers belonging to any political parties. Filing of nominations will also not be allowed. This shows the readiness, thoughtfulness, psychological determination and strong fortifications of the Eastern people. Now, the onus is on institutions and holders of constitutional office to respond to the growing public outcry by reflecting on their actions and committing themselves to their proper role as a constitutional guardian of the people of Eastern Nagaland to help them secure Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity.

As I observe, the Frontier Nagaland has not remained a dream of a sad child, but a battle cry of an awakened, smiling warrior who has been empowered and revived by the spirit of the Constitution and Rule of Law.

In the history of the movements for separate state, the Frontier Nagaland Movement is a first political movement in the northeast India that has clearly reached down to a grass root level to the last man. It is interesting to observe that Frontier Nagaland Movement has also broken the 'newly' created class system in Eastern Naga society. As I have seen with my eyes, right from the top Government officers serving in the Kohima, Business class people, Intellectuals, women, Students studying in schools-colleges-university to the poor, illiterate farmers toiling hard in their fields in Wui Village of Noklak or Anantnaga Village of Kiphire, all have been united for the cause of Frontier Nagaland.

Tikhirs and Khamniungans-the most discriminated and greatest victims of the fractured system of hollow governance, who are completely invisible people for the state, forgotten by Kohima since 1963 and also by the New Delhi since 1947 waiting silently for the justice since ages. Sangtams, Konkysaks, Changs, Yimkhuing, Phoms have been standing strong to reclaim their rightful share in the 'guaranteed' constitutional justice.

The overall picture of Eastern region is totally different now. The talks about Frontier Nagaland has been going on everywhere. The people are eager to create a new world. How would the new world be? Will Frontier Nagaland be the Kingdom of God? The future is in the hands of people. Right people at right places to do the right jobs in the right manner will only create a beautiful heaven in the future Frontier Nagaland. Corruption, Clanism/Tribalism, Nepotism, Discrimination, short sightedness, Selfish insanity will ruin the system that people dream to build. Nagaland has been a slave of 'power', let the Frontier Nagaland be the Master of 'Power'.

Frontier Nagaland, will be constructed by Law, but will finally be built by the people committed to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution of our nation which Dr. B.R. Ambedkar have identified as a Foundational Principle of 'Social Justice' and 'Final Freedom of Man'.

(The author is a Professor of Political Science & International Law, Tetsu College, Nagaland)

How to Celebrate Mathematics Day



By: Vijay GarG

Mathematics plays a crucial role in understanding all sorts of subjects such as science, music, social studies and even art. The study of mathematics helps people to learn better problem solving skills and serves as a way to help humans organize and think logically.

Mathematics Day is here to celebrate and appreciate everything that this discipline has to offer to individuals and to the world at large.

History of Mathematics Day

Originating in India, the day is particularly centered around one man. In fact, the reason Mathematics Day is set on December 22 is because it is the birthday of the country's most respected mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. A math genius of the highest degree, Ramanujan was born in 1887 and spent his life under British rule in India.

In spite of the fact that he had almost no training in mathematics, Ramanujan made some important contributions to the discipline, including number theory, infinite series, mathematical analysis, and continued fractions.

Ramanujan's original mathematical research and theories were born in isolation, as his work was far too advanced and novel for the mathematicians of his day to work with him. However, through correspondence with an En-

glish math professor at the University of Cambridge, Ramanujan became more connected and eventually moved to England and became the first Indian Fellow at Trinity College in Cambridge.

Ramanujan's life was cut short at age 32 when he died in 1920 of complications from a disease he had earlier in his childhood. Even after his death, his contributions were important, especially when a lost notebook of his was found more than 50 years after his death, in 1976.

Now, Mathematics Day is here to appreciate and celebrate the life of Srinivasa Ramanujan and his contributions to the world. The introduction of Mathematics Day by the Indian government happened in 2011, in the lead up to what would be the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Ramanujan's birth in 2012. That same year, the Indian government released a commemorative stamp in his honor.

How to Celebrate Mathematics Day

Enjoy the beauty and excitement of numbers and everything they have to offer in the world by celebrating Mathematics Day. Try out some of these fun and interesting ideas for enjoying the day:

Do Some Mathematics

For those people who have brains that are bent toward math, Mathematics Day would be the perfect time to get engaged in some mathematical problems and solutions - just for fun! Kids and adults alike can find a variety of different online websites that allow for practicing and learning math skills, from the most basic problems to advanced math like calculus, trigonometry and more.

Watch a Movie About Mathematics

Although to some people math might seem like a boring subject, it can come with all sorts of interesting drama and intrigue! In honor of Mathemat-

ics Day, perhaps it would be fun to watch some entertaining stories about different ways that math has been central to stories.

Check out some of these movies with stories that revolve around math:

The Man Who Knew Infinity (2015). This British biopic tells the story of the man who this day is celebrated for, Srinivasa Ramanujan. Starring Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons, this film is based on the 1991 book of the same name.

