

400 bags of Urea fertilizer bags found hidden at Wabagai

IT News
Kakching, July 12:

Amid hue and cry over government failure to distribute subsidized Urea fertilizers to the farmers of the state, a huge quantity of Urea fertilizer (400 bags) was found hidden in a private store room located at Wabagai Bazar in Kakching district. Members of Kakching District United Club Organisation had distributed the hidden urea fertilizers to needy farmers.

The store room, which also runs as shops where the 400 bags of Urea fertilizer, was piled and hide comes under Wabagai Assembly constituency, where BJP MLA Usham Deben has been recently elected as the representative in 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election and is belonged to one Naorem Santa.

Local source said that the fertilizer bags recovered was hidden by the local MLA Usham Deben Singh, however, at the filing of this news report, there is no official confirmation about the owner of the urea fertilizer hidden at the shop's store room.

Earlier, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and the agriculture minister had assured stringent action against any culprits irrespective of their position, if found selling or hijacking Urea fertilizers, which are meant for distribution to the farmers.



Interestingly, it was neither the state police nor the officials of the department of Agriculture that traced and found the hidden fertilizers, but it was the local farmers and the members of LOUSAL (Loumee Sinmi Apunba Lup) and the (KADUCO) Kakching District United Club Organisation, that conducted the drive and recovered the huge quantity of Urea fertilizers hidden in a store room at Wabagai.

Laishram Shyam, Vice president of LOUSAL, who also joined the drive on Monday, expressed confuse on the reason for hiding the Urea fertilizers at a store room of a shop, instead of distributing it to farmers who are urgently in need.

"After seizure of the urea fertilizer bags, we the member

of the KADUCO had decided to distribute those to the farmers, but, while making preparation the owner of the shop locked the shop making the club members helpless", a member told reporters. The matter was intimated to the LOUSAL.

Laishram Shyam further told that the owner of the shop had told the Urea fertilizers belong to MLA Usham Deben, however, it is still to confirm whether the fertilizers are hidden by the MLA or it belong to some others planning to earn easy quick money by selling in black market.

"No matter, the fertilizers will be distributed to needy farmers", said Vice President of LOUSAL.

However late in the

evening irate members of the KADUCO distributed the hidden fertilizers to the farmers.

He further said that, the locals of the area had informed to the LOUSAL and KADUCO that the fertilizer bags were unloaded at the shop on 8 (eight) of last month. The government authority should let the public known - who is the owner of those fertilizers and how it was found hidden in a store room.

As per information from the Agriculture department, 2000 bags of Urea had been released through proper channel for farmers of Wabagai Assembly Constituency. For the month of June and July the department had released 1500 bags of Urea and another 500 bags of urea through proper official channel, official source told reporters.

Financial mismanagement, bribery, administration failure ruining Naorem Birahari College GB submits memorandum for action against Principal-in-charge

IT News
Imphal, July 12:

Alleged financial mismanagement, bribery, administration failure in Naorem Birahari College has crumbled the academic functioning of the aided college located at Khundrapam in Imphal East district.

Blaming the incompetence of the Principal-in-charge, I. Kunjabati, for the fiasco, the governing body of the College had suspended her and a memorandum to initiate enquiry against the Principal in charge, in connection with the misappropriation of college fund sanctioned by the University Grant Commission and its simultaneous impact to the smooth functioning of the College have also been submitted to the Commissioner of University and Higher Education, Govt. of Manipur.

Interestingly, I. Kunjabati Devi, the Principal-in-charge of Naorem Birahari College, also reportedly instigated some staffs of the college to intimidate the Governing body of the college. On the other hand, it surprises many on how a person, who have been detained under certain charges by the police for more than 48 hours, and suspended for the reason by the Governing Body continue to hold the office. The question arises here is - who is the strong influences political personality backing her to literally defunct the aided college?

As per the memorandum submitted to the Commissioner, University and higher Education, by the Governing Body of Naorem Birahari College, the college run B. voc courses with the funding from the U.G.C. under the supervision of its co-ordinator I. Kunjabati Devi. However, there has been no proper

functioning of the said course as such I. Kunjabati failed to submit the document pertaining to the course, such as sanctioned orders, financial statement/expenditures of B. voc programmes, Advertisement/ notice copies/ newspaper copy for appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in the B. voc programme, etc. when the same were demanded by Government of Manipur through the Principal office of the College.

The GB alleged I. Kunjabati Devi of taking bribe from gullible would-be teaching and non-teaching staffs under the pretext that the college would soon be converted into full fledged Government College.

"Now she allows such staffs, without any verification as to validity/ veracity of their appointment orders, to join the college, which causes the rampant increase in the number of unauthenticated staffs, 318 staff as per record for Covid-19 vaccinated staff lists submitted very recently to the directorate of Education (U) Office", the GB mentioned in the written complaint to the Commissioner Education (U).

It is also stated in the memorandum that, I. Kunjabati Devi is currently facing criminal charges in respect of FIR No. — 12(9)2021 SIN P. 1.-/S 307/342/325/120(B) IPC, for which she was detained in police custody for more than 48 hours. In connection with her criminal charges, she was kept under suspension by Governing Body, Naorem Birahari College contemplating Departmental enquiry against her.

In connection with the administrative failure the GB said that the college fund is being transacted through the bank Account other than those of College. General conduct of rules of Administration

does not prevail in the college, as such functioning of college Administration is now in the precarious state. Without giving any prior notice to Secy/Chairman of G.B. I. Kunjabati Devi instigated some staffs to break into the office of the Governing Body. In this regard, a formal complaint has been lodged to Heingang Police station for investigation.

It is also stated that Kunjabati Devi is found serving simultaneously in two colleges viz Waikhom Mani Girls' College, Thoubal and Naorem Birahari colleges as Head of Dept. in Economics (at least till 2009) and as engaged lecturer respectively. Considering her holding post of 11.0.D it may be inferred that she has genuine initial appointment order in Waikhom Mani Girls' College, not in Naorem Birahari College, Khundrapam. It can be realised from the fact that she failed to submit her initial appointment order when it was called for verification, under the notification from the Directorate of Education (U) and Office of the principal N.B college as well, in the run up to preparedness for absorbing staffs to 17 sanctioned posts. However, it is widely known that she is having a fake initial appointment order wherein she was temporarily appointed as lecturer in Naorem Birahari College, Khundrapam with the probation period of two years. The signature of Secretary G.B appended to the said appointment order is not compatible with real hand signature of the then Secretary, H. Ibobi Singh. Even if the said order is assumed to be a valid one, it still requires for her to produce a subsequent appointment order showing herself worthy for continuing her service.

