

## MoU signed between Railways, Noney District Administration and Makhum Village Authority

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between North Frontier Railways, Noney District Administration and Makhum Village Authority at the Chief Minister's Secretariat today in presence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Relief and Disaster Management Minister Awangbow Newmai and Chairman, Hill Area Committee Shri Diganglung Gangmei.

The MoU was regarding the charter of demands put forth by the Makhum Village authority in the matter of addressing issues arising out of the recent massive landslide that occurred at Maranching, Noney District. The MoU was signed by Chief Engineer, North Frontier Railway (NFR) Sandeep Sharma on Railways behalf, Deputy Commissioner, Noney District

Haulianlal Guite for District Administration, Noney and Chairman, Makhum Village Authority Lanranglung Gondamei on behalf of village authority.

The MoU signed today included that until a permanent employment could be provided to the next of kin, the Railways would ensure providing contractual employment in one of its construction agencies near the site, the Railways with Noney/Kangpokpi District Administration and the village authority shall jointly survey and assess the extent of the damage done and submit the same to railways for compensation. The other points of MoU included the Railways to hold extensive discussion with IIT Guwahati, Manipur University and other likeminded institutions to have a detailed investigation for working out how the hill



slopes adjacent to Railways boundaries in the Jiribam-Imphal project can better be monitored, so that early warning can be given for any future untoward event. Environment Impact assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) shall be revisited in the light of this landslide.

According to the MoU, the Railways shall also provide for the funeral expenses that may be incurred in the customary rites of burial and cleansing by the Makhum village authority. Further, the 3 children orphaned by the landslide shall be provided educational fees which shall be deposited in their respec-

tive next of kin's bank accounts so that their education uninterrupted and the children shall also be put up in the Renggang Residential School first.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh thanked all the personnel of various organizations, villagers and

CSOs of the Maranching area involved in the search and rescue operation for their tireless efforts to trace the missing bodies. Recalling the unfortunate landslide incident at Maranching in Noney District occurred in the midnight of 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, he informed that a total of 79 persons were affected out of which 18 injured persons were rescued alive and evacuated to hospitals. He continued that out of 61 missing bodies, 56 bodies had been recovered in the search and rescue operation conducted for more than 20 days till today and 5 are still missing.

The Chief Minister mentioned that after thorough discussion with all the stakeholders, the Government had decided to officially close the rescue operation today. However, individual efforts to retrieve the missing properties, machineries, etc could

still be carried on by any organization or agency, he added. Stating the official number of deceased persons in the landslide as 61, he assured that the State Government would take up all necessary steps for the deceased and the injured persons.

Prior to signing of the MoU, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh held a meeting with all stakeholders including Relief and Disaster Management Minister Awangbow Newmai, Chairman, Hill Area Committee Diganglung Gangmei, Additional Chief Secretary M.H. Khan, Chief Engineer, NFR, Brigade Commander, Leimakhong, DC and SP Noney, President (RNYO), NDRF Commander and representatives of Makhum Village Authority to discuss on each issue flagged by Makhum Village Authority.

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## Protest staged against bomb threat to RIMS Director

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

A sit-in protest was staged today in front of A-Block, RIMS, Imphal against the Bomb attack at the Residence of Director of RIMS, Prof. A. Santa Singh on July 18, 2022 evening.

The Medical Superintendent, Dean (Academic), Heads of Departments, Chief Nursing Officer, officials, Members of Patient Welfare Committee, Teachers' and Medical Officers' Association (TAMOA), RIMS Nurses Association (RNAL), KAMPLAGL, PG, Non-Teaching Employees Welfare Association (NTEWA), Staff and Students were participated in the Sit-in protest. Dr. W. Ranizir, Singh, President, Non-Teaching Employees Welfare Association condemned the bomb attack to the residence of Director,



RIMS, Prof. A. Santa Singh and appealed not to do such things in the future.

