

Withdraw Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with KNO/KNA and ZRO/ZRA - PAPPMM

IT News
Imphal, Dec 3:

Government of India and Government of Manipur should immediately withdraw Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with KNO/KNA and ZRO/ZRA, said People's Alliance for Peace and Progress, Manipur (PAPPMM).

In a press release issued by People's Alliance for Peace and Progress, Manipur it is stated that the Suspension of Operation (SoO), a tripartite ceasefire agreement between Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and Central and State Governments was first signed on Aug 22, 2008 and it has been extending from time to time. Similarly Suspension of Operation agreement with Zomi Revolutionary Organisation (ZRO)/Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) was also signed in 2008.

The statement further said that Poppy Cultivation in the Hills of Manipur has been taken up under the patronage of militant groups taking advantage of the Suspension of

Operation (SoO). The quantum of drug smuggling through Manipur has also increased manifold since then. It is also known that these militant groups are bringing Mynamaree Nationals and settling them in the hills of Manipur taking advantage of SoO. The extortion in some hills districts which were otherwise not affected before has also increased dramatically since then, the statement added.

The statement added that P Soyang Haokip, President and Supreme Commander of the Kuki National Army (KNA) and the Chairman of KNO is of Myanmar origin and was born in Molnoi village in Saigang division, Myanmar. Dr. Seilen Haokip, the spokesperson of KNO is from Mizoram and was born of a Bengali father and a Kuki mother with strong Mynamaree connection. His mother later became the second wife of a person from Haokip clan of Saitu, Kangpokpi, and thus got his Haokip surname.

"Similarly, Thang Lian Pau,

the president of ZRA/ZRO is a Mynamaree national born in Panmwarl village, Tonzang Tsp., Chin State of Myanmar and he was a member of Myanmar Parliament. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Mandalay University in 1984, and received a Masters of Science degree in 1988 from Rangoon University. He was the general secretary of the Zomi National Congress (ZNC) until December 1991. He became an independent MP after the SLORC banned the ZNC in 1992", it added.

According to Dr. Th. Siamkhum, the Paite settled in Manipur came from Chin Hills in 1870s. Dr. H. Kamkhenhang has also written in his book, "The Paite, a transborder tribe of Manipur" that the old Kukis came to Manipur in the 16th century and Thadou (New Kuki) in the later part of the 18th century and early part of the 19th Centuries. He has also mentioned that the Paite came to Manipur only in the later part of the 19th and early part of the 20th century.

So, it is not surprising that P Soyang Haokip, President of the Kuki National Army (KNA) and the Chairman of KNO is now talking of Zale'n-gam, meaning the Land of Freedom for Kukis. Similarly, The ZRA's proclaimed objective is to "protect the interests of the Zo ethnic groups" and to "unite the Zomi peoples under one state, Zogam", which overlaps the official state boundaries of India (Manipur and Mizoram), Myanmar (Chin State) and Bangladesh.

Then, the question of why the Centre and Manipur Government have undertaken the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with these militant groups which are controlled by Mynamaree Nationals arises naturally. It appears that the Governments of India and Manipur are helping them to grow militarily under the pretext of peace process by handing over a large tract of land of Manipur under their control and thus sacrificing the national interest in the long run.

contd. on page 4

ARM observes International Day of Persons with Disabilities



IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Dec 3:

Achievement of Rising Maiden (ARM) observed International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) today at the Institute for Children with Disabilities, Lakhipur, Jiribam.

The theme for this year is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world."

The day was organised by District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Jiribam in collaboration with Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Jiribam

and Achievement of Rising Maiden (ARM).

On the speech of Chief Guest W. Malemnganba Chenglei, Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam said the day is observed about promoting the rights of accessible and equitable world with disabilities at every level of society and development.

He also added that the government has launched many schemes for disabled persons among these one of benefit is the Chief Minister's Shotharabasingi Tengbang (CMST). Under the scheme there is many components of benefits for disabled.

He appealed to reap the benefits of disabled from Social Welfare Department.

During the programme gifts were also presented to the disabled students of Institute for Children with Disabilities.

The programme was graced by W. Malemnganba Chenglei, Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam as a Chief Guest while Elangbam Okendro Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Jiribam District Hospital; L. Veerjeet Singh, Social Activist, Jiribam as Guests of honour and Lukram Roshan Meetei, Dy. Inspector of School, Zonal Education Office, Jiribam as a functional President.

Center asks all states to setup price monitoring centres in all the districts

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 3:

All states should establish price monitoring centres for essential commodities in all districts, said Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs on Friday.

Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary Department of Consumer Affairs inaugurated a day-long workshop in Guwahati, Assam. The workshop was organized in association with the Government of Assam to address the issues concerning consumer protection in North Eastern States.

The Government intends to achieve the target of hav-

ing 750 price monitoring centres by March 31, 2023 for which financial support will be assured. Secretary explained that through the Price Monitoring Division, the Centre is making all efforts to control prices of essential commodities thereby, keeping check over inflation. The Department of Consumer Affairs regularly generates data about prices and has a system of collecting prices of 22 essential food commodities in the country.

The Department, National Commission, State Commissions and District Commissions and the whole ecosystem are working together towards the protection of consumer inter-

ests in terms of quality, quantity, standards, testing and benchmarks. This is being done through BIS, NTH, Legal Metrology and National Consumer Helpline.

The Secretary further highlighted the role of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India:

— In developing Indian Standards and implementation of voluntary and mandatory standards such as Quality Control Orders

— How through Legal Metrology and Weights and Measures consumers are assured that what is being offered, the quantity being offered are exactly the same as claimed on the

product

Speaking about the domain of consumer protection, he underlined that infrastructure of commissions, human resource in consumer commissions and use of technology are three verticals through which the whole ecosystem of consumer protection is made robust and responsible.

