

Chief Minister congratulates teachers for high pass percentage in recent HSLC Examination

IT News
Imphal, July 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has lauded and congratulated government school teachers as Government Schools recorded a high pass percentage of above 60 per cent in the recently declared High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination 2022 result.

The Chief Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the Graduation Day ceremony of Phase 2 Training-Valedictory Programme of 10-Day Induction Training Programme for teachers and headmasters of government schools at Tamphasana Girls Higher Secondary School, Old Lamulane today.

The Chief Minister further said the teachers should set a target to achieve cent percent pass percentage next year. He said that the government will also honour and award teachers of Government Schools which had secured high pass percentage in the recent HSLC Examinations.

The government strives to provide good quality education for everyone, he said, explaining that the School Fagathansi Mission was launched in 2018 with the same objective of improving



school education.

The Chief Minister said the School Fagathansi Mission has been very useful and since its launch, admission in government schools has increased tremendously. He said that around 180 schools have been covered under the mission for better infrastructure and overall improvement.

N. Biren Singh also appreciated the energy and confidence shown by the teachers during the function and said the teachers should approach their students with the same zeal as shown today.

Discipline is everything, he said, explaining that a disciplined teacher will only produce good and disciplined

students.

He said he can see smart, energetic teachers with a "Ready to do something" zeal in the teachers present today and said the credit should go to the STAR Education team.

The Chief Minister further said that today we could consider STAR Education policy as a success and congratulated the Minister, commissioner, director and their teams involved in the programme.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has also urged everyone to wear mask and take COVID vaccination.

Education Minister Th. Basanta said that the Chief Minister has led from the front by encouraging all in bringing

a sea of change in the State's education sector.

He said education is the foundation of any society and every advanced society developed due to their education system.

He appealed to the teachers participating the training to inspire their students and fellow teachers and further said that the top priority should be the students and how to make students improve their performances.

Basanta also said that let us fully implement the "No School Bag day" on Saturdays and dedicate the day to educate the students on social skills and others.

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Agniveer recruitment for the State's youths to be held at Leimakhong

IT News
Imphal, July 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh expressed his sincere gratitude and thankfulness to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for making suitable arrangement for the Agnipath Army Recruitment Rally for the youths of Manipur in the State itself. Youths of the State will now have the opportunity to appear for the Recruitment Rally in the State.

The Agniveer Recruitment for all the districts of Manipur, which was earlier scheduled to be held at Dimapur, Nagaland, had been rescheduled to be held at Leimakhong, Manipur from November 23 to December 5, 2022. Registration for the recruitment rally can be done by log in to joinindianarmy.nic.in and the registration window will be opened till August 3, 2022. Candidates who have already registered earlier need not register again.

It may be mentioned that Agnipath Scheme was introduced by the Government of India on June 14, 2022 for recruitment of soldiers below the rank of commissioned officers into the three services of the armed forces. The Scheme will provide opportunity to youths of the Country to serve the Nation as Agniveers through enrolment in the Armed Forces, for a period of four years, through Pan India merit based recruitment.

Bishnupur District Sports Development Fund launch



IT News
Bishnupur, July 16:

Youth Affairs & Sports Minister, Govindas Konhoujam today launched the District Sports Development Fund at the Conference Hall of DC Office, Bishnupur.

Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur, Lourembam Bikram, ADM, H. Bobby Sharma, District Youth Affairs & Sports Officer, Soibam Ibeyaima Devi, representatives of district level sports organizations/associations, sportspersons from different disciplines and officials concerned attended the launching

of the District Sports Development Fund.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Govindas Konhoujam lauded the District Administration for initiating - District Sports Development Fund - to support and encourage sportspersons and sports activities in the district by utilizing the prize money received under Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration, 2021.

He expressed that the noble initiative will greatly aid in meeting the travel expenses of athletes and in organizing district level sport events. He

also emphasized the importance of grooming budding sportspersons and guiding them to overcome any hurdle they may face at the later stage of their sports career. He hoped that the District Sports Development Fund will enable the sportspersons in achieving their goals and in steering the district towards betterment in the arena of sports.

The Minister further stated that the government has put up proposals to the central ministry for developing and improving sports infrastructure in the State and the district as well.

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First time in Manipur RIMS Dental doctors' team stone removed from beneath tongue

IT News
Imphal, July 15:

First time in Manipur, a team of Dental Doctors led by Dr. Koijam Sashikumar Singh, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Dental College, RIMS successfully removed two stones each measuring 4 mm and 3mm in length from left Submandibular duct. The team of doctors includes Dr. Deepak Ningombam Singh and Dr. Albert Ashem.

Dr. Koijam Sashikumar Singh stated that just like in



kidneys, stones may be formed within the salivary glands and ducts. If stones are formed within gland, there may be pain and swelling of the involved gland located in the upper neck and ear region.

He further stated that presence of infection within the gland and duct, reduced salivary flow, reduced water intake, accumulation of inorganic salts like calcium, hydroxyapatite, whitlockite, and octacalcium phosphate may lead to stone formation.

Monsoon Session: 24 new Bills to be introduced in Parliament; Opposition's joint strategy meet on Sunday

New Delhi, July 16:

A total of 24 new bills will be introduced in this monsoon session of Parliament, which will begin from July 18 and continue till August 12. Governors, chief ministers, state ministers and former MPs will all be allowed to enter the central hall. The customary all-party meeting before a parliament session as well as the joint strategy meeting by the opposition are set to take place on Sunday.