Sit-in-protest was also held at Uripok Ahanthem Leikai at the Uripok Ahanthem Leikai Development organization (UALDO) community hall.

Local peoples strongly condemn the incident and not to repeat it in the future.

Meanwhile, Indian Medical Association Manipur State Branch strongly condemn the bomb attack at the Uripok residence of Prof. A. Santa Singh,

Director, RIMS on the night of July 18, 2022. Such mindless hurling of bombs in crowded residential area in an act of cowardice and irresponsibility, IMA MSB urge the government to catch hold of such miscreants at the earliest.

## No documentary evidence to say Naga talks concluded: NSCN-IM

Agency  
Dimapur, July 20:

The NSCN-IM has said there is no documentary evidence appended by the government of India's representative and the Naga political groups that talks had been concluded.

It said had the Indo-Naga political talks been concluded on October 31, 2019, as repeatedly mentioned by the Parliamentary Committee on the Naga Political Issue (PCoNPI), a joint statement should have been the norm and not a unilateral statement by former interlocutor and former Nagaland governor RN Ravi.

"Even the NSCN could have taken the pleasure to share with the Naga people with much jubilation. Ironically, this is not the

case. Ravi may have concluded the talks with NNPGs. But that is not the story with NSCN," the outfit said in a statement.

The outfit said it finds no fault with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the extra pride in solving the Naga political issue, but the non-action plan on competency had made the Framework Agreement a non-starter.

"This is the crux of the delay in Naga political solution," it said.

Saying that Ravi used strong words against the NSCN talk team to conclude the talk by October 31, 2019, the statement said it was in fact an ugly ultimatum day served to the NSCN by the government of India with threats and warfare psychosis.

However, the NSCN was

unruffled and stood their ground and flatly refused to toe the line of Naga solution as drawn by Ravi, it added.

The NSCN also alleged that Ravi miserably failed to work out the competency as per the principle of the Framework Agreement.

It quoted the last paragraph of the Framework Agreement: "The two sides agreed that within this framework agreement details and execution plan will be worked out and implemented shortly".

But Ravi never picked up the follow-up action on competency, it said.

The NSCN also stated that after October 31, 2019, it had formal talks on November 9, 2019, and again on January 30, 2020.

It said the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015, had officially resolved the principle issues, adding Prime Minister Modi himself had made known to the world that he had solved the longest insurgency movement in South-east Asia.

Quoting the 3rd paragraph of Modi's statement, the NSCN said: "It is a matter of great satisfaction that dialogue between the Government of India and the NSCN has successfully concluded and we are confident it will provide for an enduring inclusive new relationship of peaceful co-existence of the two entities."

The sore point is the non-action on competency, it added.

## Recreational parks continue to open despite State Tourism Department directives

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

Many of the recreational parks, resorts, restaurant s, Garden religious places, here in Imphal at its periphery continue to open despite the directives of the Director, State Tourism Department to close down in view of the recent spike in COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of the Tourism department, W. Ibahak Singh had written a letter to the Commissioner of Tourism department on July 18 suggesting closing of the Tourist destination in the state in view of the COVID-19 spike in the recent days.

However, the suggestions by the Director (Tourism) seems to be ignored by the Commissioner of the

Tourism department as no government order for banning access to general public to the tourist destinations including parks, waterfall, resorts, Hotels, Restaurants, Heritage Site Religious places etc. had been issued so far.

Imphal Times reporter capture the photo of River Park near Sanjenthong opening for public today.

## JCRE Global College : Felicitation Function of the first batch BCA held

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

The Felicitation Function of the first batch BCA (2019-2022) students of JCRE Global College Babupara, Imphal was held on Wednesday the 20th July 2022 at the premises of the College. Prof W.Chand Babu, Registrar Manipur University, Tejmani Sinam, Associate Prof. Dept. Of computer Science, Manipur University and Lajenjam Niranjan Singh, Director JCRE

Global College attended the function as Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President respectively.