It was assured that the department will provide its full support to all state and district commissions in order to have the necessary infrastructure for the effective functioning of consumer commissions as per the policy, which states that 50% will be funded by the state government and 50% by the central government.

President of India presents National Awards for the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the Year 2021 and 2022

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 3:

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022 in New Delhi today (December 3, 2022) on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that according to an estimate of the United Nations, more than one billion people in the world are persons with disabilities. It means almost every

8th person in the world has a disability in some form or the other. More than two percent of India's population are persons with disabilities. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of all of us to ensure that the persons with disabilities can lead a dignified life independently. It is also our duty to ensure that they get a good education, stay safe in their homes and society, have the freedom to choose their career and have equal employment opportunities.

The President said that in Indian culture and tradition, disability has never been considered as a hindrance in ac-

quiring knowledge and achieving excellence. Often, it has been seen that Divyangjan are gifted with divine qualities. There are innumerable examples in which our Divyang brothers and sisters have achieved impressive feats in many fields on the strength of their indomitable courage, talent and determination. Given enough opportunities and the right environment, they can excel in every field.

The President said that education is the key to the empowerment of every individual, including persons with disabilities.

contd. on page 4

International Conclave on Literature, Culture, Library and Society conducted successfully

IT News
Imphal, Dec 3:

Under the sponsorship of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Kolkata, the Department of Library and Information Science at Manipur University, jointly with the Department of Ancient History & Archaeology and the Rajarshi Bhagyachandra Cultural Research Centre (RBCRC), Manipur University, Canechpur, Imphal (India), has successfully organised an International Conclave on "Literature, Culture, Library, and Society (ICLLCS)" during November 27-30, 2022.

Mass rally to mark the 250th

Birth Anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy and Golden Jubilee of the Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation (RRRLF), Lecture Programme on Raja Rammohun Roy Symposium, Plenary Session, Seminars, Panel Discussion and Multi Lingual Poets' Meet, etc were conducted during the four days conclave.

Mass rally conducted at Kakching was flag off by N. Nimai Singh former MLA, Kakching A/C. Thereafter Raja Rammohun Roy Lecture Programme was conducted at the auditorium of Library and Information Centre, Kakching in which Prof. M. Kirti Singh, Padmashree, delivered talk on Works of Raja Rammohun Roy, His Contribution to Indian Re-

naissance, Social Reformation, Education, Literature, Comparative Religion and Culture in India. The programme was graced by Dr. N. Giridhari Singh, National Library Awardee, former Chief Librarian, RIMS and Dr. Jirayru Supsin, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand as Moderator and Co-moderator respectively. Another programme of the day was Symposium on Significance of Library in the age of Internet in which 14 speakers spoke on various sub-themes of the symposium.

These programmes were conducted collaborating with the Library and Information Centre, Kakching.

The formal inauguration programme was conducted on the second day of the conclave on 28th November, 2022 at the Court Hall of Manipur University. Prof. Elangbam Bijoykumar Singh, VC-i/c of Manipur University, Prof. S. Mangi Singh, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Manipur University graced the function as the Chief Guest and President respectively. Dr. Tanom Intarkumnerd, Chairperson, Suan Dusit University Council, Thailand, also attended the same as the Special Guest while Md. Sahadat Hossain Nipu, Deputy Director, Bangla Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Prof. R.K. Barman, Former Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Gauhati

University and Prof. W. Chandrabu Singh, Registrar, MU as the Guests of honour respectively. Prof. Ch. Ibohah Singh, HoD, Library and Information Science, Manipur University as the Coordinator of the Conclave gave welcome and introductory speech about the conclave which was followed by release of Souvenir. All the dignitaries on the dais expressed their views, comments and experiences on the significance of such conclave which are quiet relevant in this complex society. Prof. E. Bijoykumar Singh in his speech lamented that it was highly essential to redefine and streamline the role of the libraries so as to make libraries a greater resource of knowledge. Dr. Tanom

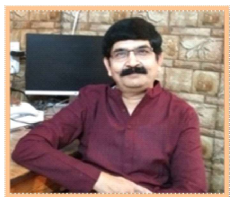
Intarkumnerd in his speech mentioned why universities should act as a driving force for community development. They also lamented on the co-relationship of the literature, culture, library and society. The function was formally concluded with vote of thanks as proposed by Prof. L. Biswanath Sharma, Director, Raj ashri Bhagyachandra Cultural Research Centre (RBCRC), Manipur University.

After the Inaugural Function, Plenary Session was conducted with Dr. Tanom Intarkumnerd, Chairperson, Suan Dusit University Council, Thailand as the Chairperson of the Session. As the Invited speakers Prof. R.K. Barman talked on the Role of Library in

Preservation of Culture: Abird's Eye view, while Sanaton Hamom, Joint Secretary, Manipuri Writers Forum, Bangladesh spoke on Manipuri Culture and Literature in Bangladesh. On the other hand, Prof. Hyunkyung Lee Visiting Professor, Manipur University spoke on Korean Wave and Korean Language Learning in North East India. Prasanna Ranaweera, former Director, NILIS, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka also delivered talk on Library Services for National Development: Perspective for Sri Lanka through his video recording. Taznin Tsundue, a Tibet Writer and Activist also spoke on Writing Culture and Identity during the session.

contd. on page 4

Welcome decision by Assam Government



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

I pen down this article apropos the welcome decision by the Assam Government to launch a drive to find out all former students staying illegally in college and university hostels and ask them to leave in order to prevent ragging. The vicious practice of ragging has not only become rampant in our educational institutions but also acquired hideous proportions costing the sanity of the institutions and life of some of the students. Even today, students from the rural areas have a lingering fear when they go to cities for higher studies. To dispel such fears, colleges should prominently display a banner saying their campus is free from ragging. Those who indulge in ragging look for temporary pleasure but end up destroying many lives. Students alone can put an end to it. Anti-ragging steps should be strictly enforced. Parents and teachers are equally responsible for eliminating the virus. Service organizations and NGOs should too launch awareness campaigns against the menace in educational institutions. The cantankerous behaviour of some students in colleges is often the offshoot of indiscipline in the schools in which they studied, and uncaring families. Instead of attempting to classify the acts of ragging as "soft" and "hard," we should employ the guidelines of the committee in letter and spirit. If faculty members communicate more informally with them, a healthy academic environment can be created.