School Fagathansi Mission bears fruit, Govt Schools record high pass percentage

IT News
Imphal, July 12:

The School Fagathansi Mission, an initiative of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led Government to give thrust towards improvement of Government Schools, has started bearing fruits as Government Schools recorded a high pass percentage of 60.40 percent in the recently declared High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination 2022 result. The pass percentage of Government Schools in HSLC Examinations conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur hadn't crossed 55 percent in the last ten years.

A total of 8306 students from Government Schools appeared for the HSLC Examination 2022, out of which 5022 students cleared the examination. It is worth mentioning that 43 Government Schools had shown an appreciable outcome in the said examination with 100 percent pass percentage. What is more inspiring is that all specially-abled students of Government Ideal Blind School and Government Deaf and Mute School, Takyel who had appeared for the HSLC examination this year had cleared the same.

The objective of N. Biren Singh led Government in its School Fagathansi Mission is to provide quality education to

all sections of the people by improving the physical and manpower infrastructure of the Government Schools. The Government aims to regain the trust of the people in Government Schools so that both the performance and enrolment increases.

As youths are the foundation of a society, the State Government is focusing on providing quality school education to

all students which is imperative for building a better society in Manipur.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh congratulated all the students who had cleared the HSLC Examination 2022, especially students who had appeared the examination from Government Schools. He also appreciated the teaching and non-teaching staff of Government Schools for their dedi-

cated efforts to provide better education to the students and help them score better marks in examinations.

He also appealed to students who could not clear the examination or who performed lower than expectations, not to be dejected. He exhorted them to take learning from the efforts and experience towards striving harder to achieve their goals.

ECI appoints senior officers as Observers for Election to the Office of President of India, 2022

IT News
Imphal, July 12:

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey.

The Commission mandates the collection of the materials from the ECI Headquarters at Delhi by Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) including one senior officer from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Once they reach Delhi, officials are also assisted at the help desk at the Delhi Airport manned by the officials of the Election Commission of India, Civil Aviation, Delhi Police, and CISF. Ballot boxes along with other essential election materials are handed over to the AROs under appropriate security and safety measures after complete inspection at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi.

Delhi Police teams escort the AROs while they come to collect the election material. The AROs return to their respective States/UTs on the same day as the collection of the election materials. During the transportation, the Ballot Boxes fly on a separate air ticket in the front row of aircrafts beside the seat of the officer transporting the materials under personal supervision.

While speaking to the AROs from the states, CEC Rajiv Kumar emphasized that strict adherence to procedures by the ECI teams has become its hallmark in delivering error free elections time and again. He added that a set of well-defined instructions and Standard Operating Procedures that

are required to be followed thoroughly to complete every electoral process account for ECI's robustness for conducting elections. He asked the officials to be vigilant and ensure strict adherence to protocols and guidelines for transportation and storage of election materials including ballot boxes and ballot papers.

Once the officers with ballot boxes reach the state capitals, these are stored in previously sanitised and properly sealed strong rooms under strict Videography monitoring. Ballot papers for Presidential Election are also stored and sealed along with. After the poll is over, the polled and sealed Ballot boxes and other election material have to be transported

back to the Office of Returning Officer that is Rajya Sabha Secretariat by the next available flight. The boxes and other documents are carried personally in the aircraft cabins - never out of sight of accompanying officers.

The Commission has already issued specific guidelines for conduct of polls and AROs and Observers are trained as such. A workshop for the RO, AROs & CEOs was also organized on June 13, 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan to brief them on all aspects of election procedure for the conduct of Presidential elections. The Commission has also appointed 37 Observers for overseeing the arrangements of polling and counting during elections and

a briefing meeting of these Observers was also organized on 11th July 2022. The Observers are senior IAS Officers of the rank of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary, Government of India. The Commission has deployed one Observer for overseeing polling at each of the 30 places of poll in the State/UT Legislative Assemblies and 2 observers for Parliament House. The designated Observers will take stock of election arrangements made for security and transportation of ballot boxes and election material by the ROs and AROs and ensure free and fair elections. The Observers deputed at Parliament House will also oversee the counting process of votes on 21st July 2022.

Petty Politics of Urea!

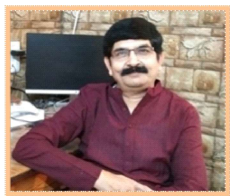
By: Yengkhom Yensouba

The perennial problem. Why feedback of chaos every coming year? A problem with no solution! Or no solution only in Manipur! Reports and insights suggest the fishy power game affecting constituencies and innumerable localities. The problem of this distribution mismanagement varies from place to place like inception with power inequalities but sooner or later cascading socio-economic effect is inevitable.

The test of patience and civilizing nature of affected farmers seem to peter out as there are alleged favouritism, nepotism and dirty politics spreads out and envelope now and then. Why there is no political will to solve this or do those indulged reap profits substantially in long term? Why can't it be sold in the market like other commodities? Concern authorities reply please. Or are you on puppet strings? If you (govt.) claim we are in democracy, be publicly accountable, transparent and solve once and for all, as public is unaware of many dynamics.

The consequences of uneven distribution in places like granary of Manipur will haunt sooner or later as a whole. Timely distribution is what matters. In some areas, feels like: Urea of the people, by the MLA and for the MLA workers & cohorts. I am afraid public now be charged of shortage after inviting trouble. Idealism, emotions and ground-realities doesn't always go hand-in-hand. Being an enthusiast of Do-Nothing Farming, in Masanobu Fukuoka's The One-Straw Revolution, I detest chemicals yet transforming overnight will be another disaster.

His Holiness Dalai Lama one of the most respected and trusted leaders in the world



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Recently the Tibetan community in Nepal celebrated the spiritual leader Dalai Lama's birthday with much fanfare. The 14th Dalai Lama, has achieved a level of visibility and celebrity that would have been unimaginable for his predecessors. He became the most famous Buddhist teacher in the world and is widely respected for his commitment both to nonviolence and to the cause of Tibetan freedom. The Dalai Lama means ocean of wisdom and is the manifestation of the Buddha of compassion.

Dalai Lama is a highly influential figure of Tibetan culture, and his escape to India sparked major outrage in the region. He reiterated his mission to serve humanity and urged supporters to be compassionate.