During the function, Jugeshwar Memorial Meritorious Award was conferred to Anjali Ongnam, who stood Second Position in the BCA Examination conducted by Manipur University. The Award carries a Trophy, a certificate and cash prize of Rs10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only). Meritorious awards were also given to

Olivia Naorem (5th Position), Sanasam Ashapingkey ( 8th Position). The awards carries Certificates along with cash prize of Rs7000/- (Seven thousand) and Rs 5000/- (Five thousand) respectively. Certificates and cash award of Rs2000/- (Two thousand) each were also awarded to Tinalisha Pukhrabam, Julia Chongtham, Meeraimayum Arkina and Laishram Joymila who passed the BCA examination of Manipur University in First class with Distinction.

## Summer Free Special Closing Ceremony cum Meritorious Award Distribution held

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, July 20:

The closing ceremony of one month free coaching class for class IX & X organised by the Manipuri Student's Federation (MSF), District Committee Jiribam was held today at the MSF office, Jiribam.

The closing ceremony of the free summer coaching

class was attended by Mutum Maipakana Mangang, President of All Jiribam United Club Association (AJUCA) as a Chief Guest while Aheibam Ratan Singh, President of MSF District Committee Jiribam as a functional President and Ningthoujam Dharmendra Meetei, Advisor, MSF District Committee Jiribam; Sagapam Ongbi Sushila Devi, President of All

Jiribam Meira Paibi; Ito Tongbram, Advisor AMUCO; Yangsoso Koireng, Advisor AMUCO; Th. Ajit, Irabot Foundation, Manipur shared the dais as Guests of honour.

During the programme, awards for Meritorious students of Jiribam District in the BOSEM and COHEM Examination-2022 were also distributed.

# ★ Editorial

## Dignity of women in the land of 1000s Goddesses

Framers of the Indian constitution have far sighted vision. My perspective on why I term our visionary leaders, a far sighted intellectual may be difference. To me the constitution of India, which was credited to Dr. BR Ambedkar, have a vision to make all Indian equals irrespective of their caste creed and social status. Many provisions of empowering the women are also not left out. Perhaps, it was for this reason that the drafting committee of the Constitution of India headed by Dr. BR Ambedkar inserted certain temporary clauses that guaranteed some extra privilege to down trodden communities and the women so as to make themselves stand at par with the rest of the citizens. These inclusion, perhaps may be considered mandatory provision for a future India, as there are lots of societal complexity, that was existed during the coming of the Colonial British Raj and later the advantaged taken by the alien rulers. The existence of cast system was perhaps the best tool for the British to make India under their claw and ruled for over 200 years.

Keeping aside the critic of the caste system, that still is continuing at many part of the country, besides having appropriate legislation, let us first diagnose the problems of women in the country. Without understanding the women and their status at other part of the world particularly of those women living at other states of our country, it will be difficult for us to understand the real status of women in our state- the erstwhile Asiatic Nation.

It is a fact that India is a land of thousand God and goddess – those following Hindu religion believes the existence of a soul creator of all the Gods and Goddesses as one supreme Lord. The issue that I am going to discuss here have nothing to do with the Hindu religion or any other followers of diverse religions as my priority area is about – why and how women in our society have always been victims of all source of harassment. Every year, India witness thousands of people – both men and women offering prayers to the Goddess and took blessing. There are reports of some women prohibited from entering the Goddess temple (interestingly there are people justifying the prohibition of the women to Goddess temple).

For reason still confuse to many, in this land of Goddess, everyday reports of rape, torture, domestic violence, dowry related crime, kidnapping etc. sometimes fills the front page newspaper. Illegal and legal prostitution is at its peak at almost all cities in the country. Illegally flesh trades are happening everyday at many cities including in Imphal. Legally the state governments are permitting some big shots to run brothel at some cities.

