

Re-extension of Chief Secretary for another 6 month irked Congress Party

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30:

Spokesperson of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) Ningombam Bupendra questions the intention of the BJP government over the re-extension of Chief Secretary of Manipur, Rajesh Kumar for another six month.

After superannuation, Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar has been extended twice. That means Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar has been extended for one year. "Is there no other competent officer for the post of Chief Secretary, Bupendra asked and added that the re-extension of Rajesh Kumar has demoralized the aspirant candidates who deserve to hold the post of Chief Secretary.

On April 3, 2017 the Government of Manipur under the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had taken a Cabinet decision not to re-engage



officers after superannuation.

There are aspirant IAS candidate who can be the Chief Secretary of Manipur, Addl. Chief Secretary MH Khan, P Vaiphei, NEC Secy. K. Moses Chalai etc. based on security level. They are all 1988 batch. Letkhogin Haopik, is also 1988 batch.

There are many competent IAS batch officers who can succeed Rajesh Kumar.

Bupendra question the govt. the reason of extension of Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar for another 6 month.

"Is there no IAS cadre/officer who can replace the Chief Secretary in Manipur", Bupendra questions to the government.

In December 1, 2022 the DOPT released is office memorandum. It is available on website too.

As per the para-3 of the memorandum no government servant can be granted extension of service beyond the age of retirement i.e. 60 years, provided that if the said officer deal with budget or full time member of a committee. This too – the extension

exceed three months or if he or she is an expert in scientific field, they can be extended till 62 years in the interest of the people.

Eminent scientist can also be extended till he or she attend 64 years.

Extension for Cabinet Secretary and other top official of CBI, IB etc. is also allowed as per the memorandum base on the case.

Home Secretary or Defence Secretary can be extended just for 2 years as per the memorandum.

All those and Prime Minister can be extended. Chief Secretary post is not included for extension.

There is no rule for extension of Chief Secretary in the DOPT memorandum.

State Cabinet Minister had also taken decision not to re-engage the retired official – how come the Chief Secretary is re-engaged through service extension of one year, the Congress supplement question.

MAHUD & Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister visits Jiribam



IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Dec 30:

Minister for Municipal Administration Housing & Urban Development (MAHUD) and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Yumnam Khemchand visited Jiribam District today.

On his visit, he had inspected dumping site of Jiribam Municipal Council at Chingdong Leikai, Jiribam where he went through the

solid waste Management Processing Site

Jiribam and reviewed the details of the process. The Executive Officer of Jiribam Municipal Council briefed about the details of waste management in the site.

Talking with the media persons at the JMC dumping site, the MAHUD and RD & PR Minister said that solid waste Management became the essential service stage at present. Waste has hazard-

ous substantial or potential threats to public health or the environment. He also appealed for proper health Management for clean and green environment. Appreciating the proper waste Management of Jiribam Municipal Council (JMC), he added that the waste Management Site of JMC is a learning place for the North East India.

Later, he had inspected some parts of PMGSY works at Jiribam District.

86th Birth Anniversary of NK Sanajaoba

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30:

The 86th birth anniversary of NK Sanajaoba organized by NK Sanajaoba Memorial Trust was held today at Lamyana Shangle, Palace Compound. The program was attended by RK Ranendrajit, Editor of Freedom, Arambam Lokendra, President NK Sanajaoba Memorial Trust as Chief Guest and President respectively.

The program started with a floral tribute to the late NK Sanajaoba and was followed by a keynote address from L. Jadumani, Secretary of NK Sanajaoba Memorial Trust. Rinku Khumukcham, Editor of Imphal Times speaks on the topic "NK Sanajaoba : The Pioneer of Investigative Journalism in Manipur" as a Resource person.

Also, the Birth Anniversary of NK Sanajaoba was also celebrated as the 11th Ojha (Prof.) Naorem Sanajaoba Memorial lecture 2022 today at NRC Hall, National Research Centre Manipur, Canchipur organized by Ojha

Sanajaoba Memorial Trust (OSMT), Manipur and under the theme "Demographic Challenges in Manipur and Remedies". It was attended by Prof. L. Ladu Singh Vice Chancellor, Bodoland University, Assam, and Prof. N. Rajmouh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, DM University as Chief Guest and President respectively. The Speaker of the lecture program was Prof. RK Narendra Singh, Former Head of the Department of Biostatistics, RIMS, and A. Brajakumar Sharma, Former Head of the Department of Statistics, DM College of Science as an observer.

A booklet on Ojha's Memorial Lecture containing the Speaker's text was also released by the Chief Guest and Dignitaries. Prizes and certificates for the Debating Competition organized in connection with the 13th Death Anniversary of Ojha (Prof.) Naorem Sanajaoba on 13th December 2022 organised by the National Research Centre (NRC) Manipur and Manipuri Students' Federation (MSF) were distributed.

Circuit Court sitting of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati branch to be held at Imphal

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30:

A press note from the Secretariat: Law & Legislative Affairs Department, Government of Manipur has notified to inform to the general public in

the state of Manipur that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Guwahati Branch will be holding Circuit Court sitting on January 5 and 6, 2023 at the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) Office building, first floor at

Lamphepat Court Complex, Imphal.

Urmila Datta (Sen), Judicial Member and Dr. Sumeet Jerath, Administrative Member of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Guwahati Branch will attend the sitting.

Rotary Clubs promote healthy wellbeing and fitness

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30:

Rotary Club of Imphal and Rotary Club of Polo City Imphal (RID-3240) played a friendly football match at Play 7 Turf, Mayakoi, Imphal yesterday on the theme 'Rotary Fit' to promote healthy wellbeing and fitness. The friendly match was won by RC Polo City Imphal. Members of both the Rotary clubs had been promoting sports as well as sportsmanship for the youths of the state, besides

rendering humanitarian services to uplift the community.