Among important bills are the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2022, (aimed at replacing the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867); the Cantonment Bill (aimed at achieving greater de-

velopmental objectives in alignment with municipalities across the country and "ease of living"); the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill (aimed at rationalising the government's role in co-operatives and increase participation in the working of the multi-state cooperative societies); the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill (aimed at strengthening the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code by introducing provisions on cross-border insolvency and certain other amendments for a time-bound resolution of stressed assets while maximising their value).

Here's a list of the bills listed for introduction, consideration

and passing during the monsoon session:

Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022: Introduced in Lok Sabha on April 1, 2022

Introduced, referred to standing committees and report presented

1. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021: Introduced on December 17, 2021. Its report by standing committee on science and technology, environment, forests and climate change was submitted to Lok Sabha speaker on April 21, 2022

2. Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2019: Introduced on December 9, 2019. Its report by standing committee on external affairs was presented to Lok Sabha on February 11, 2021

3. Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019: Introduced on December 11, 2019. Its report of the standing committee on social justice and empowerment was presented on January 29, 2021

4. National Anti-doping Bill, 2021: Introduced on December 17, 2021. Its report of the standing committee on education, women, children, youth and sports was presented on March 23, 2022.

New Bills
1. Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill, 2022: Promotion and development of the coffee industry, enabling functioning of modern promotion and development of Coffee

Board.
2. Development of Enterprises and Services Hubs (DESH) Bill, 2022: Revision of Special Economic Zones Act and to frame rules

3. Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Rationalisation of government role and increasing member participation in the working of the multi-state cooperative societies, so as to increase public faith and create a conducive environment for their growth and development; building self-reliance and democratic cooperative institutions; enabling cooperative societies to compete in a new economic environment and raising resources more effectively by promoting functional autonomy and professionalisation; protection of the interest of depositors/members from vested interests and mismanagement

4. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Amendment of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, to make some procedures simplified so as to be more accessible.

5. Warehousing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Strengthening WDRA (Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority); helping farmers store produce in scientific warehouse godowns; encouraging scientific warehousing ecosystems

6. Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Carrying out certain essential structural changes in the governing structure of the CCI and changes to substantive provisions to address the needs for new age markets

7. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Strengthening the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, by introducing provisions on cross-border insolvency; carrying out some amendments to corporate insolvency resolution process and liquidation process

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Sri Lankan Dystopia

By: Sauro Dasgupta

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official resignation as Sri Lanka president has been sent to Colombo, and it was formally accepted soon after, following which he first fled to Maldives and then to Singapore. The people had ousted the Rajapaksa for mismanaging the country.

When Ranil Wickremesinghe became the Prime Minister in May, it was hoped that he would be contributing to political stability. But that was not to happen. The people rather entered his residence and burnt it. It was rather more damaging than what happened to President Rajapaksa- his residence was simply occupied by the people. He has appointed a special committee consisting of Chief of Defense Staff, Inspector General of Police and the commanders of the three armed forces. They have been given full freedom to take legal action without any political interference.

President Gotabaya became unpopular because people didn't have enough food to eat and no other essential items were available. The limited stocks were being sold at skyrocket prices. Educational institutes are closed and offices hardly function in a week. The balance of payments crisis is so bad that the country has simply run out of foreign exchange to pay for its imports.

While Rajapaksa may have won a grand victory in 2019, the people who elected him wanted him to leave. India did well in not sending its troops and by clarifying that it would not do so. India would have become unpopular with the Sri Lankans.

Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa has a good chance of being elected President. Therefore, it is important to assuage him on the part of Wickremesinghe that they would be working together to heal Sri Lanka. A multi-party government of Premadasa and Wickremesinghe should restore order. Exports and tourism must be enhanced, along with new avenues to increase the government's income. India is doing what it can, with promised aid of over \$4 billion over and above the existing help to Sri Lanka. India must continue to help Sri Lanka in economic ways, like the recent line of credit given to them. At the same time, India must keep an eye on these disturbing developments in its neighbourhood and try to tackle them well.

(The writer is a PG 2, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University)

Institutions need to take to improve student success



By: Vijay GarG

The steps that institutions need to enhance student success are not a secret. The broad access campuses that have moved the needle on retention and graduation rates have advanced along similar paths. Here are the eight pillars of student success.

1. Enhanced onboarding

The advice you received as a child is correct: First impressions are lasting impressions. How first-time and transfer students are introduced to a campus has a lasting impact on their subsequent success. Successful institutions introduce students to a dedicated advisor. They inform students about campus services and opportunities. They emphasize the institution's commitment to providing students with the support and services they need to succeed. And they offer pre-enrollment bridge programs and boot camps to ensure that students succeed in their first-year classes.

2. A robust first-year experience

If students are to succeed, they need to get off to a positive start. Meta Majors – an integrated first-

year experience built around clusters of classes with a common focus – offer new students a supportive community, close relationships with instructors and classmates, dedicated advisors, and a host of engaging high impact experiences. The strongest Meta Majors provide training in time management and study skills and help students explore possible majors and careers.

3. Data-informed proactive advising

A campus' use of data need not be overly complex. Early alerts notify advisors when students are in trouble, prompted, for example, by low scores on early assignments, or enrollment in an unusually small number of courses. The students can be nudged to take advantage of learning centers, tutoring, study groups, and supplemental instruction.

4. Early exposure to career planning

Most students come to college to enter a fulfilling career. Institutions need to provide students, early in their college experience, with relevant labor market data, including job sectors that are growing, starting salaries, high demand skills, and educational requirements for particular jobs. Schools also need to inform students about the career opportunities associated with each major and introduce them to alumni who graduated with particular majors. In addition, schools might offer skills workshops to help students develop high demand skills and provide pre-professional advis-

ing and activities to better prepare them for advanced education or the job market.