The horror part arising in the recent days, or say, came to the public domain is that, except for some elite class of people – “Women today are use as commodities”, what is more shocking is the recent news about parents forcing their daughter to slave a boy or men in exchange of money. Today, there are cases filed by wife for raping her by her husband. This may be because of the unbearable torture she meted everyday or perhaps it may also have some other reason.

Today, with the number of crime against women spreading like wild fire, the society especially those working for the women on voluntary basis and those assigned by the government on huge payroll need to ensure protection of the women of all sections.

Already there are number of laws to protect women in the country. The need of the hour is to judicious implementation of the existing law. If one felt, more laws for the women protection is needed, the government should make no delay in passing more laws for the protection of women.

## Tour to Riyadh

By: Sauro Dasgupta

After the murder of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, it was alleged that Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman (MBS) was involved in the same. While President Trump did not find it convincing, the Democrats went after MBS. Joe Biden declared Saudi to be an international pariah. He also froze arms' sales to Riyadh. Many started to argue for the re-evaluation of Saudi-US ties. But the importance of Saudi Arabia for the United States' energy security and economy was lost on Biden that time.

After being elected President, Joe Biden acted against the Keystone Pipeline, affecting US energy security to fulfill his political promise. He also banned fracking on grounds on environmental protection.

Some might argue that the USA is largely energy independent and does not need Riyadh to fill oil barrels for it. They would also like to argue that the US would muscle out cheap oil from the Saudis.

After the Ukraine crisis, Saudis tried to smoothen their relations with Russia. Already they had fought a price war in 2021, when seeing global inflation, they tried to sell oil to different countries at prices lower than each other in an effort to draw their customers. But that animosity did not last long.

Now, Saudis began to buy oil from Russia at a cheap rate and started selling oil at a high price to the West.

Biden had to travel to Saudi Arabia sometime ago. He also visited Israel and Palestine. He now not only acknowledged Saudis as a strategic partner but he also tried to convince Saudis to get OPEC produce oil in a greater quantity so as to reduce global oil prices.

Saudi is leading many nations in de-dollarization. China will now buy oil from Saudi in Yuan. Given that RBI has urged the strengthening of the Rupee, India is also likely to buy oil from Saudi in the Indian Rupee. As a result, the value of the US Dollar will continue to decrease.

Saudi Arabia is expected to announce this week the opening of its airspace to commercial flights to and from Israel, as well as to allow Israel's Muslim minority to participate in the Hajj with direct charter flights. This move is likely to result in normalization of ties and diplomatic relationships between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Similarly, Biden in a joint presser with Israel Prime Minister Lapid in Jerusalem said, “I am honored to be here, the capital of Israel”. So he was forced to recognize that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel, something that Trump had recognized by shifting USA's Israel embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, over which the Democrats has protested.

As time passes, most of US allies are getting disturbed by Biden's foreign policy, which is just an extension of his domestic vote bank politics. Deterioration of friendly relations will not only cost him heavily in the elections but also dent his administration as a whole.

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## Science & Spirituality

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

In the 8th century, Muslim scientists developed a greater understanding of mathematics, astronomy, and chemistry. They expanded our knowledge of science. Understanding these two fundamental human experiences offers insight into how they align in our search for greater understanding and connection. When plagues hit, people turned to religion. When war hits, people pray for and depend on one another. When terror tries to steal life from us, we stand in solidarity and hope for the goodness of humanity. Science is the systematic study of the natural and physical world using rigorous observation and repeated experimentation. Science evolves as we gain more information about the world and develop better tools to observe and measure what we encounter. Curiosity and a desire for expanded knowledge drive scientific exploration. Science is a very valuable part of humanity. However, it hasn't yet explained it all. Stepping fully into a meaningful life requires a shift in the way we show up for ourselves and others. Building the science of spirituality into a practice takes intention and effort. The benefits are far reaching, even if perfect scientific experimentation is somewhat elusive. Read on to see how science and spirituality mix into what makes life meaningful and beautiful.