The Dalai Lama is a revolutionary because of the peace and love he spreads along his journey towards a Tibet free from china's communist grasp. The Dalai



Lama, often referred to as His Holiness, is the Head of state and spiritual leader of Tibet. He calls himself a "son of India" and somebody who has lived the longest in India as a "guest". His birthday celebrations, each year, in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala had always been one of the biggest events for the Tibetan community. There were many factors that helped in the Dalai Lama's fame and reputation in Tibet. Like his human rights pronouncements and holding degrees from different western universities, having talks with most of the world leaders about religion and politics, writing hundreds of books in many different languages and appearing on TV shows made him one of the most famous religious figures on earth.

The Dalai Lama is now known around the globe for being a messenger of peace and love. It is a fact that the Tibet and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama are inseparable and very much connected. Due to the Tibetans moving to many parts of the world, to many countries and to different cultures they are known for its religion. According to Buddhist belief, the current Dalai Lama is a reincarnation of a past lama who decided to be reborn again to continue his important work, instead of moving on from the wheel of life. A person who decides to be continually reborn is known as tulku. He believes that the purpose of life is to be happy. From the moment of birth, every human being wants happiness and does not want suffering. Neither social conditioning nor education nor ideology affect this. If we want to understand Dalai Lama's preaching of non-violence, we must comprehend non-violence. Non-violence is one of the highest virtues that should be accepted by everyone, no matter if they plead to Buddhism or not. Non-violence means to refrain from vicious actions.

The Dalai Lama's role as a spiritual and political leader was forced to change before the 1950s and he was the Buddha of India and he was the first to start Buddhism religion, and he was loved by most of his own people and had a lot of respect across a good majority of the western world. He has dedicated his life to working towards a free Tibet, away from the communist Chinese grasp. Ever since the invasion of Tibet by china the only goal for the Dalai Lama has focused on was a free Tibet, and he has dedicated his life for his cause. In 1989, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent efforts for the liberation of Tibet and his concern for global environmental problems.

He has travelled the world, spreading his belief in kindness and compassion. The Dalai Lama believes that showing kindness and respect is even more important in the world today because of violence around us. He also hopes to teach children through these values. Long live His Holiness Dali Lama.

(The writer is a Free-lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist)

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Churachandpur (Lamka) Town: The Unplanned Growth of Urbanisation and its Civic Management Systems



By: Paojakpup Guite

The jurisdiction of Churachandpur District Headquarters is classified as a town devoid of municipality. The roles, functions, responsibilities and powers in the town management are all vested in the Autonomous District Council, Churachandpur (ADCC). The current Chairman of ADCC is Shri Khaipao Haokip.

Lamka is the headquarters of Churachandpur district. It is 63.4 km away from the Manipur State Capital of Imphal. The town has approximately 1.2 lakh populations. The District Headquarters extends to Tuibong in the north, Lanva in the south, Rengai in the east and Headquarter Veng in the west.

Like other ADCs in the hill districts of the State, "the ADCC does not function to its optimum level. And, it is a toothless tiger", says Dr. Paolienthang Khongsai. Dr. Khongsai is holding a Post-doc degree in Political Science and is currently teaching in Rayburn College, Churachandpur.

Since the ADCC is found wanting of its roles and responsibilities, the town management initiatives are mostly taken up by local CSOs, Village Authorities (V/A) and the like. "We don't have a town committee or municipality" unlike the Kangpokpi Town Committee in Kangpokpi district or Hill Tribal Council (HTC), Morehin Tengnoupal district, "therefore, we have formed different CSOs like Vision Lamka (VL), Lamka Core, etc. to act as a policy advocacy group in dealing with township entities", informed Shri Nekkhomang Neihisai. Shri Neihisai is Chairman of Vision Lamka and a retired Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India, and currently a Member (Administrative) in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati Bench.

CSOs like VL work in tandem with the ADCC. The former would draft a roadmap for the town management

styles and structures and then submit it to the State Government through the latter. Other CSOs and agencies of same purposes follow suit.

"Urbanisation in and around Lamka is at an alarming rate since the last 35 years. One of the primary causes of this in-migration is due to the influx induced by the 'Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against Kukis' led by NSCN-IM in the 1990s and the Paite-Thadou fraternal friction in 1997", narrated Col. NG Sithou (Retd.) and now President, Ex-Servicemen League, Dist. CC Pur (Manipur).

Urbanisation is a part of history as a process which human beings cannot avoid. In the context of Churachandpur town, the phenomenon occurs a little awkward. In the town, urbanisation comes more with human population than with its corresponding civic amenities or apparatuses like sanitation, drainage system, traffic management, etc. Moreover, urbanisation in the town brings about acculturation of the west. "If you wish to go to a wine shop in Dorcas Veng, you are pushed in mind, though not compulsion, to put on a dress that makes you look like a German", exclaimed Rev. Dr. Jangkhoham Haokip. Dr. Haokip is the Director of Bethesda Kanhko Institute that focuses on indigenous studies reflecting on Christian values. Dr. Haokip likens this pejorative impact of urbanisation to Brian L. Pitcher's concept of "Urban Pathology", which may be defined in a nutshell as "human pathology that suffers from oppression in the city". In other words, it denotes negative impacts of urbanisation in a tribal society. Churachandpur Town Area Lamka Town is suffering from many kinds of urban pathologies including on culture and most importantly on civic management system. Absence of town planning is the sole cause of town mismanagement.

Notwithstanding its limitations, the ADCC is working with different departments of the State Government. The ADCC also chooses to work with the mentioned CSOs with its limited 27 subjects listed in The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971 under Article 371 (C) of Indian Constitution. The legislative, judicial and executive powers of ADC are not fully devolved to the local body. Therefore, the ADC is opting for a local arrangement to work with the local CSOs.

Sanitation

"The ADC Churachandpur is restricted to maintaining sanitation aspects only, in the town", revealed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), ADCC while adding that "we are denied of all other subjects envisaged in the Council's Act".

The ADCC is working in partnership with about 16 NGOs. Household collection of wastes is done by those NGOs through a Consumer Card. The Executive Officer of Town Office at Hiantam, Lamka issues a consumer card to each household of the town. Registration for the card has to be done in the Town Office. Initially, all this was carried out through a mechanism of Solid Waste Management Programme (SWMP). The solid waste garbage was classified into two categories as Dry Waste and Wet Waste separately. Only general solid wastes excluding bio-medical waste had to be collected. SWMP has now been renamed as Integrated Waste Management Programme (IWMP). IWMP deals with liquid wastes as well except for some liquid related water treatment which is a subject of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Churachandpur division. Therefore, under IWMP both solid and liquid wastes including sewerage system are managed by the ADCC with the help of NGOs and local CSOs and V/As.