5. Expanded access to experiential learning activities

There is no doubt that the best way to build students' credentials or to help them make an informed choice about a future career is to increase their opportunities to take part in experiential learning opportunities. Internships, mentored research, practicum and field-based learning experiences, service learning, and study abroad all help students clarify their educational and career goals and build their skills.

6. Enhanced student support services

Most students drop out not for academic reasons, but because of life challenges. To help students meet these challenges, successful campuses offer emergency financial aid and assistance with housing, transportation, food, and childcare.

7. Fostering a success-oriented mindset and sense of belonging

Students who drop out often feel unwelcome on campus and incapable of meeting a campus' academic expectations. In contrast, successful students have a sense of connection to faculty, classmates, and advisors, and a positive mindset about their ability to achieve their goals. There are simple steps that successful institutions take. They encourage students to take part in campus activities and to join student interest groups. These schools foster stronger student-faculty ties,

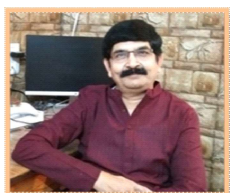
often by instituting "take your professor to lunch" programs or integrating co-curricular activities (like visits to a museum or a performance) into courses.

8. Removing institutional obstacles to success

Excessively complicated and seemingly irrelevant degree requirements, roadblock courses, and unavailable or inconvenient classes can serve as serious hurdles to student success. Majors with steep barriers to entry can demoralize students. So, too, can a refusal to accept credits from feeder institutions. Sometimes, these obstacles make sense on pedagogical grounds. But when they don't, change needs to take place. The most successful institutions have expanded course availability, often through online courses. They have simplified degree requirements and taken steps to address curricular roadblocks. They have created a campus culture geared toward success, both academic and career success.

To be sure, we must not minimize other factors that can promote or hinder student success. The classroom experience is, of course, especially important. Students who succeed feel that their classes are relevant and engaging and that their professors genuinely care about their learning and their success. Active learning is valuable not only because it can contribute significantly to improved skills development and better command of the material, but because it engages students in their own learning.

India's electric vehicle push will lead to greener future



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Electric vehicles (EVs) are growing in popularity and certainly in mind space. Looking at the road ahead, India aspires to reach its vision of 100% Electric Vehicles by 2030. Surely, factors such as increasing government support, decreasing cost of technology, growing interest of the country in EVs, distressing pollution levels, etc would collectively fuel and accelerate India's transition to electric vehicles and enable the government to near its vision. The pandemic has given a

boost to electric vehicles across the world as commuters avoid public transport. One of the main advantages of electric vehicle is that it does not emit harmful gases compared to conventional vehicles. The government has also come forward to increase the number of EVs. By 2030 India is aspiring to reach the vision of 100% Electric Vehicles. But the government's will to make a complete transformation to EVs will require tremendous changes from the base level onwards. Consumers in India are seeking a lower price point for EVs than consumers in other countries, with the global average tipping price point for EVs being at USD 36,000 vtz. around Rs 27 lakhs.

PM Modi has rightly said that "Clean mobility powered by clean energy is our most powerful weapon in our fight against climate change and also added that his vision for the future of mobility in India is based on 7 Cs: common, connected, convenient, congestion-free, charged, clean, cutting-edge." The electricity source in the case of EVs is equally significant. If energy is generated by means of environmental destruction such as coal-fired power stations, as is often the case in developing countries, it essentially contradicts the environmental benefits of electric cars. As electric vehicles are free of internal combustion engines and commonly speaking, have fewer parts, they are generally simpler than traditional vehicles. The newly launched 'Switch Delhi' Campaign has seen a great response so far which is an encouraging sign for the EV industry.

The cost for an electric vehicle is therefore considerably higher than for a conventional vehicle but it makes a lot of sense to dive if you want to keep the product for a decade or more. This is due to the considerably lower operational and maintenance costs of an EV. EVs nowadays have become much more affordable than before. Moreover, the cost of servicing, upkeep, and maintenance of an electric car has foundered significantly. Since electricity is more economical than fuel, EVs are relatively cost-effective. Buying an EV can reduce your carbon footprint because there will be no emissions at all.

EVs have overcome their erstwhile shortcomings and newer models are better than bygone counterparts. Electric car manufacturers would have to go an extra mile to get people to make the switch from regular cars to EVs. EVs hold the key to permanent solutions of a better, cleaner India for the sustainability of its populace. By promoting the EV sector's organic growth and enhancing its popularity among the people with governmental media programmes, a substantial cut in fossil-fuel run vehicular mobility can be made possible.

No doubt, EVs are expensive, primarily because of the battery. By switching over to clean-green energy run EVs, we can make skies crystal clear, allowing us to look at distant places. We must remember that "Change is the only constant in life" Change is a part of our life and most of the times, humans work together for a positive change that can benefit society. What our Indian market need is encouragement for indigenous technologies that are suited for India from both strategic and economic standpoint.



By: Shahnaz Husain

It's always a special time of year. The most awaited apple season 2022 has begun with farmers harvesting the first of this season's apples.

Apple varieties that ripen early have already made their way to the markets in metropolitan cities.