Much of what we think of as science has roots in ancient Egypt, where developments in astronomy, neuroscience, mathematics, and engineering carried forward into modern civilizations. In ancient India, as far back as 4000 BCE, we've found evidence of early engineering principles and mathematics. Likely, scientific study goes back as far back as humanity does. We have a natural inclination towards keen observation, asking questions, and experimentation. There's evidence that early human societies had access to astronomy, chemistry, agricultural sciences, early medicine, and engineering worldwide.

jump in the firelight, animated by simple tricks to stir the soul. Over time, humans developed complex spiritual beliefs that became religious dogma.

The sense of transcendence experienced in spirituality is a universal experience. Some find it in monotheistic religion, while others find it in meditation. While the understanding of spirituality differs across religions and belief systems, it can be described by finding meaning and purpose in life. Religion and spirituality are not understood in the same way, though they often overlap. Spirituality describes a much broader understanding of an individual's connection with the transcendent aspects of life. Seeking a meaningful connection with something bigger than you can result in increased positive emotions. Transcendent moments are filled with peace, awe, and contentment. Emotional and spiritual wellbeing overlap, like most aspects of wellbeing. Self-transcendent emotions are linked to increased spirituality. It is hypothesized that spirituality is related to the broaden and build theory. Though not all positive emotions stimulate a self-transcendent state, some increase with practices in spirituality.

The relationship between spirituality and science is not necessarily contentious but has certainly had its difficulties. Scientifically tracking emotions can be like searching for meaning in the shapes we see in the clouds. While the experience of emotions varies from person to person, the experience of transcendent emotions can be seen as more universal and is connected to spirituality. Self-transcendent emotions connect us all through prosocial behavior. Emotions like gratitude, compassion, and awe connect us all through their prosocial capacity. Transcendent emotions promote behaviors that connect human beings and stabilize prosocial connection. Depending on one's world view, hope interventions can help find pathways to connect with

the divine and improve one's wellbeing. It will differ by religion and one understands of the role of the divine in the agency of hope. Interventions that respect the individual's worldview will clearly be more accepted and helpful. It can be challenging to weave science and spirituality together. Spirituality is universally connective in the realization that suffering is a part of human existence. Science and tough-minded folks often try to downplay the role that innate spiritual practice has on wellbeing. Even well-meaning psychologists may have a negativity bias toward interventions offered in positive psychology. With a traditional focus on diagnosis and pathology treatment, less attention is spent on psychological health. Opening minds to interventions that encompass spirituality might help aid the individual in treatment. Understanding of spirituality may do more good than harm, especially when action is later self-motivated.

Science can answer many questions about our world; spirituality helps one feel connected to it. As Carl Sagan wrote, “Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality.” When we recognize our place in an immensity of light years and in the passage of ages, when we grasp the intricacy, beauty, and subtlety of life, then that soaring feeling, that sense of elation and humility combined, is surely spiritual. The world is often in a state of tremendous suffering. Globally, humans are desperate to make sense of tragedy and psychological pain. From this vantage point, the only way through it is with spirituality. The need to grow our understanding of the meaning of life, the purpose we have within it and the love that we share for humanity is eternal. Stepping fully into what matters for humans will aid us in survival and into lives that are flourishing.

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## Baidyanath Dham: The glory of “Kanwar” in Baba's shrine



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

Purvottare Prajawalika Nidhane,

Sada Vasantam Girija Sametam. Surasurardhita Padaypadmam Sri Baidyanatham Tamaham Namami.

The world famous one-month long Shrawani Mela of Baidyanath Dham starts with the drizzle of Pavas (Rainy) season. The influx of saffron-dressed Kanwariyas, pouring water into an embellished Kanwar from Sultanganj's north-vahini Ganga, walk barefoot on a 111 km long invincible path with the deafening sound of “Bol Bam” towards the Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar. The chant of “Bol-Bam” Ka Nara Hai, Baba Ek Sahara Hai” all the way fills this rugged path with devotion to Shiva.