Ragging and abetting the crime on the college campus will remove the lurking fear in the minds of freshmen, especially those who opt to stay in hostels. The authorities should not stop with just making rules but take effective steps to implement the same and highlight the ill-effects of ragging through the visual media. The move will implant fear and discipline in the minds of senior students who indulge in ragging. Even today, students from the rural areas have a lingering fear when they go to cities for higher studies. To dispel such fears, colleges should prominently display a banner saying their campus is free from ragging. Those who indulge in ragging look for temporary pleasure but end up destroying many lives. Students alone can put an end to it. Anti-ragging steps should be strictly enforced. Parents and teachers are equally responsible for eliminating the virus. Service organizations and NGOs should too launch awareness campaigns against the menace in educational institutions.

There was not much awareness in those days and ragging in the past was one way of familiarizing freshers with senior students. But now, the increased incidents of ragging have exposed the errors in our education system which may be successful in churning out academically brilliant students, but has failed to inculcate proper values in them.

The cantankerous behaviour of some students in colleges is often the offshoot of indiscipline in the schools in which they studied, and uncaring families. Instead of attempting to classify the acts of ragging as "soft" and "hard," we should employ the guidelines of the committee in letter and spirit. If faculty members communicate more informally with them, a healthy academic environment can be created.

It is also noticed that those who indulge in ragging do not plan in advance. On most of the occasions, things go out of control. The guilty should not only be expelled but also barred from admission to any other college.

Looking to the increase in ragging incidents, active involvement of media and the civil society is essential in tackling the problem of ragging. The mindset of the student has changed and now we need to focus in on enforcing stringent measures like rustication of a student, withholding of scholarship, debaring a student from appearing in any test. If possible students who involve in ragging must be put in jail instead of just being suspended or expelled. An example needs to be set.

DIY Lip Scrubs during Winter



By: Shahnaz Husain

Worried About Your Dry Lips In Winter?

Dry winter lips are the one super-sensitive area that often gets neglected.

Chapped lips are probably one of the most troubling winter skin conditions. In fact, if there's anything more uncomfortable than dry skin, it is flaky lips.

Lip scrubs are the best way to treat chapped lips in winter and there are some amazing ones available on the market but are costly affairs.

We've come up with a few effective lip scrub formulas for super soft, kissable lips that can be made with

basic kitchen ingredients and taste great, too.

1. Take one tablespoon of cocoa butter, one tablespoon of coconut oil, one teaspoon of organic cocoa powder, and one tablespoon of brown sugar. Melt cocoa butter in a microwave-safe bowl. Transfer to a small jar and stir in the coconut oil. Refrigerate until the mixture has partially hardened. Stir in the brown sugar and cocoa. Apply to lips once a week. Let the mixture sit on your lips for 30 seconds, and then massage with your fingertip. Rinse and follow with lip balm.

2. Take 10-20 petals of the rose with a little quantity of milk in a small bowl. Crush the rose petals in it to make a paste. Take a small amount of these homemade lip scrubs to apply to your dry lips. wash your lips with lukewarm water after 5 minutes and apply lip balm to keep your lips hydrated

3. Squeeze half a lemon into a bowl. Remove seeds if any. Add 1 ½ tablespoons of honey to it and mix well to make a smooth paste. Apply the mixture all over your lips and leave for about 10 minutes. Wash off with water and finish with a moisturizing lip balm to nourish further

Rajendra Babu's message to Students & Teachers



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first President of the Republic India and served the country in that capacity for the longest period i.e. from 26th January 1950 to 13th May 1962. He was a freedom fighter, three times party President of Congress, first food & agriculture minister in Interim Cabinet, Chairman of the Constituent Assembly and disciple of Gandhi & Patel; but the most noteworthy is that he was a great scholar too. His message to teachers and students paves the way for success as well as nation building.

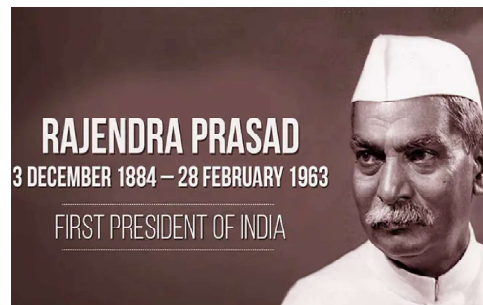
Rajendra Babu believed that some kind of training and discipline should be introduced in the educational curriculum of our schools & colleges to enable the young people to be ready to meet any emergency situation prevailed in the country. It will give the youth a sense of discipline and enable them to work in comradeship with others. These are qualities that are essential not only for soldiers but also among people if they wish to progress in their civil life as well.

He stressed that the educational institutions have to equip their pupils with health of body, mind and spirit so that they may be able to cope with all kinds of difficulties in life. General and specified knowledge of different subjects to obtain a university degree is not enough. No system can be said to be successful unless it is able to help in the growth of a full man. The pupil has to contribute a lot from his side. The teacher can only sow the seed, but there must be the capacity in the person to whom the seed is sown to make it sprout, grow, blossom & fructify. Teacher is only a gardener; he can sow the good seeds and evil habits by his own sloth, ignorance or bad habits.