As a part of the programme, P. Renedy Singh and Kumari Ng. Bala Devi, who had played for Indian national football team, were felicitated for their immense contribution to football for the country. They are both youth icons of Manipur as well as the country. Shri. T. Baleshwar Singh, owner of the Play 7 Turf, was also felicitated for his contribution to promote sports and healthy lifestyle amongst the youth of the state.

Rtn. Pramod Jaiswal, President, Rotary Club of Imphal

said that sports have an immense impact on a person's daily life and health. They give us an interesting routine as well as a healthy body. Engaging in physical activities like sports improves our heart function, reduces risk of diabetes, controls blood sugar, and lowers tension and stress levels. The programme was organised as part celebration of the golden jubilee year of the club and to promote 'Fit India Movement'.

PM flags off Vande Bharat Express connecting Howrah to New Jalpaiguri via video conferencing

PIB
New Delhi, Dec 30:

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express, connecting Howrah to New Jalpaiguri via video conferencing today. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Joka-Taratata Stretch of the Joka-Esplanade Metro Project (Purple Line). He also dedicated four railway projects to the nation including Boinchi - Shaktigarh 3rd Line, Dankuni - Chandanpur 4th Line Project, Nimita - New Farakka Double Line and Ambari Falakata - New Maynaguri - Gumanihat Doubling Project. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the New Jalpaiguri Railway Station.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister apologised for not being physically present today, as for him, this is the day to bow to the land of Bengal as the history of the freedom struggle is infused in every particle of Bengal. "Land

from where the call of Vande Matram originated, saw the flagging off of Vande Bharat today", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister recalled that on Dec 30, 1943, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the Tricolour in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and set the wheels in motion for the independence of India. On the 75th year anniversary of this historic day, the Prime Minister informed that he got the opportunity to visit Andaman to name an island in honour of Netaji. He further added that India had taken a resolve to start 475 Vande Bharat trains during the celebrations of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the train being flagged off today from Howrah to New Jalpaiguri is one of them. Mentioning the multiple projects whose foundation stones are being laid and inaugurated today, the Prime Minister said that the government is spending approximately 5000 crores for the completion of these projects.

The Prime Minister also informed that he will get the

opportunity to dedicate many projects pertaining to the cleanliness of the Ganga and drinking water to West Bengal later in the day. He informed that more than 25 sewage projects have been approved in West Bengal under the Namami Gange Scheme. Out of which 11 projects are already complete and seven are being completed today. Work on 5 new schemes with an outlay of Rs 1500 crore is starting today. The Prime Minister mentioned one of the key projects i.e. Adi Ganga project for cleaning of which infrastructure worth 600 Cr rupees is being established. The Prime Minister said that along with cleaning rivers, the central government has focussed on prevention which revolves around creating a large number of modern sewage treatment plants. This is being done keeping in mind the requirements of the next 10-15 years.

The Prime Minister linked reforms and development of Indian Railways with the development of the country.

That is why, he said, the central government is making record investments in the modern railway infrastructure. A nationwide campaign is going on to transform the Indian Railway, he said. He listed modern trains like Vande Bharat, Tejas Hum Safar and VistaDome coaches and the modernisation of Railway Stations including New Jalpaiguri, doubling and electrification of Railway lines as examples of this modernization. He also mentioned eastern and Western dedicated freight corridors as projects that will bring revolutionary changes in the logistics sector. The Prime Minister highlighted strides made in the fields of Railway safety, cleanliness, coordination, capability, punctuality and facilities. The Prime Minister emphasised that in the last 8 years, Indian Railways worked on the foundation of modernity and the coming years will see Indian Railway embarking on a new journey of modernization.

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Endangered Saphu rescued and set free at Punsilok

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30:

A 10-odd month-old Saphu (Chinese Pangolin), the only scaly mammal has been rescued from Kampong Khunnuof of Tengnoupul District by a team of villagers Dm James Maring, Khulpuwa Solomon Maring (M.Sc Forestry NERIST), Dm Angkham Dangshawa (B.Sc Forestry, CHF Pasighat), Ch Kelvin Maring and Wildlife Researcher Yengkhom Roamer

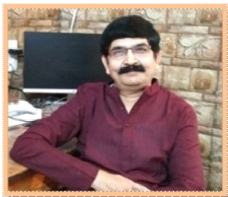
Zest from Kakching with timely coordination.

The said mammal is one among the critically endangered species (IUCN, listed in Appendix-I of CITES), through consultation with Moirangthem Loya, Wildlife and Habitat Protection Society (WAHPS) based at Langol Punsilok, known for its lush green landscape, the Saphu is set free once again adapting back to nature yesterday at around 11:30 A.M.

Practical nemophilist and

Punsilok rejuvenator M. Loya, MU Forestry faculty Dr. L. Romeechand and Wildlife Expert Y. Roamer's team together emphasised seriously on its existence from pre-historic times, amongst the highest-trafficked mammal in the world, interrelation of wildlife diversity and human ecology, and the need to conserve for better, balance and a fair world for all species. Setting free on the Punsilok (spring of life) is a historic moment, they added.

You are about as happy as you make up your mind to be



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Poet Robert Frost has said "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference." Every year 31st December is celebrated as Make Up Your Mind Day in order to encourage people to quit wavering, to take a decision and stick to it. The day may be used to determine other decisions as well. Career changes, family decisions, and large purchases often keep us from moving forward. It re-

minds us not to be indecisive in life and make up our minds. It's the day to finalize our thoughts and take a stand on any particular issue. Sometimes, making decisions are very difficult, and stressful. Make Up Your Mind Day is an opportunity to take a step back from your current life and decide what truly matters to you. It is a day to reflect on the choices we make and how they impact our lives.