Hidden Figures (2016). Following three brilliant African American women who are gifted in mathematics and work in the space program at NASA, this story is based on true happenings. Starring Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe and Taraji P. Henson.

Gifted (2017). Asingle dad is raising a child prodigy who is a 7-year old with remarkable mathematical ability, meaning that intellectually she's on a college level but her dad still wants her to be a normal kid.

A Brilliant Young Mind (2014). Based on the story of a real-life mathematical genius, this British film was released as X + Y in the UK. The story features a boy who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, is more comfortable with numbers than people, and is invited to participate in the International Mathematical Olympiad.

Read the Biography of Srinivasa Ramanujan

Those who want to learn even more about the life of Srinivasa Ramanujan, the most notable Indian mathematician in history, can read The Man Who Knew Infinity. Written in 1991 by Robert Kanigel, this book offers a detailed story of Ramanujan's life, including his upbringing in India and his relationship and collaboration through English mathematics with G.H. Hardy from Cambridge University.

Tell Some Silly Math Jokes

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya reviews COVID-19 Situation and Preparedness of public health system for Surveillance

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 21:

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today chaired a high-level meeting to review the COVID-19 situation in India and preparedness of public health system for surveillance, containment and management of COVID-19 in view of the recent spike in cases of COVID-19 in some countries along with Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. Dr. V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, senior officials and public health experts were present.

The Union Health Minister was briefed on the global COVID-19 situation and the domestic scenario. Underlining the challenge posed by the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in some countries across the world such as China, Japan, South Korea, France and United States, Union Health Minister noted the importance of being prepared and remaining alert against new and emerging strains of COVID-19, especially in view of the upcoming festive season. Underlying and reiterating that COVID is not over yet, he directed the officials to be fully geared up and strengthen surveillance. He urged people to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour and get vaccinated against COVID.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya directed for strengthening the surveillance system for whole genome sequencing of positive case samples to track the variants through Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network to ensure timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country. This would facilitate



undertaking of appropriate public health measures. States/UTs have been requested to send samples of all COVID-19 positive cases to INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories (IGSLs) on a daily basis, for sequencing, to track new variants, if any.

In a presentation, the Union Health Minister was briefed that India has been witnessing a steady decline in cases with average daily cases falling to 158 in the week ending 19th Dec, 2022. However, a consistent rise in global daily average cases has been reported since last 6 weeks, with 5.9 lakh daily

average cases reported in week ending 19th Dec, 2022. A new and highly transmissible BF.7 strain of the Omicron variant has been found to be behind a wider surge of COVID infections in China.

Union Health Ministry has already issued "Operational Guidelines for Revised Surveillance Strategy in context of COVID-19" in June 2022 which calls for early detection, isolation, testing and timely management of suspected and confirmed cases to detect and contain outbreaks of new SARS-CoV-2 variants. Union Health Minister directed officials for

ensuring effective implementation of the same.

Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Union Health Ministry, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor, Dr. R S Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Shri Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH, Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Dr. Atul Goel, DGHS, Sh. Lav Agarwal, Additional Secretary, MoHFW and Dr. N K Arora, Chairman of the COVID Working Group, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) were present in the meeting.

In a first for North East, Railways plan to set up Rail Coach Factory in Assam

Agency
Guwahati, Dec 21:

Ministry of Railways has received a proposal from North East Frontier Railway for establishing Rail Coach Factory in Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam.

This information was given by the Union Minister

of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on 21 November.

This would be the first-of-its-kind factory in east and northeast India and is expected to generate considerable employment for residents of north Bengal and the neighbouring state of

Assam.

As of now, the railways have the three operational rail coach factories. These include Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Rail Coach Factory (RCF) at Kapurthala in Punjab and Modern Coach Factory (MCF) at Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

India logs 131 fresh COVID-19 cases

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 21:

India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 4,46,76,330 on Wednesday with 131 fresh infections, while the number of active cases came down to 3,408, according to Union health ministry data.

The toll due to the viral disease increased to 5,30,680 with three more fatalities, including two deaths reconciled by Kerala and one reported from West Bengal in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise

0.01 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

A decrease of 82 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,42,242, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 220.01 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country so

far under the nationwide 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 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last year, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year.

China: Atleast 3 Covid waves to hit the country this winter, say experts

Agency
Hong Kong, Dec 21:

Is the Chinese government losing control over COVID-19 management as the cases continue to increase in China? Epidemiologists predict at least three waves of the virus to hit the country during winter. It is certain that the Chinese government was "under-prepared" as it decided to end its zero-COVID policy abruptly after people held protests across the country, The Hong Kong Post reported.

Wu Zunyou, the chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, said "the current outbreak would peak this winter and run in three waves for about three months," The Hong Kong Post reported citing state media report of his speech. Wu Zunyou made the remarks at a press conference in Beijing.