This amazing fruit are free of fat, sodium, and cholesterol and loaded with antioxidants, vitamins, fiber and other nutrients which **boost immunity**, neutralise irritable bowel syndrome, detoxify liver, avert hemorrhoids, help with **weight loss**, aid digestion, help with detoxification of the body and lead to better blood circulation. The water content in apples is very high which help with hydration and also cleanse the skin. Freshly picked apples are lunchbox and fruit bowl favourite

Apples aren't just delicious, they have potent beauty benefits as well. Its multi-vitamin nutrition and natural fruit acids brighten and lighten your skin and provide protection against tanning. The fruit acts effectively on your skin by doing away with the pathogens and excess oils which helps to maintain a glowing skin as well as a healthy body. It can help remove blemishes and is very effective for pimple removal. Apart from being packed with vitamins and minerals, apples also contain pectin and tannin, which help to tone and tighten the skin. Pectin is said to have a soothing effect on sensitive skin. Apples are wonderful skin toners. Skin soother, Facial toner, The wrinkle buster, Scalp purifier helping to tighten the skin and stimulate blood

Apple Benefit for Skin

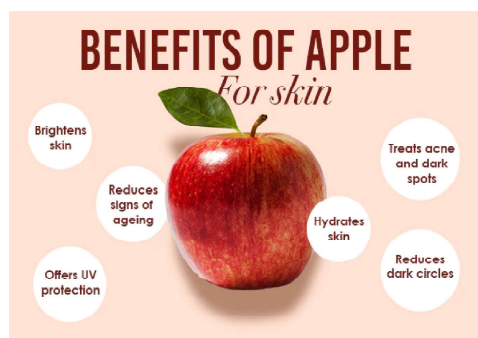
circulation to the skin surface. They also have anti-oxidant properties, helping to prevent oxidation damage and thus delaying visible ageing signs on the skin.

Their high content of vitamin C helps to build collagen, and their levels of copper (60 mcg in a large apple) encourage your skin to produce melanin, the pigment responsible for colour in your skin. This helps to protect your skin from UV rays and melanin also helps to build healthy tissues, hair and eyes.

To get rid of the puffiness and reduce the dark circles, simply place apple slices under your eyes for at least 20 minutes. You can also mix apple cider with grated potatoes for puffiness of the eyes. Peel and grate a small potato and mix two spoons of apple cider with it. Apply it on the puffy areas and leave it on for 15 to 20 minutes and wash with fresh water.

To get the most out of apples, leave the skin on - it contains half of the fiber and many of the polyphenols.

Recent research has revealed that Green Apples may be of great benefit to the hair, in terms of controlling hair loss and promoting hair growth, because they contain polyphenols, which are said to be nature's perfect antioxidant. Apples contain fruit acids, which have a powerful cleansing effect on the skin, loosening and removing dead skin cells. This helps to brighten the skin and gradually clear away blemishes, like dark spots. Raw apple pulp or apple juice can be applied on the skin daily and then washed off with plain water after 20 minutes. It stimulates blood circulation to the skin surface, adds a glow and helps to reduce lines and wrinkles on the skin. The fruit acids also reduce oiliness, discouraging and reducing blackheads and whiteheads. Apples can also be used as a scrub, mixing it with ground almonds and a little milk or curd. This can be applied on the face and body and rubbed gently on the skin with small circular movements.



Apples have a healing effect and can benefit acne-prone skin. Grated apple can be mixed with a little curd and applied on skin with acne. Grated apple can also be added to face masks. Mix oats with curd, honey and apple pulp or grated apple into a paste. Apply on the face and wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes.

Apple cider vinegar, which is obtained from apples, is one of the most useful remedies for common beauty problems. It helps to restore the normal acid-alkaline balance of the skin and scalp. That is why it is of help to pimple and acne prone skin. All said and done, apple cider vinegar, like all vinegars is acidic. The main component is acetic acid. It also has other acids, along with vitamins, mineral salts and amino acid.

As far as external beauty care is concerned, apple cider vinegar has been used for a number of skin and hair problems. For example, it makes a good hair rinse, restoring normal balances and adding shine to the hair. After shampoo, add two tablespoons apple cider vinegar to a mug of water and use it as a last rinse.

If you have dandruff, wash your hair with a mild herbal shampoo three times a week, using less shampoo and rinsing very well with water. Half an hour before shampoo, apply two tablespoons vinegar on the scalp, massaging it lightly into

the scalp. In case of sticky dandruff that adheres to the scalp, soak cotton wool in apple cider vinegar and rub gently on the scalp to dislodge the flakes.

Apple cider vinegar can also be used to restore balance to acne prone skin. Mix one part vinegar with three parts water. Soak cotton wool in the solution and dab on the face. The skin has a natural acid mantle and restoring the acid-alkaline balance helps to keep the skin healthy.

If there is itching on body skin, apple cider vinegar helps to relieve itching. Add some vinegar to bath water and rinse the body with it, specially the parts with itching. It is said that apple cider vinegar also helps warts. It is best to refer warts to a dermatologist, or go for homeopathic treatment, but if you wish to try home remedies, apply the vinegar on the warts daily using cotton wool. It is said that this causes them to finally fall out.

A single apple can contribute five percent of a woman's daily requirements for vitamin A. They make a healthy quick snack when chopped, sprinkled with cinnamon and spread with almond butter, and are a delicious addition to sweet and savoury dishes.

Yes.....an apple a day also keeps beauty problems at bay!

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

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India logs 20,044 new Covid cases, 56 deaths in last 24 hours

Agency
New Delhi, July 16:

India's daily Covid tally on Saturday remained above the 20,000-mark for the third consecutive day with 20,044 fresh infections in the last 24 hours - taking the total tally to 4,37,30,071. The active cases in the country have surpassed the 1.40 lakh mark - accounting for 0.32 percent of the total cases.