Making our minds a process we all have to go through every single day. Whether the decisions are as simple as what to eat, it is a part of life that is unavoidable. Some people find it hard to make decisions while others go through coaching to acquire the proper skills required to make good decisions. We must change our attitude and believe that we will succeed one day. Moreover, we also need to implement positive thinking techniques which will help us learn from our failures and stay focused. As positive thinking plays an essential role in our lives, we must make sure to adopt it in our lives. The best way to celebrate this day is to make a firm decision to make firm decisions from now forward. That may sound silly, but the fact is that habits are extremely powerful, so once you do start making decisions you don't go back on, the resulting feelings of both pride and determination. Indecisive people should practice to become more decisive and stick with their decisions on this National Make Up Your Mind Day. A heartbroken, pessimistic person can "Make up his Mind" to be happy. Happiness is always the root cause of success. Positive thinking is important as it helps us with stress management and can even improve our health. Self-confidence allows us to face our failure and own up to it in a positive light. Moreover, it helps us to raise many times. This helps instill a quality in us which ensures we do not give up till we succeed. All in all, a person will gain self-confidence from their own personal experience and decision. No one speech or conversation can bring an overnight change. It is a gradual but constant process we must all participate in.

Making a tough decision can be especially stressful when you imagine that there is only one "right" choice and you just need to figure out what it is. But the truth is often that each option has good and bad sides. It is essential to have the right skills to make proper decisions. Intuition and reasoning are critical when making any decision, whether small or big. The choices we make may affect our day to day lives. Making decisions can be scary, but remember that you are the only one who knows what is best for you. A happy mind is a clear mind and so can take clear decisions in life. So let's "Make up your mind to be happy."

India enters New Year 2023 with a few bright spots and lot of challenges

Speedier job generation and boost to MSME's should be focus areas

By: K R Sudhaman

The vision of founding fathers has ensured that the Indian economy developed wherewithal and resilience to weather the storm from time to time. The economy has developed unique ability to convert challenges into opportunity, be it food shortage of the 1950 and 1960s that led to green revolution, 1962 Chinese aggression that ensured that Indian armed forces acquired the necessary wherewithal, the 1991 balance of payment crisis, that led to far-reaching economic reforms. India weathered 1998 US economic sanctions after Nuclear explosion or the East Asian currency meltdown or the 2008 global financial crisis or the latest Covid-19 Pandemic.

In all these situations, India not only waded through the difficulties but also emerged victorious to put the economy back on rails and high growth path. As 2022 ends and New Year 2023 dawns, India is certainly in a bright spot among comity of nations, many of whom are facing severe economic crisis. There are only a handful of countries like India, which can tide over the situation in spite of difficult global economic headwinds, be it geo political situation, global economic slowdown or re-emergence of Covid 19 in China. The economic and geo-political situation among our neighbours too is not encouraging and this could turn out to be a head ache for India.

As we enter 2023, India may still remain the top most growing economy at 6-7 per cent, but two big challenges could pose problem—namely stubborn inflation and sagging exports. Both have the potential to pull down the economic growth. Though retail inflation

is falling lately, it is still elevated and geo-political and global situation could reverse it any time. As it is food and fuel inflation are still high.

Slowing global growth and cooling demand would be two main factors to pull down India's exports, which showed signs of recovery in the previous quarters. Now the forecast is that India's goods exports may shrink by more than two per cent in 2022-23 and grow by just 1.5 per cent, according to CARE ratings research report. India's merchandise exports had grown 11.1 per cent through the first eight months of the year to touch \$295.3 billion, but the rating agency cited recent months' trend of moderating exports to reckon that the full-year exports growth would be 2.3 per cent lower than the record \$422 billion achieved in 2021-22. This is not an encouraging situation.

On the positive side, Reserve Bank of India came out with data to suggest that bank balance sheets are showing double digit growth in 2021-22 after a seven year gap. Credit growth has hit a 10-year high in the first half of 2022-23. Banks may have to raise deposit rates further to meet the surge in credit demand. According to RBI report on trends and progress of Banking in India, there is also a decline in gross non-performing assets—that is the bad debt. As credit growth picked up and deposit growth moderated, the incremental credit-deposit ratio reached a four-year high.

Loans to Indian banks rose 17.5 per cent in the two weeks to December 2, 2022 from a year earlier, while deposits rose 9.9 per cent.

The Indian economy exhibited signs of a gradual strengthening of the growth momentum, drawing from macroeconomic fundamentals, RBI said adding this had come amid an uncertain global environment caused by globalisation of inflation, energy and food shortages, and synchronised tightening of monetary policy worldwide. The gross NPA has come down to 5.8 per cent by March, 2022 from close to double-digit four years ago.

Another positive development is that the massive investment in infrastructure development has helped to kick-start the economy. This is evident from the fact that steel demand is buoyant and has recorded a high 6.8 per cent growth. The steel production has peaked at 120 million tonnes this year and steps are afoot to push steel production to 200 million tonnes annually in the coming years. With construction too picking up there is some surge in employment as well and there are already signs of many companies shifting manufacturing base from China to India.

One area that has not yet been addressed is MSME sector, which has been struggling since demonetisation in 2016 followed by tardy implementation of GST and lockdown in recent years due to Covid. All these had made Indian economy witness jobless growth. To reverse this trend India needed to do something drastic in the coming months and the budget on February one, offered an opportunity for some big-ticket reform to provide much needed lending to the MSME sector.

As noted economist Raghuram Rajan says with increasing

digitisation and GST, the economy was getting increasingly formalised. This is a positive development but in the process, the MSMEs, which largely depended on informal lending, was not in a position to bear the huge cost that arise with the formalisation of the economy. The government will have to resolve this dichotomy to put this sector back on the rails. This will benefit not only stepping up employment but also manufacturing and exports.

The government should think out of the box to come out with a credit card system like the kisan credit cards to deal with financial woes of MSMEs. The buzz now is that government is giving finishing touches for a merchant credit card scheme for traders and Vyapar credit card for micro units to provide credit support and incentivise micro industries to enter the formal financial system. Ninety-per cent of 6.3 crore MSMEs in the country are micro industries. This follows the recommendation of a Parliamentary Standing Committee. MSMEs provide 11 crore jobs in the country. The idea is to incentivise roadside vendors, kirana and micro industries to enter the financial system. The cards will provide loans at subsidised rates and there may also be some uniformity in the benefits provided.