Rajendra Babu recalled that in ancient times, the teachers were not

man of wealth, but they were highly respected. They were men of learning & character, before whom the rich & the poor, the prince & the peasant, sat with folded hands and received knowledge of not only reading, writing and studying books, but also in building up good character and a disciplined life. This contact between the teacher & the student has now growing thinner & thinner every day resulting in lack of discipline amongst students. There is neither atmosphere nor opportunity for teacher & student for acting & reacting on each other for good, which ultimately has led to domination of evils. Such students, who have received indifferent training, when become teachers then the system collapses. So, the close contact in some form or the other between teacher & student is absolutely necessary for improving the standard of education for preparing the type of person the society require.

Rajendra Babu lamented that the mushroom growth of institutions without necessary equipment does more harm than good. No institution can serve its purpose without sufficient preparations and equipment. The country is in a hurry to carry advantages of education to largest number of people and in fact our aim is to make everyone at least literate in the shortest possible time. There has not been corresponding depth and that quality has suffered on account of exclusive attention towards quantity resulting in lowering of standard at secondary & university level. In course of time this deterioration in the standard of education will affect the standard in all aspects of our life and ultimately the country will be a loser in long run. There should be certain diversification at the early stage so that those who are considered fit for higher qualifications,



whether in general or technical, are selected out and rest are allowed to take to the lines for which they are fitted instead of crowding the higher educational institutions from which they cannot derive the benefits that is intended, and thus only serve to lower the standards for all.

Rajendra Babu remarked that in colonial days, foreigners were interested only in turning out men & women for the work of running their administration, especially in the lower grades, and character building had no place there. In the absence of moral education in educational institutions, there has been a decline in moral values in the society. All religions have been given equal status in country. But that does not exclude the inclusion of those fundamental principles on which rest right & wrong and which are acceptable to all. Young men & women who have received degree from universities should conduct themselves as models, by spreading good ideas & laying down better standards by their conduct, for those who have been less fortunate. Difficulties will come in life and the scholars should face them with determination and character to meet

them squarely & boldly. Succumbing to one temptation would invite a hundred more temptations to come in the way and the task would become more difficult. But if one refuses to succumb to temptations, the success will not elude all the time.

Rajendra Babu urged the student that they should remember that they have to fulfill the expectations of not only their here & dear, but also the society & country. Honesty & efficiently both equally are necessary to make the country progress. Students after completing their education close one chapter in their life and open a new one. Scholars should make the new chapter as bright as they can, and in spite of all difficulties, a determined will can succeed.

Rajendra Babu was a boon to the soil of India. Throughout his life, he follows the path of truth, non-violence, patriotism and human values. He will remain a symbol of nation building not only for students and teachers, but for all sections of the society. His ideas and thinking will continue to illuminate the country for years.

(The author is a technocrat & academician.)

Beyond The Universe



By: Vijay GarG

the process reversible. Infinity is a step towards examining universe from this angle.

Infinity has received acceptance and recognition as an equation of science but has not yet offered an explanation of reversibility of an expanding universe or a retraction in the movement of time. The 'uncertainty' principle is another invention of science which acknowledges that in a non-static universe no positioning of any element thereof could be defined with certainty.

Now, if space has to be expanding in all possible directions and time also must free itself of a linear conceptualisation then science would have to explore how their beginning and end must merge. This merger would have the effect of accommodating both 'infinity' and 'uncertainty' and making the cosmos a constant.

In a sense, the entirety of time and space was equated by philosophy with an omnipresent God. What Science could look at is a theory that would embrace space and time in a 'constant' by using 'infinity' and 'uncertainty' as factors in the equation for proof.

Meanwhile, theories like the 'evolution' of species, 'relativity' and 'action evoking equal but opposite reaction', are all dealing with parts of the 'whole' that universe was. A fundamental discovery is that matter was indestructible - it can only change into energy - and the fact that 'stability' was rooted in high velocity circulatory 'movement' as was the case with an atom on the inside.

'Relativity' does not demolish the theory of the absolute as it can exist within the cosmological constant. Equality of 'action' and 'reaction' is a part of the interplay of 'stability' and 'motion'. Even the established interdependence of

flora and fauna is a fact which is essentially a detail about how life as a product of 'evolution', was managed.

Science has found answers to many subsidiary queries that arise in a discussion on universe. Hindu Philosophy used the adjective 'Anant' or 'without an end', for the universe - which is also applied to God. Science has to establish that seamless transition was possible between a 'beginning' and the 'end' in relation to space and time to get the universe to measure up to this description.

The challenge for science is that if it worked on a 'part' of the undefined 'whole' then the experiment would find it intrinsically difficult to totally explain the latter and reach definitive terms for that purpose.

This limitation of science can be overcome through imagination - Einstein, perhaps the greatest scientist of all times, famously said that "imagination is more important than knowledge".

In the case of universe, science has to prove that 'end was equal to beginning'. What is that journey that ends where it began from? It perhaps means that motion was an illusion and that what was seen or felt as a moment of the journey was a point that never in fact moves.

'Relativity' explained this at least partly. The thought that what you see is not the reality, is close to the Hindu spirituality's Maya - an illusion or a dream - believed to be a manifestation of God.

Could a dream be examined by a person who had woken up to sense what part of the dream envisaged reality. The message was that examination of universe should help to focus on 'how it got created'.

contd. on page 3

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(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Two Nabbed for Molesting a South Korean woman YouTuber in Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 3:

In a suo moto action, the Khar police earlier this week arrested two youth on charges of molesting a South Korean woman YouTuber during a live streaming at Khar West area. The accused have been remanded to police custody.

An FIR (No 1314/2022) has been registered and the accused- Mobeen Chand Mohammad Shaikh (19) and Mohammad Naeem Sadraalam Ansari (21) have been booked under sections 354, 354-D and 34 of the Indian Penal Code a press release issued by police on Thursday read.