The agencies collect wastes from each household to the dumping site at Sehken near Khuga Dam. For the time being, the ADCC has three dumping facilities, viz: (1) Plastic Recycling Plant (2) Compost Pit, and (3) Electric Incinerator. The fuel fire Incinerator has a storage and burning capacity of 5,000 to 10,000 kg of waste per day. The state-of-the-art technology based Incinerator contains in it water that cleans the smoke therein and produces a clear smoke which is less hazardous to the environment and atmosphere. The NGO or Town Office will make arrangements for provision of garbage bins/ bags.

Users of Consumer Card are classified into six (6) categories, each with a User Fee per month. They are: (i) Roadside vendors and petty business (Rs. 50/-), (ii) Individual households and small shops (Rs. 100/-), (iii) Shops (100 per add. Shutter) (Rs. 200/-), (iv) Retailer shops, Churches & Work-shops (Rs. 300/-), (v) Whole-sellers, School & Offices, Church Administrative Offices/Blocks (Rs. 500/-), (vi)

Financial Institutions, Hospital, College (Rs. 1000/-). The monthly fees have to be paid through the collector authorized by the concerned NGOs/ CSOs or the office representatives on the first week of the month. User Fees may be revised from time to time.

The CEO, ADCC is so much concerned of enforceability of its powers which in contrast is limited to sanitation only. The CEO said that she was so "optimistic of plastic sheets being converted into its multipurpose like for construction of toilets in government schools and for building walls of houses in general" and she further made an appeal that "NGOs and CSOs should always be proactive in maintaining a hygienic township".

Drain and Road Connectivity

Drainage system and road conditions in the town are extremely bad and worst during the peak monsoon season. V. Jamkhammang i/c EE, Public Works Department (PWD), Churachandpur Division lamented, "Journalists are being misled in their allegations that the funds meant for repair and maintenance are not utilised properly and siphoned off by the concerned authority". He cautions that "there is not a single penny sanctioned for repair and maintenance of existing drains and roads within the jurisdiction of Lamka town".

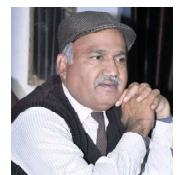
Worse, the EE of PWD, Churachandpur Division put that the Department has never conceived of having a collaboration with any other departments of the State Government within the district. Nor does it join hands with any NGO or CSO. He further put that "the PWD department remains totally independent".

During peak monsoon, the carrying capacity of drains cannot contain the water flow. The structural dimensions of the drain stand at 0.3m wide at the base and the surface at 0.6m wide while height of the drain is 0.6m. The height between the base and surface is slanting.

There are 3 broad types of roads under the jurisdiction of the PWD: 1. Inter-Village Road (IVR); 2. Other Village Road (ODR); and 3. Major District Road (MDR) with standard widths of 5.5m, 7.5m and 10.75m respectively. "We don't deal with the State and National Highways unless entrusted to do so", clarified the EE in-charge.

contd. on page 3

Starvation Strike



By: Vijay GarG

The crisis of hunger and malnutrition is acute

The latest United Nations report on food security shows that the problem of hunger in the world is getting worse. All over the world, 2.3 billion people are facing difficulties in getting food. This figure is for 2021, which also includes the deadly effects of the Corona crisis.

After the Russo-Ukraine war that started this year, due to the increase in the prices of food grains, petroleum products and fertilizers, the whole world is facing the frightening after that. The situation can be guessed automatically. Ironically,

all the efforts made in the last decade to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition all over the world seem to be floundering. A recently published report of the United Nations has expressed concern that the goals set to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2030 are now difficult to meet. It is noteworthy that out of the countries affected by the food crisis in the world, twelve countries are from Africa, one is the Caribbean country. One and two from Asia are Afghanistan and Yemen.

Armed struggle, debt burden, unemployment and poverty are at the root of this hunger, while misgovernance also has a big role to play. Undoubtedly, first the Corona epidemic and then the Ukraine crisis has only increased this menace. This is the reason that about three billion people of the world have become unable to collect the necessary dose for a healthy person. This crisis puts a question mark on the model of so-called modern development which promotes one-sided development while boasting about the revolution of science and technology in the world is giving.

On the one hand, prosperity and prosperity are waning, and on the other hand, the darkness of poverty is deepening in the lives of billions of people. In such a situation, it is natural to ask why the governments of different countries do not make sincere efforts to remove economic discrepancies. Why is there not an effective strategy to overcome this crisis, due to which the crisis of hunger and malnutrition is present in a formidable form. Its hallmark is that about three billion people in the world do not have the necessary food for a healthy life.

However, due to the ongoing crisis Inflation during the Corona crisis has a big role in increasing it, but at its core is also the power of the authorities. It is difficult to say how much infection was stopped by the drastic measures implemented to prevent corona infection, but it definitely increased the swamp of poverty. The question arises that why various global organizations and experts in these matters do not prepare a far-reaching strategy to eradicate poverty and hunger. This is the reason that the strategies designed to deal with this crisis are not proving effective on the practical ground.

of arrangement Holes and corruption are irrigating this crisis. It is a well-known fact that nature has made arrangements to feed every person, but the unjust distribution of resources has given rise to poverty and hunger.

First colonialism, then imperialism and finally the global economy, built on the interests of developed countries, has continuously widened the gap between rich and poor. The expansion of poverty in India and abroad in the Corona crisis and the increase in the number of billionaires is the truth of this unjust system. It is important that the available natural resources A war should be waged against food insecurity and hunger by planning.

How ironic that there is food insecurity and starvation on the earth and rich countries are looking for life on other planets. It is the responsibility of affluent countries to ensure that every person in poverty-stricken countries can get food to live. The heat of the fire arising out of poverty and anarchy in any country of the world is felt all over the world. In such a situation, the world fraternity needs to cooperate in the fight against poverty and hunger.

Covid-19 active cases cross 1.31 lakh, India logs 13,615 infections in 24 hours

Agency
New Delhi, July 12:

The number of active Covid-19 cases in India went past 1.31 lakh as the country logged 13,615 new infections in the last 24 hours. With an increase of 330, active coronavirus cases now comprise 0.30 per cent of the total infections.