Overall, the economic picture appears to be mixed for India as it enters 2023 but there are challenges, which needed to be addressed on a war-footing to ensure that the economy is on an even-keel. The Indian economic woes are not insurmountable at the moment and 2023 certainly augurs well for the economy. (IPA Service)

What is Right to Education (RTE)



By: Vijay GarG

The Right to Education Act 2009 maps out roles and responsibilities for the centre, state and all local bodies to rectify gaps in their education system in order to enhance the quality of education in the country.

1. Compulsory and free education for all

It is obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education to each and every child, in a neighbourhood school within 1 km, up to class 8 in India. No child is liable to pay fees or any other charges that may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. Free education also includes the provisions of textbooks, uniforms, stationery items and special educational material for children with disabilities in order to reduce the burden of school expenses.

2. The benchmark mandate

The Right to Education Act lays down norms and standards relating to Pupil-Teacher-Ratios (number of children per teacher), classrooms, separate toilets for girls and boys, drinking water facility, number of school-working days, working hours of teachers, etc. Each and every elementary school (Primary school + Middle School) in India has to comply with this set of norms to maintain a minimum standard set by the Right to Education Act.

3. Special provisions for special cases

The Right to Education Act

mandates that an out of school child should be admitted to an age-appropriate class and provided with special training to enable the child to come up to age-appropriate learning level.

4. Quantity and quality of teachers

The Right to Education Act provides for rational deployment of teachers by ensuring that the specified Pupil-Teacher-Ratio is maintained in every school with no urban-rural imbalance whatsoever. It also mandates appointing appropriately trained teachers i.e. teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications.

5. Zero tolerance against discrimination and harassment

The Right to Education Act 2009 prohibits all kinds of physical punishment and mental harassment, discrimination based on gender, caste, class and religion, screening procedures for admission of children capitation fee, private tuition centres, and functioning of unrecognised schools.

The Right to Education (RTE) Forum's Stocktaking Report 2014 suggested that across the country, less than 10 per cent of schools comply with all of the Right to Education Act norms and standards. While the enactment of the Right to Education Act 2009 triggered significant improvements, concerns regarding the privatisation of education remain. Educational inequalities have held a strong ground in India for many years. While the Right to Education Act offers the first step towards an inclusive education system in India, effective implementation of the same still remains to be a challenge.

6. Ensuring all-round develop-

ment of children

The Right to Education Act 2009 provides for the development of a curriculum, which would ensure the all-around development of every child. Build a child's knowledge, human potential and talent.

7. Improving learning outcomes to minimise detention

The Right to Education Act mandates that no child can be held back or expelled from school till Class 8. To improve the performances of children in schools, the Right to Education Act introduced the Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system in 2009 to ensure grade-appropriate learning outcomes in schools. Another reason why this system was initiated was to evaluate every aspect of the child during their time in school so that gaps could be identified and worked on well in time.

8. Monitoring compliance of RTE norms

School Management Committees (SMCs) play a crucial role in strengthening participatory democracy and governance in elementary education. All schools covered under the Right to Education Act 2009 are obligated to constitute a School Management Committee comprising of a headteacher, local elected representative, parents, community members etc. The committees have been empowered to monitor the functioning of schools and to prepare a school development plan.

9. Right to Education Act is justiciable

The Right to Education Act is justiciable and is backed by a Grievance Redressal (GR) mechanism that allows people to take action against non-compliance of

provisions of the Right to Education Act 2009.

To ensure all schools follow this mandate, Oxfam India in collaboration with JOSH filed a complaint at the Central Information Commission (CIC) in 2011 evoking Section 4 of the Right to Information Act (RTI Act) 2005. Section 4 of the RTI Act is a proactive disclosure section mandating all public authorities to share information with citizens about their functioning. Since schools are public authorities, compliance to Section 4 was demanded.

10. Creating inclusive spaces for all

The Right to Education Act 2009 mandates for all private schools to reserve 25 per cent of their seats for children belonging to socially disadvantaged and economically weaker sections. This provision of the Act is aimed at boosting social inclusion to provide for a more just and equal nation.

Why should we support Education for Girls?

As per UNICEF data records the adjusted primary net enrolment rate for the year 2014-15 was 91 and 90 for girls. About 31 million girls across the globe do not have access to primary education. Equality in the sexes in terms of their access to education and health has an intrinsic value in its own light. In India, the total enrolment in primary schools in India during the year 2014-15 was 1, 97,666 where only 95,556 of them were girls. Young girls in India are often forced to or voluntarily drop out of schools since they either have to look after their younger siblings or have to contribute to the house-

hold chores. Centres opened by Oxfam India in different areas in priority and priority plus states help both schools going and non-school going kids to be at par with the school curriculum. The non-school going kids are prepared so that they are able to appear for the admission tests in schools and get enrolled in an age-appropriate class. A child who was unable to read or write is also taught in a manner that suits his interests leading to maximum learning. If a child fails or is unable to clear her tests or exams she becomes demotivated to continue her studies. Community organizations help these children to complete their schooling through registrations with NIOS. These community-based organizations also offer various vocational courses like English speaking, stitching, BPO service calling for the girls to be able to be economically dependent. If educated, girls can contribute equally to economic development thus reducing gender imbalances in terms of education which enhances human capital formation. An extensive study on the human capital theory suggests that education plays a major role in increasing the productivity of the economy by increasing the factor output per worker. Education and human resource development are at the centre of long-term economic developmental plans. The lack of safety and security also leads to girls discontinuing school. Morning school for girl students is followed by afternoon school for boys. Senior students often complain that the boys tease and follow them home at the time when their school is over.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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

India makes RT-PCR test mandatory for people travelling from these countries

Agency
Dec 30:

India on Friday issued fresh travel guidelines making RT-PCR test mandatory from January 1 for people coming from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand. The ministry of civil aviation said that the guidelines for international arrivals have been revised in the wake of evolving trajectory of Covid-19 cases and circulation of variants of Sars-Cov-2 in some countries. The travellers from these countries have to undergo mandatory RT-PCR testing conducted 72 hours before their departure.