The incident occurred when Hyejoong Park, a Korean YouTuber, was live streaming at Khar West in North West Mumbai at about 11.50 pm on November 30. The accused pulled her and one of them dragged her to his scooter. He was forcing her to sit on his scooter. She shouted and opposed their attempts.

The video of this incident was shot by passersby and one of them posted it on social media and also tweeted tagging the Mumbai Police. Next day, the police found out Park's address and called her to lodge a formal complaint. However she said that she would do it later.

In the meanwhile, a Woman



One of the accused dragging a South Korean woman YouTuber in Khar West area. (Inset : The arrested accused with police).

police constable Sania Mulani lodged the complaint on behalf of the police. The police traced out the accused at Patel Nagar, Bandra West and arrested them. They were remanded to police custody by Bandra Metropolitan Magistrate. Subsequently Park in a tweet, thanked Mumbai Police for their prompt action in the matter. She admitted that she had experienced a similar scenario in a different country as well, but there the authorities did not act quickly enough.

Delivery boy Nabbed

In another incident, the Khar Police arrested a delivery boy named Shahzade Sheikh

(43) on charges of attempting to molest a woman while delivering her order.

The incident occurred when the complainant woman (25) ordered some vegetables at about 3 pm on November 30 through Zepto app. The accused reached her place at about 3.30 pm. No sooner she opened the door, even before delivering the vegetables, he allegedly began video shooting her. When she protested, the accused entered the house by pushing her and began abusing her. As she shouted for help, the security personnel of the building rushed to the spot and caught the ac-

cused.

The victim lodged the official complaint with Khar police next day. She told police that if she had not shouted for help, anything could have happened. The offence (CR No. 1315/2022) was registered under sections 341 and of the Indian Police Code. The police traced out the accused within 12 hours from his residence at Mumbra in Thane district. When produced in Bandra court, he was remanded to police custody till Saturday. He was to be produced before the additional Metropolitan Magistrate for further remand on Saturday.

Gujarat polls: Campaigning for phase II to wrap up with roadshows, rallies today

Agency
Gandhinagar, Dec 3:

The second phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections is scheduled to take place tomorrow, Sunday, December 5. The high-voltage campaigning for the 93 seats out of a total of 182 constituencies in Gujarat will end on Saturday evening. All 833 candidates from around 60 political parties are making last-ditch efforts to woo voters.

The 93 assembly segments are spread across 14 districts of north and central Gujarat, including Ahmedabad, Vadodra, and Gandhinagar, of which, the prominent constituencies include the Ghatlodia seat of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Viramgam seat where Patidar leader

Hardik Patel is fighting on BJP ticket and Gandhinagar South from where Alpesh Thakor is fighting as BJP candidate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a whirlwind campaign for some of the BJP candidates on December 1 and 2, including two back-to-back roadshows in Ahmedabad.

On Saturday, the incumbent BJP will hold several roadshows and poll rallies of their star campaigners. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hold poll rallies in Dholka, Mahudha, and Khamhat towns today, while Union minister Smriti Irani will hold roadshows in Modasa and Siddhpur towns of north Gujarat.

In Gujarat polls phase I, the 39 political parties have fielded 788 candidates including 718

male candidates and 70 women candidates. The overall voter turnout was recorded at 63.14%.

The ruling BJP is confident of retaining the 27-year-long rule in the state, while the Congress is desperate to save its second position in the state and the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP is making a gamble by trying to cash in on 'anti-incumbency'.

The counting of votes will be done on December 8. Results of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections will also be declared on the same day.

While Vijapur, Visnagar, Mehsana and Unjha seats in north Gujarat have a considerable number of Patidar voters, there are at least five such seats in Ahmedabad city - Ghatlodia, Sabarmati, Maninagar, Nikol and Naroda.

In south Gujarat, several seats in Surat city are considered as Patidar bastions, including Varachha, Kamrej and Katargam.

Many believe that it was the Patidar quota agitation and resultant anger that led to the BJP's defeat on several Patidar-dominated seats in 2017, such as Unjha in Mehsana district as well as Morbi and Tankara seats in the Saurashtra region.

For the upcoming polls, the BJP has given tickets to 41 Patidars, one more than the Congress's tally. The AAP has also given tickets to a significant number of Patidars.

According to political analyst Ravindra Trivedi, chances are high that the community will bury the past and support the BJP this time.

Contd. from Page 2

Beyond The.....

Time and space are not measurable as they are everlasting and free from a beginning or an end and human endeavour to examine the universe from within is inherently handicapped but Science has managed to get a part answer in 'infinity' and 'uncertainty' which it has to use to construct the new equation that would link the points of 'origin' and 'termination'.

The remarkable Hindu thought of Pralaya or deluge not only defined an end of the universe but also saw in it its beginning. Again, the proven phenomenon of 'black hole' marks the interconversion of the 'seen' and the 'unseen'. Scientifically speaking since an atom had no length or breadth, any amount of matter

can theoretically be condensed into 'nothingness'.

Scientists have thus reached quite a few answers to the puzzles of the universe and reduced the distance between the 'thought' and the 'reality'. The key lies in arriving at the interpretation of space and time that establishes their continuum.

Leading scientists of our times have struck a note of confidence and hope that the status of universe will be defined in scientific terms soon enough- once an understanding of its origin in timelessness was reached.

Meanwhile, the power of meditative insight into the cosmos revealed by the ancient sages of India, deserves a fresh acknowledgement and appre-

ciation by the realm of science. The observation that 'Rome Rome mein Brahmmand hai' - there is an entire solar world in every particle of the body - was startlingly proven by the structure of the atom.

Similarly, the claim that someone could become invisible or 'antardhyan', seemingly is on all-fours with the discovery of science that 'matter' cannot be destroyed - it could only disappear by changing into 'energy'.