Baidyanath Dham is one of the great pilgrimage sites of Bharatvarsha. One of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Bhagwan Shiva, “Kamana Linga” is located here. This Thrilshthan is famous not only in India, but all over the world. That is why every year lakhs of devotees from other countries like Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius, Tibet, Bangladesh, Fiji, Pakistan etc come here to bow before Shiva. Shiva devotees fill water from the holy Ganges at Sultanganj and travel to Baidyanath Dham on foot with a Kanwar on their shoulders and offer

water to Baba Bholenath. As per mythological legends this Holy spiritual land has its own special importance since the Vedic times.

According to Shiva Puran, Sati sacrificed her life by jumping into the Yagyakund after her father Daksha Prajapathid had humiliated her husband Shiva. Enraged by the death of Sati, Bhagwan Shiva carried her body on his shoulder and started performing the Tandav Nritya. The yagya was destroyed and there was a catastrophe all around. Then on the advice of the Devas, Bhagwan Vishnu sent his Sudarshan Chakra to cut off the body into parts so that Shiva's anger could be controlled. The limbs of Sati started falling off, which fell at total 52 places. The place, where the Hritpind i.e. heart part of Sati's body fell in Baidyanath Dham, was named “Hardyapeeth”. It is also known as “Chittabhoomi” because of the cremation of the heart of Sati at the said place by Bhagwan Shiva.

Another legend about Baidyanath Dham is related to Mahapandit and Shastra-Shiromani Lankesh Ravan. Lankapati was such an ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shiva that many times he cut his head instead of a flower and offered it at the feet of his deity. Shiva cured him as Vaidya (Doctor); hence came to be known as Baidyanath (Vaidyanath).

According to another mythology, once a thought came to Ravan's mind that he has to travel from the remote region of Lanka to Kailash, situated at the extreme end of Uttaranchal of Bharat, to see his adoration again and again. So why not convince Bhagwan Shiva and ask him to stay in Lanka so that he can always get the benefit of his darshan. For this purpose, once Ravana did relentless penance in Kailash. While Shiva could not agree,

Ravan said that his “Kamna Ling” would be a good substitute. Shiva accepted the offer on the condition that Ravan must not put down the Ling in the way, otherwise it would not proceed from there and that would be the site of the Ling. Ravan accepted Shiva's condition. This decision of Shiva caused a stir among the other Devas, as it was expected to strengthen the demonic power of the mighty Ravan even more. So they made a move. When Ravan was going to Lanka with the “Kamna Linga” through the sky route, he felt uncontrollable urination at this place called Deoghar. Coming down from the sky, he started having a piss by handing over the Shiva-Linga to Lord Vishnu dressed as Baidyanath shepherd. But this was the illusion of the Lord. Hours passed, but Ravan's piss did not last.

The Shepherd Baidyanath, unable to bear the heavy burden of Shilving, installed it on the Chittabhoomi of Mahasati. After thepiss, Ravan tried hard to lift the Shilving; but after per condition, he was not able to do so. Enraged, he pressed the Shilving with his thumb. Later on, Mahadev was named after shepherd Baidyanath and was worshipped by the local devotees. Ravan constructed a well near the Shilving and poured water of all the pilgrimages in it. He constructed a Kund (pool), which is today situated in the form of Shivaganga.

After the return of Ravan to Lanka, Vishwakarma built 21 other grand temples in this huge courtyard apart from Baidyanath Mandir with big stones. These temples are- Annapurna Mandir, Jagjani Mandir, Parvati Mandir, Kail Bhairav Mandir, Ganesh Mandir, Brahma Mandir, Sandhya Mandir, Mansa

Mandir, Ganga Mandir, Hanuman Mandir, Surya Mandir, Saraswati Mandir, Ram Mandir, Bagala Mandir, Anand Bhairav Mandir, Narmadeshwar Mandir, Gaurishankar Mandir, Kali Mandir, Tara Mandir, Neelkanth Mandir and Laxminarayana Mandir.