According to the union health ministry, the country registered a total of 56 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the official count of the fatalities to 5,25,660. A total of 18,301 people have recovered in the last 24 hours - with the recovery standing at 98.48 percent, as per the latest health bulletin.

The daily positivity rate stands at 4.80 percent.

Meanwhile, a total of 4,17,895 samples were tested for coronavirus in the last 24 hours.

India's vaccine coverage has reached the 199-crore



mark. Over 3.79 crore first doses and over 2.60 crore second doses have been administered for the age group of 12 to 14. Over 6.80 crore first doses and more than 5 crore second doses have been given to the 15 to 18 age group, as per the government data. Meanwhile, over 4.52 crore precaution doses (booster shots) have been given to people above 60 years of age, healthcare workers, and front-

line workers.

The surge in Covid cases come as the government began free booster shots on Friday. About 92% of Indians who are currently eligible for a third, or booster dose, of the Covid-19 vaccine have not yet taken these shots, Hindustan Times corroborated data in a report.

Meanwhile, amid concerns over fresh Covid waves, a top WHO scientist has sent a note

of caution on variants and fresh waves of the virus. "We need to be prepared for these COVID-19 waves- each new variant will be more transmissible, and immune evasive-higher numbers infected will translate into greater hospitalizations and sickness. All countries must have a data-driven plan to quickly respond to changing situations," Soumya Swaminathan wrote on Twitter on Saturday.

If lawyers charge Rs 10-15 lakh per hearing, how can common man pay: Law Minister Kiren Rijiju

Agency
New Delhi, July 16:

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday expressed concern over the exorbitant legal fees charged by prominent advocates, thereby putting justice out of reach for the poor and marginalised in the country.

"Resourceful people can afford big lawyers. There are lawyers in Supreme Court whose fees a common man cannot afford. If they charge Rs 10-15 lakh per hearing, how can a common man pay up?" Rijiju said while addressing the 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet in Jaipur.

The law minister also said that 71 obsolete Acts will be repealed in the Monsoon session of Parliament, slated to begin from Monday, July 18.

Also in attendance at the legal services meet was



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. He commented on the rampant criticism by a section of the social media campaign of Supreme Court judges who came down heavily on former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for her remarks against Prophet Muhammad.

"It is a matter of great concern that a campaign was launched against two SC

judges for expressing their view while hearing a plea of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma," he said.

In an oblique dig at the BJP, Gehlot went on to note that governments are being changed through horse trading. "The situation prevailing in the country is very critical. It is a matter of surprise how my government survived," he said.

Japanese Encephalitis in Assam: Four more people die due to infection; flood-hit state reports 16 new cases

Agency
Guwahati, July 16:

Four more people lost their lives in Assam on Friday due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE). Till now, 23 people have died in July due to the infection in the flood-hit northeastern state. Two deaths each were reported from Nalbari and Morigaon districts of Assam.

Meanwhile, 16 new cases of Japanese Encephalitis were reported in the state in the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 160 this month, reported PTI. Four fresh cases were reported from Nagaon district, while three cases each were de-

tected in Nalbari and Udalguri districts of the state.

Meanwhile, Sivasagar reported two Japanese Encephalitis cases. Barpeta, Kamrup Metro, Karbi Anglong and Hojai reported one case each. On Thursday, three deaths were reported due to the viral infection. Notably, JE spreads by mosquitoes, especially during the monsoon flood season between May and October.

On Friday, Principal Secretary (Health) Avinash Joshi directed all districts to form a District Rapid Response team on Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis. The National

Health Mission, Assam asked the officials to follow the Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines for AES and JE case detection.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam further improved on Friday. The number of affected people declined to 2.10 lakh on Friday from 2.29 lakh on the previous day. One person also died due to the deluge, taking the toll due to floods and landslides to 194 this year. Cachar is the worst-hit district with over 1.20 lakh people still suffering from the calamity. More than 10,000 people are taking shelter in 45 relief camps across the state.

Monkeypox: Tamil Nadu begins screening of international passengers days after first case found in Kerala

Agency
Chennai, July 16:

Days after the first case of monkeypox was detected in neighbouring Kerala, the Tamil Nadu government on Saturday began the screening of international passengers at the Chennai Airport. The first case of the rare virus was reported in Kerala's Kollam district on July 12. The person had come from the UAE.

Today, Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian said that his government has started to monitor the state's borders with Kerala at 13 checkpoints.

"We are already conducting mass fever screening camps and we have also attached the monkeypox screening to it. If anyone is found with symptoms they will be monitored," he said.

The minister further said that 2 per cent of passengers are checked randomly at the Chennai airport. "30-40 international flights with 5,000-9,000 paX come daily. In the last 14 days, we received 531 flights with 1,00,153 passengers. 39 passengers had COVID and they are home quarantined. No monkeypox cases found in the state," he said.

State Health Minister Subramanian and Health Secretary Senthil Kumar today inspected the screening process at the airport. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the state government has requested the Centre to give permission for testing centre for monkeypox.

"We hope Centre will give permission for Chennai testing centre. At Rajiv Gandhi Govt Hospital, we have started a separate ward for monkeypox patients with 10-15 beds as a precautionary step," he said.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), country's apex research body, on Friday said that so far 15 virus research and diagnostic laboratories have been trained for testing and the detection of monkeypox.

Days after the first case was detected in Kerala, the Centre rushed a team to the southern state. The central team today arrived at the Directorate of Health Services in Kerala. The team will later visit Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. "We are looking at the situation. We will go to Kollam as well," the team said.