Also, the view that human body symbolising 'life' was a product of the five elements of nature - fire, water, earth, air and space - saw the assimilative link between cosmos and the manifestation of life.

In short, what the sage philosophers essentially

realised was that universe was without a beginning or an end and that whatever was 'visible' was part of the invisible 'whole'.

Science is to get this metaphysical equation right notwithstanding the limitations of a human mind. Philosophy could be helping science to draw closer to a solution by stipulating that cosmological constant symbolised the 'singularity' of God - the latter representing the 'unseen' whole behind the 'visible' universe.

Universe will remain, in human thought, inseparable from God even after science confirms that universe was a continuum. Science and philosophy would be describing the same wholeness of universe by different names.

India logs 253 new Covid-19 cases, active tally drops to 4,000

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 3:

India has reported 253 fresh Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the cumulative coronavirus infections to 4,46,73,166, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

With this, the country's active caseload has declined to 4,597, which comprises of 0.01% of the total infections. A decrease of 75 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The death toll climbed to 5,30,627 with three more fa-

talities — two reconciled by Kerala and one death reported from Himachal Pradesh in a span of 24 hours, it stated.

The recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,37,942, while the case fatality rate was 1.19 per cent.

According to the official data, 219.93 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has said

that around 90% of the world population now had some resistance to Covid-19, but warned that a troubling new variant could still emerge.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general said gaps in vigilance were leaving the door open for a new virus variant to appear and overtake the globally dominant Omicron.

Last weekend marked one year since the WHO announced Omicron as a new variant of concern in the Covid-19 pandemic. It has since swept round the world, proving significantly more transmissible than its predecessor, Delta.

Rising People's Party urges PM to impose Prez rule in Nagaland

Agency
Kohima, Dec 3:

The Rising People's Party (RPP), a Nagaland political outfit formed in 2021, on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to impose President's rule, alleging that the state has been the worst performer under several parameters.

In a petition to Modi, RPP president Joel Naga and its

vice-president Vitho Zao said that 3,446 people from various parts of the state took part in a signature campaign favouring President's rule in Nagaland.

The state has been witness to "systemic corruption, fiscal mismanagement, misgovernance, non-development and misuse of public funds", the party said.

"Nagaland has been the worst performing state under

six parameters (poverty, health, affordable energy, sustainable cities, industries and infrastructure) as per the SDGI index of the NITI Aayog in 2021," the two party leaders claimed.

There are also "fiscal irresponsibilities" as per the latest CAG report, including "fraudulent withdrawals" amounting to thousands of crores in almost all the government departments, they alleged in the petition.

Bengal: 2 killed, many injured in blast near venue of TMC's Abhishek Banerjee's rally

Agency
Contai (WB), Dec 3:

At least two people were killed and several others injured in a blast near the venue of senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee's scheduled rally in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Bhupatinagar area, only 1.5 km from Contai town where TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is scheduled to address a public meeting on Saturday, a police officer said.

The blast was reported in a house around 11.15 pm on Friday and two bodies were recovered on Saturday morning. A few others are injured.

"The cause of the blast is yet to be ascertained and further investigation is underway but the impact was so powerful that the mud house with a thatched roof was blown off in the incident," the senior police officer of Contai sub-division said, adding a forensic team has reached the spot to collect samples.

BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh held the TMC responsible for the incident and said that "only bomb-making industry is flourishing in the state".

Senior CPI (M) leader Sujan Chakraborty questioned why was Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee silent on such incidents and demanded a statement from her.

TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said it is very easy for the opposition to blame the ruling party in West Bengal without any evidence.

Implementation of Research Findings should be given more weightage than time spent conducting research - Professor R.K. Uppal

IT Correspondent
Bathinda (Punjab), Dec 3:

An effective, relevant, and quality research program is crucial to a nation's development. UGC, New Delhi recently reformed Ph.D. regulations, which is a very welcome step. An excellent step is to stop researchers from submitting research papers for Ph.D. Not requiring prior publication in the Ph.D. award process is a very appropriate step. When the Ph.D. research publication is the most significant research publication, why is it published at the micro level? The decision to make publication not a requirement for the award of a Ph.D. is an excellent one. There are some people who have started research publication factories. Regardless of

whether a research paper is relevant to your research findings or not, you pay the money and publish it. I believe that there still needs to be some reform. The University Grants Commission in New Delhi ought to make it a rule that degree can only be granted when the results of your research are relevant and applicable; otherwise, they shouldn't. More important than the amount of time spent on research is how the findings are put into practice.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, an acclaimed academician, research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research. Presently, he is serving in the most exalted institution, Baba Farid

College of Management and Technology (Punjab), as a Professor-cum-Principal. He is also visiting Professor in Indus International University, Himachal Pradesh.

The universities or funding organizations for research should inform the researchers of the applications made of their findings and in which they have been incorporated them. I had two significant research projects completed that were funded and approved by UGC, New Delhi, but I have not yet heard anything about how the results of my research have been applied. Teaching- research-practice needs to go hand in hand. Quality and Excellence in Research is need of the hour. The research findings should have social impact as well.

International Day for Differently Abled Persons held in Ukhrul



IT News
Ukhrul, Dec 3:

The International Day for differently abled persons has been organised at DRDA Hall, Ukhrul today by the District Administration in collaboration with District Social Welfare (DSWO), District Disability Rehabilitation Centre and Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development Rehabilitation Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Imphal (CRCSRE).

Deputy Commissioner of Ukhrul District Krishna Kumar, IAS, spoke at the gathering by encouraging differently abled persons in the district to avail different schemes the centre and state has provided to them. The district administration is also striving to reach out through different mechanism so as to enable them bring equilibrium in the society. Meanwhile he also encourages to get registered in the electoral roll under PWD and avail special facilities provided.