"A mandatory requirement for pre-departure RT-PCR testing (to be conducted 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey) is being introduced for passengers in all international flights from China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Japan," the release said.

The existing practice of post-arrival random RT-PCR testing of 2% of international



travellers irrespective of their source airport will continue, the ministry added.

Self-declaration on Air-Suvidha portal has been made operational for passengers travelling from China, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Thailand and Japan. The travellers will be able to upload negative RT-PCR test reports and submit a self-declaration form on the Air-Suvidha portal.

The ministry has directed the airlines to modify their check-in functionalities to incorporate the above changes and issue boarding passes only to those international passengers travelling from the listed high-risk countries who have submitted self-declaration form on the Air-Suvidha portal.

A slew of countries are tightening measures for travellers from China, concerned

the tsunami of virus cases there may spawn new Covid variants. Several countries took similar steps this week, especially in increasing scrutiny on people coming from China over fears that the country may not be monitoring Sars-CoV-2 variants adequately, although the situation in most parts of the world — especially India — is stable and presents no cause for worry.

Cough syrup deaths in Uzbekistan: Health minister says all manufacturing activities of Marion Biotech stopped

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 30:

All manufacturing activities of Noida-based Marion Biotech were stopped on Thursday night in light of reports of contamination in cough syrup Dokl Max produced by them. The information was shared by Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya over his Twitter handle.

It is alleged that at least 18 children died in the central Asian country of Uzbekistan after consuming the medicine produced by the said private company.

Mansukh Mandaviya said the halt on manufacture was ordered following an inspection by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). "Following inspection by @CDSCO_INDIA_INF team in view of reports of contamination in cough syrup Dokl Max, all manufacturing activities of Marion Biotech at NOIDA unit have been stopped yesterday night, while



further investigation is ongoing," the tweet read.

Earlier on Thursday, Marion Biotech had halted the production of cough syrups. CDSCO was assisted by the teams from the Uttar Pradesh Drug Control Department in the inspection at the Noida facility.

Marion Biotech is a licensed manufacturer and holds a license for manufacturing Dokl Max syrup and Tablets for export purposes granted by Drugs Controller, Uttar Pradesh.

Uzbekistan's health minister, on Tuesday, said that 18 children suffering from an

acute respiratory disease died after taking excessive doses of cough syrup Dokl Max, manufactured by Marion Biotech. The deaths reportedly took place in the city of Samarkand.

"Till date, 18 out of 21 children with acute respiratory disease have died as a result of taking Dokl Max syrup," the Uzbekistan health ministry said in a statement.

Experts say that cough syrups sometimes contain "unacceptable levels" of Diethylene Glycol and Ethylene Glycol. The syrup becomes harmful if there is even a slight difference in their quantity.

Not wearing helmet claimed 46,593 lives last year during road accidents, shows report

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 30:

A total of 46,593 persons were killed last year in road accidents because of not wearing helmets, of which 32,877 were drivers and 13,716 were passengers, said a report by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The report also found that 16,397 persons died during road accidents in 2021 due to not wearing seat belts, out of which 8,438 were drivers and remaining 7,959 were passengers.

A total of 12,432 road accidents were reported in 2021, out of which 1,28,825 were on National Highways. In these mishaps, 56,007 persons were killed and 1,17,765 were injured, the report said.

Road accidents in 2021 increased on an average by 12.6% as compared to 2020, while the number of persons killed rose by 16.9% and those injured jumped by 10.4%.

Uttar Pradesh was ranked at the top position in road accident fatalities, accounting for 15.2% of the total casual-

ties followed by Tamil Nadu at 9.4%, Maharashtra at 7.3% and Rajasthan at 6.8%.

"The worst affected age group in road accidents is 18-45 years, which accounts for about 67% of total accidental deaths," said the report.

The accident severity has been on the rise since 2000, which underscores the need for improved trauma care and traffic calming measures that are aimed at reducing crash impact parameters, noted the report.

Following the death of

former Tata Sons chairperson Cyrus Mistry and his co-passenger Jehangir Pandole in an accident in Maharashtra's Palghar district, the Centre had said that wearing seat belts will be compulsory for all car passengers.

Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari had said that fines will be levied for not wearing seat belts in the back of a car. People not wearing a seat belt in the rear seats can be fined Rs 1,000 under Rule 138 (3) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, reported PTI.

Covid-19: India's active cases rise to 3,600

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 30:

India has been witnessing an increase in daily Covid-19 cases, with the country recording 243 new coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

With this, the country's cumulative tally has gone up to 4.46 crore (4,46,78,158) and active cases have increased to 3,609, the ministry said.

The death toll stands at 53,699 with one fatality reported from Maharashtra in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily positivity rate

was recorded at 0.11 per cent while the weekly positivity was pegged at 0.16 per cent. It said 2,13,080 tests for detection of Covid have been conducted in the last 24 hours.

The active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections, while the national recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the health ministry's website.

It said an increase of 57 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,41,43,850, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.19 per cent.

According to the

ministry's website, 220.09 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered 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, 2020.

India crossed the two-crore mark on May 4, three crore cases on June 23, 2021, and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

Smartwatch data shows Covid booster vaccine is safe: Lancet study

Agency
Jerusalem, Dec 30:

The booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine is safe, according to a study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine that monitored heart measures through smartwatches.

Researchers at Tel Aviv University equipped close to 5,000 Israelis with smartwatches and monitored their physiological parameters over two years.

Of those monitored, 2,038 received the booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, allowing the researchers to objectively compare measures before and after the participants took the vaccine, and confirm the safety of the vaccine.

The team also examined the safety of the booster by analysing the medical files of 250,000 members of Maccabi Health Services anonymously.