The Marriage Party Travels on Thermocol Rafts to Attend the Pre-Wedding Ceremony

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 16:

A marriage party traversed a distance of nearly 7 km by sailing on makeshift rafts made of thermocol, in swollen Painganga river at Hadgaon taluka of Nanded district in Maharashtra to attend the pre-wedding ceremony in time on Thursday.

The wedding of Shahaji Madhav Rakade, a resident of Karodi village was fixed with Gayatri Balaji Gondade, residing at village Sangam Chincholi in Umardhed taluka before a month.

All preparations were made and a customary pre-wedding ceremony (Haldi ceremony) was to be held on Thursday. However as the day of the wedding came near, the district began receiving heavy rains posing a big question of reaching the marriage venue since most of the roads were submerged in flood waters.

The Sangam Chincholi village is located at the

confluence of Painganga and another tributary Kayadhu river. However, despite rising flood waters, Shahaji's family and their relatives took the risk of crossing the river using the rafts made of Thermocol to reach the venue at Sangam Chincholi village. Somehow the marriage party, oscillating on the rafts, reached the village. And the ceremony was performed with jubilation.

Surprisingly those who accompanied the groom, returned to their village using the same mode of transport, while the groom Shahaji and his parents stay put at the Sangam Chincholi village, to avoid the risk since the marriage was to be performed next day.

After the rains receded to some extent, others reached the marriage venue by road transport and attended the marriage which was performed with full rituals on Friday.

Shahaji's family comprise his parents, a brother, and two sisters. He has studied up to 8

th standard. Since the family does not have farmland, it survives by doing menial work on different sites.

Any fragile material cannot withstand the harsh force of flood waters. But those who ventured into the flood waters, not only reached the venue but returned to their village after attending the Haldi ceremony by the same mode of transport is what surprised many. Most of those who watched the marriage party sailing through the flood waters were terrified since the water was moving at high speed.

Bharat Hekarne, a local journalist said that despite all precautions, many villages are cut off from the main thoroughfare during torrential rains since road links become almost non-existent. In the last one week, the road communication in nearly 8 talukas of Nanded was paralyzed. Such incidents are not uncommon since there are many such remote villages in the district, he added.

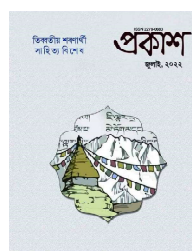
Prakash: Throwing light on Tibetan literature and culture

IT Correspondent
Guwahati, July 16:

Prakash, the acclaimed Assamese literary monthly magazine, has come with a special issue on Tibetan (refugee) literature and culture mesmerizing its vivid readers who otherwise had never experienced the literary taste of neighboring Tibet (pronounced as Tibbat in Assamese), which has been occupied by the Chinese Communist regime in Beijing for decades.

Published by Pramod Kalita, secretary of Publication Board Assam, a literary institution-established and run by Assam government since 2 May 1958 at Bamunimaidan in the city, the impressive July 2022 issue of Prakash (literary meaning light, expression, manifestation, etc.) comprises a number of Tibetan literary pieces which are translated into Assamese by a group of dedicated writers, a unique initiative ever seen in any Indian regional literary magazine.

Literary piece authored by acclaimed Tibetan writer Tenzin Chundu, which has been translated by popular Assamese



writer & film critic Utpal Dutta, an interview with Tibetan literary scholar Robert Barnett (translated by Vivekananda Choudhury) and an article on the Tibetan literary criticism by Tenzin Dicki, a seasoned Tibetan creative writer & translator (translated by Jintu Geetarth), etc attracted the reader's attention.

Moreover, a literary essay on contemporary Tibetan literature written by Priyanka D'Rosario and Dr Shunil Kr Mishra (translated by Dr Deepshikha Bhagwati), a Tibetan story penned by Pema Bhum, a well known Tibetan author based in USA (translated by Juri Dutta) and a number of selected Tibetan poems

(translated by Dr Dikshita Bhuyan, Dr Simi Barman and Geet Baibhavi) also enriched the July issue of Prakash.

Editor Mihir Deuri, while speaking to this correspondent, narrated that the Tibetan literature has been referred to literature written in the Tibetan language or arising out of Tibetan folk culture. Moreover, the same term also applies to a literary work by an ethnic Tibetan. The current issue has highlighted the Tibetan literature and culture along with its society and politics which he hopes to provide the readers a fair idea about Tibet and its treasured literature.

Tibetan was once recognised as a trans-regional literary language which spread from Tibet to Mongolia, Russia, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and India. After the sovereign land, located in the Himalayas housing the world's highest glacier clad peak Mt Everest and many Asian rivers including Brahmaputra (the lifeline of Assam), was gradually occupied by the Chinese administration since 1949, the days of doom began for Tibetan literature and its culture, which is strongly influenced by Tibetan

Buddhism.

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tibet's highest spiritual leader, who along with his aides escaped the Chinese persecution reaching Arunachal Pradesh in 1959, still sticks to the demand of a genuine autonomy so that Tibetan literature and culture can be preserved, even though the Nobel peace laureate morally agreed to accept China as their country. From his exile seat at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, the most influential Tibetan leader has repeatedly asked the Beijing administration to ensure that Tibetan literature and culture would not be harmed.

According to history, the Tibetan capital city of Lhasa continued to be an autonomous region till 1951, but slowly the entire country was grabbed by the Han Chinese and annexed it into the People's Republic of China. Modern Tibetan literature is often influenced by Chinese and Indian literature. Needless to mention that, the first Tibetan writer's national conference was hosted by India in 1995, where a number of freedom aspiring Tibetan English authors assembled.