Top 5 updates on Covid-19 situation in India:

> National capital Delhi logged 280 cases in the last 24 hours. The positivity rate in the city stood at 4.21 per cent. Mumbai saw 235 new infections, the lowest since May 25.

> Bengal reported over 1,900 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours. Over 2,400 cases were reported from Tamil Nadu, 448 Telangana, 511 from Gujarat and 673 from Karnataka as per data shared by news agency PTI.

> India reported 20 new Covid-linked fatalities on Tuesday according to Union Health Ministry data. The Covid death toll since the beginning of the pandemic now stands at 5,25,474. The 20 new fatalities consist of three each from Kerala and Bengal; two each from Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan; and one each from Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Sikkim.

> The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.23 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.24 per cent, according to the health ministry. More than 13,000 people were said to have recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the recovery rate to 98.5 per cent.

> On the vaccination front, 10.6 lakh doses were administered in the last 24 hours. Over 1.31 lakh of these were booster doses for beneficiaries between the ages of 18 to 59. India has so far administered over 199 crore doses under its nationwide vaccination drive.

PM Modi to partake virtually in first-ever I2U2 Summit with US, Israel & UAE on July 14

Agency
New Delhi, July 12:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 14 will participate in the first-ever I2U2 (India, Israel, US, UAE) Summit virtually on July 14. The virtual convention will see in attendance US President Joe Biden, Israel's interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid, and UAE's President Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. According to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs, the leaders will focus on the imminent threats

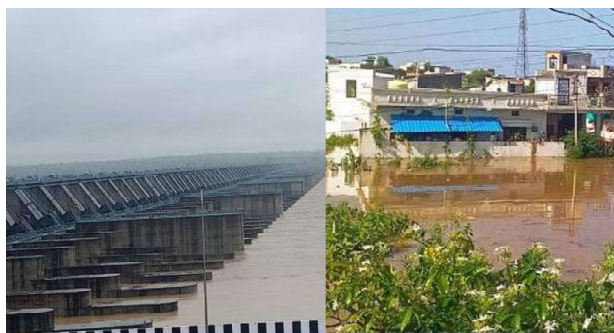
posed to a global population in the wake of the skyrocketing food and fuel prices given the tensed geopolitical landscape in east Europe.

The MEA in a press release stressed that the leaders of the four strong economies will shed light on possible joint projects within the framework of the I2U2 grouping. In addition, it will also explore prospects in other common areas of mutual interest in a bid to enhance mutual cooperation and economic partnerships in trade and invest-

ment. Further, the state heads are also expected to deliberate on sustainable and economically beneficial initiatives in the respective regions as well as beyond the territorial boundaries. "These projects can serve as a model for economic cooperation and offer opportunities for our businesses and workers," the MEA said.

The I2U2 grouping was conceptualised during the meeting with or Foreign Minister of the aforementioned countries in October 2021.

IMD issues Red alert for five districts of Maharashtra



(Left): The Medigadda barrage located on the Maharashtra-Telangana border. (Right) submerged areas of Gadchiroli due to the flood-like situation.

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 12:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Kolhapur, Palghar, Nashik, Pune, and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra with a forecast of 'heavy' to 'very heavy' rains till Thursday.

With rains lashing several parts of the state for the last few days, the administration has ordered the closure of schools and colleges in Gadchiroli in the Vidarbha region in Eastern Maharashtra till Wednesday.

With IMD issuing a red alert, Gadchiroli Collector Sanjay Meena issued an order stating that except for emergency services, all private offices, establishments, and shops will remain closed given the flooding till Wednesday midnight.

In the Gadchiroli district, three persons were swept away

in overflowing nullahs in the last three days and their bodies were fished out later, the District Information Office (DIO) said in a release. Besides, as many as 353 people from 129 places affected by heavy rains were shifted to safer places.

Most of the Vidarbha rivers including Pranhita, Bandiya, Pearlota, Paul Gautam, and Indravati are in spate. Due to the overflowing Vainganga river, the flood gates of Sanjay Sarovar and Gosikhurd dam were opened on Monday. Similarly, 81 floodgates of the Medigadda barrage (Kaleshwaram irrigation project) located on the Maharashtra-Telangana border were opened to reduce flooding. Nagpur received 65 percent of the July rainfall in the last 10 days.

The IMD has forecast thunderstorms with lightning very likely at isolated places over Chandrapur. Besides the light to moderate rainfall is very likely at

a few places over Gondia and at isolated places over Bhandara, Gadchiroli, and Yavatmal districts of Vidarbha on Tuesday, the IMD bulleting stated.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis visited Gadchiroli to take stock of the situation on Monday. They were informed by the officials that nearly 14 people died in different rain-related incidents in Vidarbha in the last few days. The administration has deployed 13 teams of NDRF and two teams of State Disaster Relief Force in the 8 districts for relief measures.

Nashik

Heavy showers continued to lash the Nashik district in Central Maharashtra, causing a rise in water levels of several rivers and submerging many temples located on the bed of the Godavari river. The IMD has issued a 'red' alert for Nashik district till Thursday,

with a forecast of heavy to extremely heavy rains of over 20 cm in 24 hours. In the last 24 hours, Surgana in the Nashik district received the highest rainfall at 238.8 mm, followed by Peth at 187.6 mm and Trimbakeshwar at 168 mm. The heavy rains resulted in an increase in water levels in various dams of the district. In Nashik city, pre-primary schools have been shut due to the rains

Nanded

The incessant rains triggered floods in rivers in Nanded and Ardhapur. The rains damaged crops and houses of farmers in the Nanded district of the Marathwada region. Nanded MP Prataprao Patil Chikahlikar has assured affected farmers of 100 percent financial assistance.

Mumbai

Light to moderate rains also lashed Mumbai and its neighbouring areas, but there was no report of water-logging anywhere in the metropolis, civic officials said. However, in neighbouring rural Thane, three houses collapsed and one person was reported drowned. Pune district, too, has been witnessing heavy rains for the last few days.

Meanwhile IMD in the late Monday evening bulletin forecast "Moderate risk likely over few watersheds and neighbourhoods of East Madhya Pradesh, West Madhya Pradesh, Konkan and Goa, Saurashtra and Kutch in south Gujarat region, south and east Vidarbha (Maharashtra), Chhattisgarh, North Telangana and coastal Karnataka in next 24 hours.