They were able to evaluate the safety of the vaccines from three perspectives: subjectively — what the participant reports, objectively — what the watch detects, and clinically — what the doctor diagnoses.

"The smartwatches were used to monitor a number of parameters such as heart rate, variation in heart activity, quality of sleep, number of daily steps taken, and more," said Professor Dan Yamin from Tel Aviv University.

"We saw clear and significant changes after administration of the vaccine, such as an increase in heart rate compared to the pulse rate measured before vaccination, and then we saw a return to the participant's baseline, i.e., the pulse levels after vaccination returned to their previous levels after six days. Hence, our study confirms the safety of the vaccine," Yamin said.

The researchers said the most surprising finding was that the watches were more sensitive than the people they were monitoring. Many participants reported fatigue, headache, etc. after receiving the vaccine, and after two or three days reported that they felt normal and well, they said.

"In contrast, from examining their watches, we saw distinct changes in heart rate that continued for several more days," Yamin said.

"There were also vaccinated participants who did not report any side effects at all and yet definitely experienced physiological changes, based on data from their smartwatches. In other words, we learned that the smartwatches were more sensitive to changes in general feeling than the participants themselves," he added.

In the medical literature, 25 unusual side effects attributed

to the COVID vaccine were reported, and the researchers paid special attention to look for rare cases of inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) and pericarditis.

The researchers checked the frequency of these unusual side effects among a quarter of a million Maccabi members and found no increase in serious incidents of any kind associated with vaccination.

Contd. from Page 2

What is Right to Education...

Due to they are earlier complaints police patrolling had increased when the girls came out of school however as soon as the number of policemen decreased the boys continued to harass them. Many girls had dropped out of school because their parents believed that it was no longer safe to send their daughters to school. Despite continuous complaints to both the police as well as SMC members the problem still persists. The NCPCR has introduced new guidelines

for the health, hygiene, safety, and security of students both in private and government schools. The new guidelines point out that girls must be taught about menstrual hygiene and be supported so that they do not miss school. They also state that schools should ensure zero tolerance on any matter related to sexual abuse of a child and stringent action shall be taken against the perpetrators of law.

An educated girl also understands the high impor-

tance of education for her future generations and is able to create a better lifestyle and provide better healthcare to her children. Apart from this, educating a girl child will directly reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, child marriages, domestic and sexual violence in families. An educated girl is also more likely to participate in political discussions, meetings, and decision-making leading to the formation of a more representative and democratic governments.

IAF successfully test-fires extended range version of BrahMos Air Launched Missile

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 30:

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday successfully test-fired the extended range version of BrahMos air-launched missile against a

ship target from a SU-30MKI aircraft. The missile, which can hit targets at a range of about 400 km, has achieved the desired mission objectives in the Bay of Bengal region.

"The Indian Air Force today successfully fired the extended range version of BrahMos air-launched missile

against a ship target from a SU-30MKI aircraft," according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence.

With this, IAF has achieved a "significant capability boost" to carry out precision strikes from SU-30MKI aircraft against land or sea targets over very long ranges, it said.

Khanghania

Date: 30/12/2022

Ei, Mongbijam Kulla Singh, epa maming Mongbijam Manichand Singh, Mongshangei Maning Leikai, Khun No. 77 gi mingda leiba ingkhoh Patta No. 90 (ariba), anouba Patta No. 249 1012, pak chaoba 0.03238 Hectare, 0.08 Acre asi eigi echanupa Mongbijam Basanta Khuman da eina ayetpa-apanba yaodana mahakki phangpham thokpa saruk adu mahakki mamingda onsanbirage. Masida kana-kangumbana thigatnngba amasing hainingba warol leiragad numit 5 (five) ni gi matam pijari. Pijariba matam asidagi henkhrabadi mapa eina kana amatagi wa loujaro.

Sd/-
Mongjam Kulla Singh

CBI Raids on Foreign Medical Graduates and MMCs in Connection With Fake Registrations

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 30:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday conducted searches at around 91 locations in 14 states including Delhi and Mumbai, in connection with the fake registration of foreign medical graduates (FMG) with medical councils across India without passing out the mandatory qualifying examination.

The action was taken based on the letters dated September 12 and October 17 written by the President of the National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) to CBI stating that nearly 73 students (62 +11) had registered themselves with different medical councils across the country based on fake NBEMS certificates.

The CBI had registered an FIR (No RC 2162022A0013 Delhi), on December 21 against unknown public servants of State Medical Councils, former Medical Council of India, 73 Foreign medical graduates and other unknown public servants on charges of irregularities in registration of foreign medical graduates.

The accused have been booked under various sections including section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, sections 120 B, 429, 467, 468, 471 of the Indian Penal Code and sections 13(2) and 13 (1) (D) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1888 and sections 7 and 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1888 (amended in 2018).

The CBI stated that these accused not only managed to get themselves registered with medical councils, but also managed to secure jobs with hospitals across the country with fake registration. These irregularities occurred between 2011 and 2022.

Doctors with fake registrations

Some of the erring graduates include: Cheers Samuel, Tamil Nadu, (claimed to have qualified MD physician examination in 2007, from Russian Medical University). He appeared for the qualifying test conducted by NBEMS in 2021(2 session) **but failed**. Yet he got registered with the Bihar Medical Council (Registration No 48535 dated March 29, 2019).

Sudhir Kumar, Bihar (claimed to have passed MD physician examination in 2009, from UT Russian Federation). He appeared for the qualifying test conducted by NBEMS in 2018(1 session) **but failed**. Yet got registered with the Bihar Medical Council (Registration No 49333 dated January 28, 2020).