Brain dead woman gives lease of life to five persons including two soldiers

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 16:

Five persons, including two severely ill soldiers, received a new lease of life following the donation of organs by the family of a brain-dead patient at Indian Army's Southern Command Hospital in Pune in Maharashtra on Friday.

A 34-year-old brain-dead woman, the wife of a retired soldier, was admitted to the hospital on Thursday night. She was declared brain-dead and her relatives consented to donate her organs.

"A young lady was brought to Command Hospital (Southern Command), (CHSC) in the last stages of her life after an unfortunate event. On admission, the vital brain signs of life were not present in her. The family was aware of



The ill soldiers recovering after a kidney transplant at Army Hospital, Pune.

the concept of organ donation after death. After discussion with the transplant coordinator of the hospital, the family desired that the organs of the lady should be donated to patients who are in dire need of them."

After the necessary clearances, the transplant team at Command Hospital (Southern Command), was immediately

activated and the alerts were sent to the Zonal transplant coordination centre (ZTCC) and Army organ retrieval and transplant Authority (AORTA). Through the night of Thursday, July 14, and early morning hours of Friday, July 15, viable organs such as kidneys were transplanted into 02 serving soldiers of the Indian Army. Eyes were preserved at

the eye bank of Command Hospital (SC) located at Armed forces medical college complex and liver was given to the patient at Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune.

"A benevolent gesture of organ donation after death and a well-coordinated effort at CH(SC), gave life and eyesight to 5 severely ill patients. It bolsters the belief that "don't take your organs to heaven, God knows we need them here!" It also spreads awareness about the invaluable role of organ donation to needy patients under such circumstances", an Indian Army statement said.

The transplant team at the Command hospital included physicians Lt Col Bhaskar Dutt, Lt Col Sudeep Prakash, surgeons Colonel Bharat, and Lt Colonel Abhishek Shukla, and anaesthesiologist Lt Colonel Akhil Goei.

Assam Rifles conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, July 16:

Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a Medical Camp at Aina village, Churachandpur district today.

The medical camp was organised to improve mutual

trust, maintain peace and harmony in the region while simultaneously addressing the medical requirements in the underdeveloped villages. A total of 134 villagers were examined during the medical camp including distribution of essential medicines to all affected people.

The villagers were also

briefed about the rapid rise in covid-19 cases in Churachandpur and advised to strictly follow covid protocols. Special emphasis was given on addressing the medical issues of old aged villagers, women & children thereby educating them about healthy habits for a better living.

Contd. from Page 1

Chief Minister congratulates teachers...

Today's programme was also attended by MLA Saikot Paolienal Haokip, Commissioner, Education (S) H. Gyan Prakash, Director Education (S) & Samagra Shiksha Manipur L. Nandakumar Singh, Vice President, Public and Partnerships, NewGlobe Sujatha Muthayya among others.

During today's programme, participants also shared their testimonials. A handing out of certificates to the participants, teachers' tablets and headmasters' smartphones to selected

participants was also organized as part of the function.

STAR Education Manipur stands for System Transformation and Rejuvenation of Education Manipur and is an ambitious initiative of the State government to transform quality of public education across the State. It was launched by the Chief Minister in October 2021.

A program under the Samagra Shiksha, Manipur and a component of the flagship School Fagathansi Mission,

STAR Education's induction training for teachers and headmasters involved over 1500 teachers and headmasters from over 250 schools from across the 16 districts of the State.

The first phase of the training was held from June 27 to July 6 at Tamphasana Girls Higher Secondary School, Imphal. The training programme was led by 56 strong staff from New Globe including 24 trainers, eight international experts from New Globe's Global team and a support staff.

Assam Rifles promotes youth empowerment

IT News
Imphal, July 16:

As part of overall outreach & empowerment of youth & students in Thoubal district, Thoubal Company of Keithelmanbi battalion has been conducting pre-recruitment training since 03 May 2022 at Thoubal and undertaking continuous & holistic efforts in imparting the pre-requisite skills and capabilities required by the aspiring youth to join Indian Armed Forces and CAPFs.

The objective of conducting the training programme is to guide and prepare potential candidates to make them competent enough to clear various tests conducted during the recruitment rally. The training includes orientation, screening/checking of documents, medical & physical examination, guidance and



preparation for the written test & one to one counselling to address queries and enhance their confidence. Timed run, detailed physical proficiency tests & mock written papers have been incorporated in the curriculum to make it effective and comprehensive. Also the procedure of filling up forms for Agnipath Recruitment Scheme, Assam Rifles Recruitment Rallies and other

CAPF has also been deliberated towards enhancing awareness of aspirants.

The holistic curriculum has become very popular in adjoining areas and has seen massive participation. Till date total 372 youth (288 boys & 84 girls) have been part of the training and carried out registration with Assam Rifles despite challenges of weather and their commitments. The

village elders, MeiraPaibis and parents of the youth have extended their support to Assam Rifles for well planned and meaningful training. Willing youth, who have not yet registered for training, may reach out to Thoubal Company for the same.

The ongoing pre-recruitment training organised by Assam Rifles will definitely boost the morale of the candidates and brighten their chances of selection in upcoming recruitment rallies. The training being undertaken also promotes 'Khelo India' and 'Fit India' movement and has emerged as great tool of youth empowerment by addressing the issue of unemployment, promoting sports and fitness and weaning youth away from addiction and unlawful activities by channelling their energies positively.

Bishnupur District Sports...

Addressing the media on the sidelines of the launching function, Deputy Commissioner Lourembam Bikram stated that the idea to initiate the District Sports Development Fund was conceived out of the regular interactions and visits made at the sports training centres of the district. The overall objective of the financial support is to further push the athletes or sports persons to excel and scale greater heights in sports activities and

their respective disciplines in the future, he added.