Chief Guest Krishna Kumar, IAS, spoke at the gathering by encouraging differently abled persons in the district to avail different schemes the centre and state has provided to them. The district administration is also striving to reach out through different mechanism so as to enable them bring equilibrium in the society. Meanwhile he also encourages to get registered in the electoral roll under PWD and avail special facilities provided.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India's bio-economy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 3:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's bio-economy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years under Prime Minister Modi from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$80 billion in 2022.

Addressing an "International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology-2022" in Jammu, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Biotech Startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 5300 plus in 2022. He said, 3 Biotech Startups were incorporated every day in 2021 and a total of 1,128 biotech startups were set up in 2021 alone, signaling the rapid growth of the sector in India.

The conference is being organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University,

School of Biotechnology, Jammu in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM Jammu and The Biotech Research Society of India, from 3rd-5th December 2022.

There are 14 international participants like USA, Greece, South Korea, Scotland, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam and 24 National keynote and invited speakers and around 300 participants from almost every state of India who are presenting their work in the form of Oral and

Contd. from Page 1

Withdraw Suspension of Operation (SoO)....

It is quite natural that these individuals and organisations controlled by them would not hesitate to sacrifice the interests of the people of Manipur, which includes Zomis, Thadous (New Kukis) settled in Manipur with the permission of the then Maharaja of Manipur. This is quite evident from the large influx of people from Myanmar in recent times under the patronage of these militant groups and making them settle in various places in

hill areas of Manipur without any scant respect of law by conspiring with some bureaucrats and politicians.

The continuation of Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with KNA/KNO under P S Haokip and ZRA/ZRO under Thang Lian Pau is thus a big threat not only to the harmonious co-existence of the people of Manipur but also to the national security of India. People's Alliance for Peace and Progress, Manipur (PAPPM)

being a voluntary social organization dedicated to working towards peace and progress in Manipur would like to make clear our firm stand that continuation of Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with KNA/KNO and ZRA/ZRO is not in the interest of the indigenous people of Manipur living together for many centuries under the Manipur Kingdom in the past and now under the India Union and striving for a peaceful and progressive

Manipur and hence Indian Nation.

"We, therefore, demand that the Central government and State government should immediately withdraw Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with such militant groups led and run by foreigners against the national interest. We welcome the peace process, but it should be initiated only with the leaders who are born and brought up in the state of Manipur", the statement added.

President of India presents National Awards....

She stressed for the maximum use of technology in order to remove language related barriers in education and to make education more accessible to children with

disabilities. She said that the National Education Policy 2020 also underlines the importance of enabling arrangements for providing equal opportunities for qual-

ity education to children with disabilities. She was happy to note that the conversion of NCERT text books for classes I to VI into Indian Sign Language for hear-

ing-impaired children has been done. She said that it is an important initiative to include hearing-impaired students in the mainstream education process.

International Conclave on Literature....

As the post lunch programmes two Seminars were conducted at different locations. The Seminar on Literature, Cultural Heritage and Networked Society was conducted at four different technical sessions in parallel mode at the Court Hall, Department of Manipuri, Department of Library and Information Science of the university. A total of 56 papers including invited ones were tabled for presentations. In another seminar on Library Services for National Development and Universal Understanding which was conducted in two technical sessions at the Department of Commerce. A total of 33 papers were presented during the seminars.

On the third day of the Conclave, the 29th November, 2022, two programmes were further conducted. A Seminar on Diverse Culture and Its Impact on Humanity, Peace and Unity was held at Moirang College collaborating with the College. The inaugural function of the seminar was attended by Dr. Tanom

Intarkumnerd, Chairperson, Staudt University Council, Thailand as the Chief Guest, Dr. Kh. Jugindro Singh, Principal, Moirang College, Moirang as president and Prof. Ch. Iboh Singh, CONCLAVE Coordinator, ICCLCS as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Jamnong Junkhiew of Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand gave Key Note address. A total of 17 papers were tabled for presentation during the technical session.

On the third day itself a Multilingual Poets' Meet was also conducted at the Court Hall of the University in which Prof. N. Aruna Devi, Dean School of Humanities Prof. H. Subadhini Devi, Head, Department of Hindi and Prof. Th. Ratanakumar Singh, Head, Department of English and Cultural Studies, MU graced as the Moderators. In the Meet organized on the theme, Literature, Culture, Library and Society a total of 56 poems were presented. On the 4th day of the Conclave, the 30th November, 2022, a Panel discussion on Literature, Culture

and Library for Universal Peace and Understanding was conducted at the University Court Hall with Prof. Ch. Iboh Singh, CONCLAVE Coordinator as the Moderator. Three Panelists spoke during the discussion. Dr. Wrote Thongplew, Vice Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sunindra Rajabhat University, Thailand spoke on Literature for Universal Peace and Understanding while Prof. R.K. Barman, former HoD/Library and Information Science, Gauhati University delivered on Library for Universal Peace and Understanding and Prof. M.C. Arun, Director, Centre for Myanmar Studies, Manipur University explored on the topic Culture for Universal Peace and Understanding.

The four days Conclave attended by more than 300 delegates from Thailand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Eswatini (Southern Africa) and various parts of India and Manipur was successfully concluded with the valedictory function held at the Court Hall in which Prof. N. Lokendra Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University, Prof. N. Aruna Devi, Dean of Humanities, MU and Dr. Chai Samoraphum, Vice-Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand graced as the Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honour respectively. In his valedictory address, Prof. N. Lokendra Singh maintained the fact that literature, culture, library and society are historically coordinated and has been coexisting. The need for exchanging culture and tradition among nations and their preservation through libraries for the upliftment of the society towards building the culture of peace and universal understanding has also been lamented in his address. Prof. N. Aruna Devi also spoke on the significance of the theme of the Conclave and its relevance. At the end of the function, certificates were distributed to the participants of the Conclave. By and large the Conclave was a grand success.