Vignesh Vellakkannu, Tamil Nadu (claimed to have passed MD physician examination in 2019, from St Petersburg Academy, Mechnikov). He appeared for the qualifying test conducted by NBEMS in 2021(2) **but failed**. He got registered with the Bihar Medical Council (Registration No 48543 dated April 03, 2019)

Mukesh Kalra, Chandigarh, Punjab (claimed to have passed MD physician

examination in 2015, from U Kuban, USSR. He appeared for the qualifying test conducted by NBEMS in 2014(2) **but failed**. He got registered with the Punjab Medical Council (Registration No 45964 dated April 28, 2015)

Rahul Pramod Patil, Aurangabad, Maharashtra (Doctor in general medicine, stated to be qualified from U Stavropol, SMA, Russia. He appeared for the qualifying test conducted by the NBEMS in 2018(1) **but failed**. He got registered with the Maharashtra Medical Council (Registration No 20181155560 dated November 06, 2018).

Dharmendra Kumar Gupta, Uttar Pradesh (passed out the MD physician examination in 2012 from the U Osh State Medical, Kyrgyzstan). He appeared for the qualifying test conducted by NBEMS in 2011(2) **but failed**. He got registered with the Uttar Pradesh Medical Council (Registration No 62138 dated January 12, 2012).

These students got registered themselves by fraudulent means in violation of the provisions of the Screening Test Regulation Act 2002 and await further action from the NBEMS. Besides, the employees of 15 medical councils in-

cluding from Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, J & K, Delhi, Telangana and National Medical Council are on NBEMS and CBI's radar.

On Thursday the raids were conducted in Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Buldana, Pune, Jalgaon, (Maharashtra), Chandigarh, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Bhatinda, Khanna (Punjab), Karnal, Narvana- (Haryana), Sawaimadhopur (Rajasthan), Hamirpur, Shimla- (Himachal Pradesh), Jammu, Srinagar (J & K), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), Guwahati, Tejur (Assam), Imphal (Manipur), Sikkim (Sikkim), Bhopal, Rajpur- (Madhya Pradesh), Patna, Munger, Dharbhanga, Bhagalpur, Champaran, Begusarai, Hajipur, Vaishali, Nalanda- (Bihar), Jaipur, Sikar (Rajasthan), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Warangal (Telangana), Tirunelveli, Madurai- (Tamil Nadu), Vizag (Andhra Pradesh) and Bokaro (Jharkhand). During the search of the premises, several incriminating documents, including fake Pass Certificates of the FMG Examination, were seized.

Assam Rifles organises interaction with Village Authorities at Aina

IT News
Imphal, Dec 30:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised an interaction with all CSOs/vill chiefs of villages nearby to Aina, Churachandpur district.

The meeting was organised to build synergy with the village authorities/CSOs and sensitise them on

prevalent security situation and various measures being taken by Assam Rifles in maintaining the peace and tranquillity in the area. They were further briefed on various measures adopted by Assam Rifles to maintain strict vigil against UGs and illegal activities. Interaction with youth was also carried out to motivate them to join armed forces. A discussion on proposals of

various projects by the locals in their villages also took place.

A total of 30 village authorities & CSO members attended the meeting at Aina. The attendees expressed their gratitude towards Assam Rifles for such informative events and assured complete support to security forces in bringing normalcy in the region.

Assam Book Fair begins in Guwahati

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, Dec 30:

Assam Book Fair (2022-23) begins with fanfare among the book lovers in the region on Thursday. Jointly organised by Publication Board Assam and All Assam Publishers & Book Sellers Association at Assam Engineering Institute playground in Chandmari locality of the city, Assam Granthamela was inaugurated by the reputed Indonesian performing poet Tara Noesantara on 29 December. She appreciated the culture of book reading among the common people in this part of the world and later performed a poetic cultural show along with a co-artist with traditional Indonesian flavour.

The inaugural ceremony also witnessed the release of 15 valuable books, published by the State publication board, in presence of Assam government's education department-adviser Dr Noni Gopal Mahanta, eminent au-

thor Dr Govinda Prasad Sarma, State publication board vice-chairman Sumanta Chaliha, secretary Pramod Kalita, publishers & book sellers association president Nagen Sarma, former president Imran Ahmed, etc. Prestigious Asom Prakashan Parishad Sahitya Bota-22 was presented to Assamese author Dr Pranabjyoti Deka in the same function, where Ranjan Sarma, publisher of the collection of Dr Pranabjyoti Deka's best stories, was also awarded.

The splendid book fair, which will be open for book appreciators and common people till 9 January 2023 next, has given space to over 150 book stalls (publishers) from northeast India along with Kolkata, New Delhi, Punjab, where 10 publication houses from neighboring Bangladesh are also taking part. A number of events relating to new book releases and literary discussions are scheduled in the 12-day festival where every evening the audience will be

enthralled by performing artists. The cultural programs on the first day, where a number of young people took part, was directed by popular artistes Manoj Barua and Purabi Sarma. The publication board, which was created by the State government in 1958 with the aims of sponsoring, encouraging and assisting in the literary field of activities, had organised Guwahati Book Fair in the city since the Eighties where the then publication secretary and eminent author Chandra Prasad Saikia took the lead from the front. Later the State publishers & book sellers association used to organise North East Book Fair in Guwahati. Last year, State chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took an initiative to merge both book fairs into one and thus Assam Grantha Mela was born in 2021. Meanwhile it has been expanded to other localities of Assam namely Dhemajai, Jorhat and Bongaigaon.

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PM flags off Vande Bharat Express...

The Prime Minister informed that while 20 thousand route kilometre rail lines were electrified in the first 70 years of Independence, more than 32 thousand route kilometres have been electrified since 2014. The Prime Minister said that the Metro Rail system is an example of India's speed and scale today. "Metro network which was less than 250 km before 2014 had the highest share in Delhi-NCR. In the last 7-8 years Metro has expanded to more than 2 dozen cities. Today Metro is running on an approximately 800 km long Metro track in different cities of the country. Work is going on Metro routes of more than 1000 km", he informed.