According to Wu, the "first wave would run from now until mid-January. A second wave would likely follow soon after, triggered by the mass travel of hundreds of millions of people

across the country for the Lunar New Year starting on 21 January."

He has predicted that China will face a "third wave from late February to mid-March after people returned to work from the holidays," as per the news report. The wave is expected to be triggered by the mass travel ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls on January 21 as people travel to their hometowns to celebrate the day.

Notably, the work in hospitals in China has been slowing down as they face twin problems - running out of beds due to a large number of patients and health officials getting infected, The Hong Kong Post reported citing western media reports. Meanwhile, pharmacies are running out of stock due to an increase in demand and have a scant possibility of replenishment.

People are reporting countless cases of COVID-19 around them, despite the official count being around 2,000 a day, The Hong Kong Post reported citing a state media report. Last week, the national health com-

mission admitted that it was "impossible" to keep track of asymptomatic infections, and it would no longer be counting them.

Experts have predicted a million deaths in the coming months. According to experts, China is poorly prepared for a drastic exit as the country is facing a shortage of strengthening the elderly vaccination rate, intensive care capacity in hospitals, and stockpiling antiviral medications.

According to the projections by three professors at the University of Hong Kong, a nationwide reopening could lead to up to 684 deaths per million people under the current conditions. As China has a population of 1.4 billion people, it would amount to 964,400 deaths.

The increase in COVID-19 cases will "likely overload many local health systems across the country," The Hong Kong Post reported citing a research paper, released last week on the Medrxiv preprint server said. The research paper is yet to undergo peer review.

Sports

FIH Hockey World Cup Trophy Tour to Naval Dockyard

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 21:

As a precursor to the prestigious International Hockey Federation (FIH) Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, a World Cup Trophy toured various parts of Mumbai, including Indian Naval Dockyard on Monday and Tuesday.

Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 is being organised at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in Odisha from January 13 to January 29, 2023. A World Cup Trophy tour is being organised from December 05 onwards till January 11, 2023 covering the length and breadth of the country.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the trophy tour of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 in Bhubaneswar, handing over the trophy to Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey, on December 05.

The trophy will return to Odisha on December 25 after touring 13 states and one union territory and districts. The states include: West Bengal, Manipur, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, New Delhi, Madhya



Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Trophy displayed on a submarine. (Photo: Indian Navy).

Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

With a view to publicise the event and increase awareness in the naval community, the Trophy was displayed at various locations inside Naval Dockyard, including on a naval ship and a submarine on Tuesday an official statement read.

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, senior naval officers, former Indian

hockey olympians, and school children were present on the occasion. The FOC-in-C conveyed the best wishes of the naval fraternity to the Indian hockey team as well as the organisers for the World Cup.

The 15th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup, the quadrennial world championship for men's national field hockey teams will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and at the Birsu Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. Sixteen teams from

05 confederations are participating. The first matches will be played on January 13, 2023 between Argentina and South Africa (first session) and Australia and France (second session) at the Kalinga Stadium.

Keywords: FIH, Odisha Hockey, World Cup, Trophy, Mumbai

Tags: As a precursor to the Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, a World Cup Trophy toured various parts of Mumbai, including Indian Naval Dockyard

Category: Sports

2023 IBA Women's World Championships to kickstart on March 15 in New Delhi

IT News
New Delhi, Dec 21:

The 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships is set to take place from March 15 to 31 in New Delhi as India gears up to host the biennial event for the third time in the tournament's history.

Since the inception of the Championships in 2001, the prestigious event took place twice in India previously--in 2006 and 2018, both times in New Delhi. Besides this, India has also hosted the Women's Youth World Championships in 2017 in Guwahati.

"The countdown to one of the world's biggest boxing events of 2023 begins now. The World Championships are a testament to Indian boxing's unparalleled credentials and we, at the Boxing Federation of India, are geared up to deliver a spectacular experience. With the partnership of the IBA team, we are confident that the World Championships will help boost boxing globally. We are excited about Indian boxers making their mark on the global stage again and look forward to in-



spiring action in the ring," said Ajay Singh, President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

The competition will take place in 12 weight categories--48 kg, 50 kg, 52 kg, 54 kg, 57 kg, 60 kg, 63 kg, 66 kg, 70 kg, 75 kg, 81 kg and +81 kg--and the registration will open soon.

BFI and IBA will also be working to introduce a historic bob review system at the championships.

Boxing in India has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years. India has been consistently finishing amongst the top 5 countries in the recent global and multi-event compe-

titions like the World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. The opportunity to host the upcoming World Championships is also a testament of the efforts put in by BFI in developing the sport in the country and the position it holds at the global stage.

Indian women have clinched 39 medals, including 10 golds, in the 12 editions of the championship so far.

When the country hosted the tournament last time in 2018 in New Delhi, 277 boxers from 62 countries participated and Indians claimed four medals.