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Churachandpur (Lamka) Town: The Unplanned Growth....

The PWD, Churachandpur Division has currently a project of bitumening five roads. The project is being taken up under the auspices of 100 Days Programme of State Government. The project has a fund allocation of 3 crores. The five roads that are being renovated have been identified by the Section Officer (SO) and Assistant Engineer (AE) of the Department. The five roads are Mary Kom Road, Thangzam Road, Red Cross road, Nehru Marg Road and Mission Road (not in order of precedence or preference). Asked about the contractors, "I don't have any idea about who is assigned in which road", admitted the EE i/c. The contractor allocation depends entirely on the discretionary power of the concerned MLA.

Drinking Water Supply

The Lamka town is so infamous of its drinking water provision while it has a decade-old Khuga dam, which is less than 10 km away from the heart of the town about which I had written and got published by this daily and was titled, "The Holy grail of Khuga Dam: Promises vs. Plights".

The Churachandpur Division of PHED i/c Shri John Thanglienmang Singson pointed out that the PHED alone cannot be blamed for irregular drinking water supply. He asserted that "there is lack of co-ordination among PHED, PWD, MSPDCL and Water Resource Departments within the town". The four departments are entrusted to keep the towns well-equipped with mo-

dermy. Co-ordination among them, however, is so lacking. Convergence policy has to be engendered so that a proper town planning can be undertaken with the help of concerned local CSOs.

The Executive Engineer (EE), Shri Singson warns that "the PHED's sole responsibility is distribution of drinking water to the local populace". He further said that "there are such entities as tools and instruments (machineries) which my department cannot deal with". There are enough machineries which have but, remained spoiled and unrepaired over the years. The EE i/c lamented that "whenever we dig out the soil for a pipeline, the next day other departments will go and destroy the pipeline system just to go ahead with their own department's developmental initiatives".

To plug in this sort of inter-department disconnect, a proper clearance system has to be put in place. Doing this would entail an understanding among the different departments. "Suppose, as a PHED initiative when we dig the soil for pipeline, having in mind about clearance law, I cannot encroach other department's initiatives that preceded me, or we can keep space for other department's developmental initiative likely to be taken up in future", the optimistic PHED i/c EE proposed.

However, despite its management failure, the PHED i/c EE is positive enough in pointing out that a whopping 150 crore

Rupees loan being borrowed from New Development Bank (NDB) would lead to repairing of the spoiled and defunct machineries. The three water treatment plants at K. Mongiang, Bungmual and the Khuga Dam proper would hopefully be able to meet its potential of providing the required 20 million litres of water per day to the intended beneficiaries of quality drinking water. He also attributed the failure in drinking water provision to the absence of town planning.

Electricity Distribution

Churachandpur Division of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) is responsible for distribution of electricity in the district in general and the town in particular. The MSPDCL, Churachandpur Division has an installed capacity of about 40 MW for the district including Pherzawl and some pockets of Kumbi (Bishnupur Dist.) and Jiribam. Not a single unit of electricity is generated or distributed from Khuga Multi-Purpose Hydroelectric Project. The MSPDCL, CCpur Div. purchases the installed capacity of 40 MW from different electric generation companies like the NHPCL, NTPCL and BHEL.

Within the town jurisdiction, the MSPDCL has two power sub-stations: (1) Khengiang with 132/33/11 KV (3*5 MVA), and (2) Khominthang with 33/11 KV (2*5 MVA).

As per statistics furnished to me by Shri Laminlen, Manager MSPDCL, CCpur Division, the following achievements have been made so far:

1. **High Mash Lamps:** HMLs have been erected successfully at places like Tuibong, Rengkai, New Lamka (Dorcas Veng) and Police Station

2. **Electric Street Lamps:** ESLs have been successfully erected at portions of the street between Police Station and Rengkai Bridge and is pending at places between B. Vengmou and Electricity Office and between Red Cross Road and Thangzam Road.

3. **Solar Street Lamps:** SSLs have been successfully erected at portions of roads between Tuibong Bazar and Salem Veng. Further, the MSPDCL Manager reported that 80% of pre-paid electricity system has been achieved throughout Churachandpur including Pherzawl. The remaining 20% is still postpaid system that is confined in areas like Henglep sub-division, Sangaikot sub-division and partially in the Singhat sub-division.

Asked about electricity theft, the Manager of MSPDCL, Churachandpur Division thus concluded: "In my personal estimate a household steals Rs. 15/- per day, which totals to approximately Rs. 500/- in a month. This is too mean for a mature family to steal Rs. 15/- per day. So, I would request electricity consuming households to retrospect their honesty or integrity".

Law and Order

Both pedestrian and vehicular traffics pose a serious threat to the civic management of the town. According to Jamliankup SI i/c TCP, CCP, there are 12

numbers of traffic points. Each post has two shifts: (1) Morning Shift (7 am- 1pm), and (2) Evening Shift (1pm-6 pm). For each shift, two police personnel are manning the traffic points.

There is a Mobile Team that comprises of two sub-teams as (1) Vehicle Team of four to 5 police personnel, and (2) Barefoot Team of four to 5 personnel. Moreover, there is a group specially constituted to look after VIP Overtures. For the VIP Arrangement, no specific number of personnel is fixed for the purpose. It rather depends on the size of the programme.

There are indeed critical challenges regarding traffic management in the town. The roads are too narrow that they need expansion. Volume of commuters have crossed the carrying capacity of road esp. from Peace Ground to Lanva. To overcome this traffic congestion issue, the Superintendent of Police (SP), Churachandpur District has proposed a bypass road which should be constructed from Kaprang village. The bypass road should be laid up till Mualvaiphei and even can go beyond it to Lanva. This will help us do away with traffic issues in the town. This needs a policy intervention from our representatives.

"We have conducted enough of helmet drives, but acceptance among people is low. Bamboo barricades are damaged by reckless driving and sometimes even that of wooden barricade", warned the SP. The SP is so much anguished of VIP and public move-

ments along the one and only Tiddim Road. He further made a proposal that the ADCC should be taking up an initiative for a proper designation of a space for the purpose of parking auto-rickshaws that will help do away with haphazard parking and stoppage of vehicles. It should limit number of auto-rickshaws by reducing licenses.

The SP also pointed out that 330 acres and 222 acres of land have been destroyed in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Moreover, the Churachandpur Police are all set to destroy the poppy plants should the harvest season come likely in the month of December this year (2022).