Referring to the challenges posed to India in the years, the Prime Minister remarked that it had a very negative effect on the development

of India. Throwing light on one of the key challenges, the Prime Minister highlighted the lack of coordination among various agencies involved in the infrastructural development of the nation. He also mentioned the lack of coordination among the various transport agencies and as a result, the Prime Minister continued, one government agency had no clue about the work being done by other agencies. "This had a direct impact on the honest taxpayers of the country", he said.

The Prime Minister remarked that when their hard-earned money is used in filling the pockets of the corrupt rather than the poor, it is natural to be dissatisfied. "The Government launched the PM Gati Shakti Plan to fill the gaps in the coordination of agencies", Shri Modi remarked, "Be it different state governments, construction agencies or industry experts, everyone is coming together on the Gati Shakti Platform." He further added that PM Gati Shakti is not only limited to conjoining the different mediums of transport in the country but also providing pace to the multimodal projects. The Prime Minister further added that the construction of new airports, waterways, ports and roads is being carried out to ensure seamless connectivity for the citizens.

"We must make correct use of the potential of the nation to move forward in the 21st century", the Prime Minister remarked. Highlighting the waterways in the country, the Prime Minister recalled the time when waterways were used on a large scale for work, business and tourism in India but were later destroyed during the years of slavery.

Sports

Pele passes away at 82: Pele's funeral and burial to take place in hometown Santos

Agency
Sao Paulo, Dec 30:

After a protracted battle with cancer, Brazilian football star Pele passed away at the age of 82. The tragic news, which prompted emotions and condolences from people all over the world, including Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kylian Mbappe, and Neymar, was announced by his daughter Kely Nascimento. Pele had various monikers, including "The Black Pearl" and "The King." He continues to be the only athlete in sports history to have won the FIFA World Cup three times.

After his passing, hundreds of his supporters in Brazil are anticipated to attend his funeral. The funeral will take place on January 2 and 3. According to a statement from Pele's former Brazilian team, fans will be able to pay their last respects at Vila Belmiro Stadium outside of Sao Paulo.

According to Santos, the casket bearing the three-time



World Cup champion would leave Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein Hospital early on Monday and be positioned on the field's centre circle. The coffin of Pele will be taken through the streets of Santos and will pass in front of the house of his mother Celeste, who is 100 years old. Recent reports in Brazilian media claim that Pele's mother is not lucid and unable to leave her bed.

The funeral service will be held in the Memorial Necropolis Ecumenica, a vertical cemetery in Santos. It will only be at-

tended by family members. Santos is home to Pele, who spent the majority of his life there. He lived all his final years in Guarujá.

According to the hospital, he passed away as a result of numerous organ failures brought on by the development of colon cancer. In September 2021, a colon tumour was removed from Pele.

On November 29, he returned to the Albert Einstein hospital with COVID-19 and a respiratory infection. The hospital stated in a statement the last week that his cancer had progressed.

Pele, who has 77 goals to his name, is one of Brazil's all-time best scorers. He led Brazil to World Cup victories in the year - 1958, 1962, and 1970. During the World Cup in Qatar this year, Neymar tied Pele's record.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Friday announced seven-day mourning to remember the life and achievements of Brazilian football legend Pele, who passed away on December 29, 2022.

"We are deeply saddened by the demise of footballing great Pele, and to remember his achievements, we will observe a seven-day mourning. In this period, the AIFF flag will fly at half-mast," said Shaji Prabhakaran, AIFF Secretary General, in a statement.

Pele was a loved figure world over, and India was no different. The Brazilian has enjoyed a long association with the country, with his first trip to India dating back to 1977.

At the time, he was playing for the New York Cosmos team and played a friendly against Mohun Bagan, one of the country's oldest and most popular football clubs in Kolkata. The match ended 2-2.

"India is blessed that Pele has visited us on so many occasions, the last time being in 2018. We all remain grateful to him for these visits."

"He always wanted Indian Football to develop and grow and have a bright future. He was someone who had inspired like nobody else in the sport," he added.

India Open 2023 draw: Srikanth, Sen, Prannoy bunched in 'quarter of death' with Axelsen, Momota and Shi Yu Qi

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, Dec 30:

Indian men's singles players were handed a tough draw in the Yonex Sunrise India Open 2023 as all three of them were bunched together in one quarter while former world champion PV Sindhu faces her last edition nemesis Supanida Katethong in the opening round.

The Yonex Sunrise India Open, which is part of the HSBC BWF World Tour series, has been upgraded to Super 750 category this year. The upgraded status has meant that almost all the top stars of world badminton would be in action at the IG Stadium (KD Jadhav Indoor hall) from January 17-22, 2023.

India's hopes for a title encore rests on the trio of Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen but the luck of the draw means only one of them can cross the last eight hurdle from a quarter that also includes reigning World and Olympic

champion Viktor Axelsen, China's Shi Yu Qi and Japan's Kento Momota.

Defending champion Sen will begin his campaign against compatriot Prannoy and the winner of their match is likely to run into to Momota, who is looking to hit the ground running in 2023 after struggling for form this year.

Former champion Srikanth has to overcome the challenge of top seed Axelsen in the opening round with a potential clash against Shi, who has made a strong comeback after being out of action for almost 10 months.

None of the other three quarters boast of such a strong star cast but there would be a few mouth-watering opening round clashes to look forward to. Third seed and former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore will take on the fast rising Japanese Kodai Narokawa while sixth seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia will face China's Lu Guang Zu in the first round.

In women's singles, former world champions Nozomi Okuhara of Japan and Carolina Marin of Spain will face off in the opening round clash as both of them were troubled by injuries in 2022 and have been unseeded at the India Open 2023.

Top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan will kick off her campaign against Spain's Clara Azumendi while Olympic champion and third seed Chen Yu Fei of China faces Canada's Michelle Li in the opening round.

Among the Indians, fifth seed Sindhu faces Katethong in the repeat of last edition's semi-final clash which the Indian lost in the three games. The former world champion, who has been out of action due to a heel injury since the Commonwealth Games in August 2022, has a potential quarterfinal clash against Chen Yufei.

Bansod, Kashyap get a chance to make a mark.