Sports

South Korea, Portugal, Switzerland and Brazil advance World Cup last 16

Round of 16
Today, 8:30 Pm
Netherlands
USA
Tomorrow, 12:30 Am
Argentina
Australia

Agency
Doha, Dec 3:

The World Cup's round of 16 is set after the final group stage games were played Friday. Group H was settled first. Portugal had already clinched a spot in the knockout round, but South Korea turned the group upside down with a late goal for a 2-1 win over the favored Portuguese that put it through as well. Uruguay was in position to advance with a 2-0 win over Ghana, but the South Korea win eliminated the Uruguayans based on a tiebreaker. The Group G finales featured Brazil's 17-game World Cup group stage winning streak coming to an end after a 1-0 loss Cameroon, and Switzerland holding off Serbia to claim the group's second spot in the knockout round.

South Korea slide into World Cup final 16 after beating Portugal

Hwang Heechan's 90th-minute winner has put South Korea through to the round of 16 at the World Cup with a 2-1 win over Portugal.

Hwang made his strike after captain Son Heungmin sprinted the length of the pitch in possession to set up the goal at Qatar's Education City Stadium.

Portugal opened the scoring after five minutes, thanks to Ricardo Horta.

Group H was so competitive that it wasn't until eight minutes after the final whistle blew that South Korea knew their fate: Uruguay's 2-0 victory against Ghana was not enough to edge Son's men on goal difference.

The South Korean team huddled on the centre circle, crowding round a phone showing the final, frantic, moments of their rivals' game before exploding into joyous celebrations as they marked making it beyond the World Cup's group stage for only the third time.

Portugal had already qualified for the knock-out stages before this final group game, and made six changes from the team that beat Uruguay 2-0; Dalot and Horta among those

bought in. The Koreans had to win to stand any chance of going through.

Uruguay out of World Cup despite victory over Ghana

Giorgian De Arrascaeta scored twice as Uruguay beat Ghana 2-0 on Friday, but it was not enough to keep them in the World Cup after South Korea beat Portugal in the group's other game.

Uruguay's Luis Suarez had infamously clawed the ball off the line in extra time at the 2010 World Cup to stop Ghana from scoring a last-gasp winner. Ghana missed the subsequent spot kick and penalty shootout.

This time, Andre Ayew missed from the spot with a tame 21st minute penalty that was easily saved by Uruguayan keeper Sergio Rochet. The penalty was awarded after Mohammed Kudus, Ghana's best player during the match, was tripped by Rochet.

Suarez, who had been booed by Ghana fans during the warm-up, claimed two assists shortly after. De Arrascaeta headed the ball over the line from close range after a shot from Suarez in the 26th minute and doubled Portugal's lead with a superb volley six minutes later.

Uruguay later had a penalty claim turned down by VAR af-

ter Darwin Nunez tangled with Daniel Amartey in the box. La Celeste continued to dominate the game with Facundo Pellistri missing a good chance in the 65th minute.

In the final stages, news of South Korea's lead had reached Uruguay's bench, and Suarez, who had been taken off, was seen in tears.

Uruguay knew they needed goals to overturn the goal deficit, and Edinson Cavani had a strong penalty claim waved away after he clashed with Alidu Seidu.









Cameroon out of World Cup despite stunning Brazil

Vincent Aboubakar scored late to give Cameroon a historic win over Brazil but it was not enough to secure their advance to the next stage of the World Cup in Qatar, after Switzerland defeated Serbia in the group's other game.

The 1-0 victory in the final Group G game on Friday left Cameroon packing their bags for the flight home, while already-qualified Brazil headed to the Round of 16 at the top of their group.

Brazil had won all seven previous meetings with African opponents at the World Cup, including beating Cameroon in 1994 and again in 2014.

Aboubakar, the captain of

Group G										
Team		MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1		Brazil	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	6
2		Switzerland	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6
3		Cameroon	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
4		Serbia	3	0	1	2	5	8	-3	1
Group H										
Team		MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	
1		Portugal	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
2		South Korea	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
3		Uruguay	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
4		Ghana	3	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3

Rigobert Song's team, connected with a cross from substitute Jerome Ndom Mbekeli to break the deadlock in the 92nd minute at Lusail Stadium.

He was booked for removing his shirt in the wild celebrations that followed and, having already been cautioned, had to leave his teammates to see out the remainder of the game. Referee Ismail Elfath smiled, shook Aboubakar's hand, then showed him a yellow and a red card in quick suc-

cession.

Brazil had been far from their exuberant best throughout, seemingly happy to cruise through the game with a draw.

Having won their first two matches in Qatar, Brazil topped the group and advance to a last-16 tie against South Korea, when their many key players who were rested for this game will return.

Coach Tite sent out a second-string side and the result was Brazil's first defeat in the

group stage of a World Cup since 1998 when they were beaten by Norway.

Switzerland edge out Serbia in goal fest to reach last 16

Switzerland reached the World Cup knockout round for the third successive tournament, after prevailing 3-2 over Serbia on Friday, to finish runners-up in Group G and set up a last 16 showdown with Portugal.

In a contest that ebbed and flowed at breakneck speed in the first half at Stadium 974, Xherdan Shaqiri put Switzerland ahead but Serbia swiftly scored twice within 10 minutes, through Aleksandar Mitrovic and Dusan Vlahovic, to flip the game on its head.

Breel Embolo delivered another twist in an absorbing opening period by pulling Switzerland side level just before the break, while Remo Freuler scored three minutes after the restart to restore their one-goal advantage again.

Switzerland had fired warning shots with barely 30 seconds on the clock, as captain Granit Xhaka's strike was blocked by the Serbian defence before goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic denied both Embolo one-on-one and also Xhaka on the rebound.