In the last three months till 06/07/2022, several cases have been registered, and seizure being made by the R/O CCP District under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Sixteen persons have been arrested in drugs related cases and 795.69 Gms of H/P No. 4, 923 Gms of Brown Sugar, 14,517 Kgs of Opium, 1,500,000 WY tablets seized and destroyed 10 acres of poppy cultivation at Thangling Hill Range alone during this time period.

Looking at the nuances and complexities of urbanisation and civic management in the town, co-ordinations at different levels are indispensable. Co-ordination among the four government departments on one hand and them with the CSOs are essential. Administrative machineries like the ADCs have to be given their due importance in terms of legislative, executive and judicial powers. "An ADC

under 6th Schedule of Indian Constitution is a one-stop solution to bring about the required developments in the town", wished Dr. Paolienthang Khongsai. Dr. Khongsai is not averse to having municipality in Lamka town pointing at the required number of populations the town has. However, the district cannot risk of adopting Panchayati Raj Institutions, because it is a tribal dominated hill district having constitutional protections under Article 371 (C) of Indian Constitution.

The various steps taken by CSOs like Vision Lamka and Lamka Core, among others have to be strengthened. Proper awareness programmes related to urban developments and civil sense have to be promulgated among the common mass. To make Churachandpur (Lamka) Town the best in the world is the long-term vision of VL. VL has stated clearly in its policy document that Lamka Town will become the first Millennium City in the world. This may take hundreds of years. VL is more focused on the process than its result. Thankfully, the ADCC is looking forward to implementing laws banning single-use plastics in the town.

(The writer is pursuing an MA in Media Studies at the Central University of Hyderabad. Currently, he is undergoing a media internship with Imphal Review of Arts and Politics undertaken by Free Press School of Journalism under Pradip Phanjoubam Sir. He may be contacted at gutepaajakup9@gmail.com)

NDA's Tribal candidate Draupadi Murmu has divided the Opposition Camp

But our PM seeks to amend the Forests Act to disempower the Adivasis

By: Arun Srivastava
New Delhi, July 12:

The presidential election to be held on July 18 in the real sense is a royal battle between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the former BJP minister Yashwant Sinha. It would be wrong to construe that Sinha has a tough challenger in Draupadi Murmu. But there is no doubt that by fielding Murmu for the office of president, Modi has put Sinha in a very tight spot.

It is a known fact that Modi has been designing the campaign strategy for Murmu. Modi should have re-nominated Ramnath Kovind for the second term. But he did not. Instead he opted for Murmu with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He had come to realise that Kovind might not be able to protect his political interest in the backdrop of opposition trying to consolidate and strike back, after remaining down for last 8 years.

The major reflection that made Modi to fall on Murmu has been to entice the dalits and Adivasis. The RSS through its Adivasi sabbha has been desperately trying to win over the tribals. But so far it has not yielded a major positive response. The Adivasi organisation has been active in Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh for more than 40 years, but it has not succeeded in making a serious dent and rally the adivasis behind BJP. Though Modi has succeeded in creating a much larger and dependable support base in the urban middle class, he has not succeeded in identifying

himself with them. This is the reason that leaders like Shibu Soren could not be banished.

Through nominating Murmu and make her win the presidential election, Modi intends to expand his following and appeal amongst them. In the last assembly elections in these states, the tribals and Dalits had extensively voted for the JMM, RJD and Congress. By nominating Murmu as NDA candidate, Modi has managed to confound the opposition leaders.

It is really worrying to notice that prominent opposition leaders have been caught in the whirlpool of caste politics. At a time when the country is sliding down on all development indices and fascism is gradually overtaking the democratic functioning, these leaders instead of fighting the authoritarian rule are caught into the quagmire of caste politics. Some opposition leaders are in a fix over Murmu's candidature and nurse fears that opposing her might alienate tribal voters.

This attitude of theirs makes it explicit that they are also not concerned of the plight of the poor and common Indians. Like RSS and BJP, eliminating poverty, eradicating unemployment and bringing back health to the economy which has witnessed major decline during Modi's rule has not at all been the priority. It also gives rise to an impression that for them poor people of the country are more concerned of their caste interest rather than improving their financial condition and coming out of the economic morass. Had it

not been the case they would not have dithered on their choice of candidates and ensuring the defeat of Modi's candidate. Their vacillation personifies their lack of proper perception on deciding the correct priorities.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee who has played the vital role in selecting Sinha as the opposition candidate is also cagey as Bengal has a large Santhal population and she is afraid that BJP will get a breakthrough in the santhal areas in Bengal after Murmu's election as president. However she has stuck to the position that all TMC votes will go for the opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha. The other leaders are chief minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar. Of course Soren being from tribal community has been soft to Murmu, who had been the Governor of the state. Kumar who has been planning to float a new forum with RJD and has running feud with Modi, has also ironically decided to support Murmu. He is doing so when the state does not have significant number of Adivasi voters. He has thrown his weight behind Murmu only to ensure that Dalits do not turn hostile.

Though Modi and Amit Shah had engineered defection in Shiv Sena to bring the state under their control, the main consideration, apart from this gain, was to ensure enough electoral support for Murmu from Maharashtra. In the present political scenario Murmu is assured of solid support of at least 70 MLAs and MPs from Maharashtra,

which would have gone otherwise to Sinha.

The attempt of the BJP to engineer defection in Goa is purely meant to ensure victory of Murmu. BJP has its government in Goa. It has majority. There is no need for more votes to protect the government. Even then BJP has been engineering split to increase the vote tally.

While Modi has fielded Murmu, he has at the same time brought a legislation which completely alters the Forest Rights Act. This decision of Modi will disempower crores of Adivasis and others living in forest areas. Obviously, this has been done in the name of 'ease of doing business' for a chosen few. But it will end the 'ease of living' for the vast many. In August 2009, for ensuring implementation of this law, the then ministry of environment and forests had issued a circular that stipulated that no clearances for diversion of forest land under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, would be considered unless rights provided under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, were first settled. This circular implied that the rights of tribal and other communities have to be settled before a decision can even be considered on forest and environmental clearance.

Nevertheless Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha has described the election as a battle between progressive and regressive ideologies. For Congress it is an ideological fight and it has to fight, no matter how many votes Sinha gets.

(IPAService)

AR pays tribute to braveheart



IT News
Imphal, July 12:

SajikTampak battalion Assam Rifles conducted a wreath laying ceremony to late

Rifleman Top Bahadur Chetri of 15 Assam Rifles at SajikTampak, Chandel District today.