It may be mentioned, as per the office memorandum, the purpose of creation of the District Sports Development Fund is to help sports persons excel by providing them gap filling funds for travelling for participation in national/international competitions of Olympic Sports discipline. The sports person should belong to BPL family or are orphans. The fund will also provide fi-

nancial assistance for prize money in district or block level competitions upto a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- to regular performing district level clubs and organizations.

The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration, 2021 was conferred to Bishnupur District in April this year - for Best Performance in the implementation of 'Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through Khelo India scheme'.

Monsoon Session: 24 new Bills....

8. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Rationalising prohibited area and other amendments

9. Kalakshetra Foundation (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Amendment of the Kalakshetra Foundation Act, 1993, to empower the Kalakshetra Foundation to award certificates; diplomas; postgraduate diplomas; degrees to graduate and postgraduate; doctoral and post-doctoral courses; and conduct research in the areas of dance, traditional theatre, drama, Carnatic and traditional music, visual arts, craft education and art education

10. Cantonment Bill, 2022: Administration of cantonments to impart greater democratisation, modernisation and efficiency, and to achieve greater development objectives aligned with municipalities; facilitating "ease of living" in cantonments

11. Old Grant (Regulation) Bill, 2022: Regulation of land given including transfer, subdivision and change of purpose and also to delegate powers for better management of such land; enhancing ease of living while ensuring effective protection of government rights over the land

12. Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2022: Amendment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, by inter-alia clarifying applicability of Act in various types of lands and to streamline the process of approvals under it

13. National Dental Commission Bill, 2022: Setting up a National Dental Commission and to replace the Dentists Act, 1948

14. National Nursing and

Midwifery Commission Bill, 2022: Setting up National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) and to repeal the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947

15. Indian Institute of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Inclusion of NITIE Mumbai in the IIM Act, 2017, and renaming NITIE, Mumbai, as IIM Mumbai

16. Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Conversion of National Rail Transportation Institute into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

17. Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Establishment of a central tribal university in Telangana

18. Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2022: Replacing the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867, by decriminalisation of the existing Act, keeping the procedures of the extant Act simple from the viewpoint of medium/small publishers and uphold the values of press freedom

19. Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2022: Amendment of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, for bringing policy reforms and to improve ease of doing business in the sector

20. Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Providing regulatory framework for carbon trading in India; to encourage penetration of renewables in energy mix; effective implementation and enforcement of the Energy Conservation Act

21. Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment)

Bill, 2022: Revision of list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of Chhattisgarh

22. Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Revision of list of scheduled tribes in Tamil Nadu

23. Trafficking of Persons (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2022: Preventing and combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children; to provide for care, protection, assistance and rehabilitation to the victims, while respecting their rights; and creating a supportive legal, economic and social environment for them and also to ensure prosecution of offenders, and for matters connected

24. Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022: Amendment of the Family Courts Act, 1984

Opposition's strategy, all-party meetings called on Sunday

The Opposition will be meeting on Sunday to discuss the strategy for the upcoming monsoon session. This time the opposition ranks will have the Telangana Rashtriya Samithi (TRS) as well.

After supporting the opposition presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha, the TRS, which was considered close to the ruling dispensation at the Centre, is likely to join the opposition ranks. The reason for TRS distancing from the Centre is the BJP's move to make inroads in Telangana.

The opposition will discuss a joint strategy as well as the candidate for the post of vice-president. The invite has been extended

Sports

Players from Jiribam set off for Assam State Taekwondo Championship

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, July 16:

The Taekwondo players from Jiribam District has been set off for Assam State championship.

The team consists of 9 players along with their coach Wali Wala represented the Jiribam Taekwondo Association will



participate in 37th Kyorugi and 9th Poomsae, Assam State Taekwondo Championship will be held from 17th to 20th July, 2022 at Adhayaeswari HS & MP school under Bongaigaon District Taekwondo Association.

The players will participate based on their weight category.

Indian shuttler P V Sindhu sails into Singapore final

Agency
Singapore, July 16:

Indian shuttler P V Sindhu stormed into the Singapore Open title clash with a commanding win over lower-ranked Japanese Saena Kawakami in the women's singles semifinal, here on Saturday.

Sindhu, a double Olympic medalist, who had claimed two Super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open this year, prevailed 21-15 21-7 in 32-minute semifinal clash.

She is now one win away from her maiden Super 500 title of the 2022 season.

Sindhu came into the match with a 2-0 head-to-head record, having played her last at the 2018 China Open.

The former world champion looked in complete command against world number 38 Kawakami, who just couldn't control the shuttle and was buried in a heap of errors during the lop-sided match.

Sindhu summoned her whipping smashes early on but the drift in the hall made

decision making difficult and also sometimes precision was lacking but the power in her strokeplay helped the Indian moved to a healthy three-point lead at the break.

The 24-year-old Japanese, however, started putting the shuttle in from difficult positions to draw parity. The match came alive with both fighting for each point.

Sindhu also won two video referrals, punished a weak high lift and also made good calls at the baseline to move to 18-14. A powerpacked smash and

then two unforced errors by Kawakami helped Sindhu seal the opening game comfortably.

Kawakami's struggles continued in the second game as she failed to control the shuttle and conceded a 0-5 early lead to her fancied rival.

Sindhu just had to keep engaging her rival in the rallies and patiently waited for mistakes from the Japanese.

A frustrated Kawakami just could wrily smile as Sindhu first grabbed a 11-4 lead at the mid-game interval and then zoomed to 17-5 in a jiffy.