On 12 July 1961, Late Rifleman Top Bahadur Chetri displayed exemplary courage and

bravery while fighting the insurgents at Zunheboto (Nagaland) and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. The Assam Rifles salute the sacrifice of the braveheart.

Assam Rifles conducts Pre Recruitment Training for young aspirants

IT News
Imphal, July 12:

SajikTampak Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) has conducted pre recruitment training for young aspirants who are willing to join Indian Armed

Forces at SajikTampak village, Chandel district on July 11 and 12, 2022.

The aim of the training is to create awareness among the youths about recruitments process in Armed Forces. The training was focussed on pre recruitment training for Tech-

nical and Tradesman Recruitment rally for Assam Rifles. The trainees are also made aware about the documentation process, Exam preparation and physical training. A total of 35 male and 10 female candidates appeared in the training.

AR conducts lecture on preparation for Sainik School and RIMC Exam

IT News
Imphal, July 12:

Mantripukhri Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a lecture on preparation for Sainik School and Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) exam for students of Turning Point Coaching Centre at

KonthaAhallup in Imphal East district yesterday.

The aim of the lecture was to create awareness about Sainik School and Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) entrance exam. The lecture focused upon the preparation strategy, required study materials and also provided the platform for discussion on Sainik School

and Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) entrance exam to the students. A total of 50 students attended the lecture.

The Management Committee of the coaching centre appreciated the efforts and cordial relation of Assam Rifles for conducting awareness program and motivating the students.

Sports

FIH Women's Hockey WC: Captain Savita's heroics power India to 3-2 win over Canada in penalty shootout

Agency
Amstelveen (Netherlands), July 12:

Captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia's heroics in the shootout helped the Indian Women's Hockey Team beat Canada to register their first win at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022.

After the two teams ended the regulation time at 1-1, the Indian team defeated Canada 3-2 in the penalty shootout to progress to the 9-12th placings of the tournament. Madeline Secco (11') scored for Canada, while Salima Tete (58') scored the equaliser for India in the regulation time.

Savita, who put up a scintillating show, made a total of six saves in the shootout, while Navneet Kaur, Sonika and Neha converted their chances to help India register their first win in the competition.

An attacking start to the match saw the Indian Women's Team retaining most of the ball possession, trying to make space in Canada's half, but without causing



much harm. Canada, on the other hand, took some time to settle into the match and started to put pressure on India.

Their first real attack came in the 10th minute when they earned their first Penalty Corner of the match, but missed out on converting it. In just the next minute, they went on to break the deadlock through Madeline Secco, who managed to find the back of the net after a mistimed PC attempt.

Trailing by a goal, India started the second quarter aggressively and penetrated the Canadian defence on a number of occasions in the second quarter. One such oppor-

tunity came in the 25th minute when Vandana and Navneet combined together to take a shot on goal. But Canadian Rowan Harris averted the danger.

Putting pressure on their opponents, India went on to create various goal-scoring opportunities in the closing stage of the first half, but the Canadian defence unit kept Indian attackers at bay to maintain their 1-0 at the end of the first half.

India continued to play aggressively in the third quarter and was presented with a glorious opportunity to draw parity in the opening minutes of the second half. It was Navjot Kaur who was in an ideal po-

sition to shoot at goal, but her attempt went over the bar.

Minutes later, India conceded yet another Penalty Corner but Savita made a brilliant save. India went on to earn back-to-back Penalty Corners missed out on converting their chances. In the last minute, India again missed out on a golden opportunity to score as Lalremisami's diving attempt off Salima Tete's pass from the right flank missed the target.

Desperately looking for an equaliser, India showed urgency to convert a goal in the final quarter. After a number of missed PC attempts, India finally scored an equaliser in the 58th minute through Salima Tete who found the back of the net through a perfectly executed PC variation. Canada earned the PC right away but missed out on converting it, thus ending the match at a 1-1 stalemate.

On July 13, India will take on Japan in the 9th-12th placing match at 2000 hrs IST. India vs Japan match will be telecasted on Star Sports First, Star Sports 3 and streamed on Disney+ Hotstar.

Women's Euro 2022: England humble Norway 8-0 in a record win, enter quarter finals

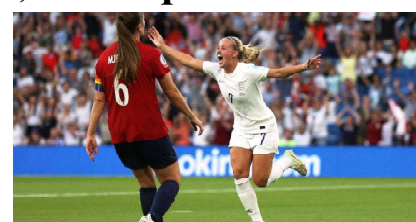
Agency
London, July 12:

England became the first team to score eight goals across men's and women's European Championships in their clean sheet win on Monday, July 11 in Brighton. With two wins in two games, the hosts also became the first team to qualify for the knockout stages of Euro 2022.

England took the lead inside 12 minutes in the Group A fixture, thanks to a Georgia Stanway kick from the spot after Ellen White earned a controversial penalty that wasn't overruled by the VAR.

Left winger Lauren Hemp then doubled the advantage with an easy tap in three minutes later.

Already trailing, all hell broke loose for Norway from minute 29 as England scored four goals inside the 13 minutes that followed. Ellen White and Beth Mead scored twice, with the Lionesses becoming the first team to score six first half goals in the competition's history, breaking France's record of five that they had set 24 hours ago against Italy.



Ellen White drew closer to a big record of her own, with the 33-year old now just one goal away from joining Wayne Rooney as England's all time top scorer.

The veteran forward would have to wait another day as Sanna Wiegman introduced four changes to the XI in the second half.

Alessia Russo, who replaced White, got on the scoresheet in the 65th minute with a thumping header, making it 7-0. Also the first seven goal lead a European Championship match had seen.

First goal scorer of Euro 2022, Beth Mead rounded up a historic night for the home side. The 27-year-old pounced once an initial save made by Norwegian goalkeeper Guro Pettersen to

make it 8-0 and complete the second hat trick of the tournament. She now leads the chart for most goals with four in two games.

England's win not only saw them through to the quarter finals but also ensured that Northern Ireland's chances for the same were wiped clean. The Norway-Austria matchday 3 fixture will decide the second team progressing through Group A.

The hosts will meet the second placed team from Group B, and with a 10 goal positive difference, are expected to qualify as the top ranked side from their group. With Germany and Spain, both having won their first game with a 4-1 margin, it is expected that either of them will face the hosts in the next stage. The two teams face off on Tuesday in Brentford.