The importance of Baidyanath Dham has also mentioned in our scriptures. Glorifying its importance in the Padma Puran, it is said - “Baidyanath Mahalingam, Bhavarog Hare Shivan”. According to Anand Ramayan, once Bhagwan Ramchandrangi himself came to Baidyanath Dham after filling water from the Ganges and worshipped Shiva. Since then lakhs of devotees come here every day and get the desired results by worshipping the Kamana Linga. The importance of this month-long Shrawani Mela, which takes place in the entire Shrawan month, is not only on the national map, but it is also called the longest fair in the world. In any sense, the Shrawani Mela of thirty continuous days is no less than the Kumbh Mela at Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain, Ganga Sagar Mela, Vaishno Devi Yatra, and other fairs of South India.

With the deafening slogans of “Bol Bam - Bol Bam” by groups of Shiv Bhakt Kanwariyas constantly moving like the waves of ocean, the spiritual atmosphere is bound everywhere. The devotees walking hundreds of miles get blisters on the feet and suffer pain. But as soon as the Ganges water is offered to Baba, all the pain vanishes and the devotees become self-confessed.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/ Prayagraj)

# Opposition parties continue protests on price rise, increased GST in Parliament



Agency  
New Delhi, July 20:

Opposition parties continued their protests for the third consecutive day on the issue of price rise and the increase in goods and service tax (GST) both inside the Houses and in front of the Gandhi Statue outside Parliament.

Several MPs have sought suspension of parliamentary

business to discuss these issues.

DMK Rajya Sabha MP Tiruchi Siva yet again sought suspension of business in Rajya Sabha on the issue of petroleum products price rise.

Meanwhile, Congress MP Manickam Tagore filed an adjournment motion notice to raise the issue of price hike of domestic LPG cylinders.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha,

under Rule 267, moved to suspend business to discuss on the committee on MSP constituted by the GOI, for the second consecutive day.

Amid the protests, minister of state for consumer affairs, food and public distribution Ashwini Kumar Choubey is expected to make a statement regarding the recent implementation of the recommendations by the

standing committee on 'Price Rise of Essential Commodities-Cause and Effects'.

MoS for Earth sciences Dr Jitendra Singh will move the Antarctic Bill, 2022 in the Lok Sabha that will aim to install national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment.

Meanwhile, the 'Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery System (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022' will be taken up in the Upper House by union minister of external affairs S Jaishankar.

The bill seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction and to allow the Centre to freeze, seize or attach financial assets to people engaged in these activities.

In the Upper House, MoS for home affairs Nityanand Rai will be presenting the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission for the year 2019-20 and will also be discussing the actions taken on the recommendations made in the report.

The Secretary General will assent 11 passed Bills from the eighth session of the 17th Lok Sabha to the President.

# The beleaguered Shiv Sena stares at hearing of petitions in SC related to MLAs' rebellion

## Lok Sabha Speaker recognises Rahul Shewale from rebel group as a floor leader

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, July 20:

The hearing of the petitions related to the rebellion of Shiv Sena MLAs which led to changes in the Maharashtra Government and Assembly, is scheduled before the bench comprising Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Justice Krishna Murari, and Justice Hima Kohli on Wednesday.

The saffron party received another blow when Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recognized Rahul Shewale (from the Eknath Shinde breakaway faction) as the Shiv Sena group leader, despite the party appointing Thane MP Rajan Vichare as the leader.

Birla granted recognition to Rahul Shewale as the floor leader of the Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha, based on a letter given by 12 MPs (out of a total of 19 MPs) belonging to the Eknath Shinde-led rebel group on Tuesday.

The Shiv Sena Spokesman Sanjay Raut, MP in the letters to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and Birla on July 07, had communicated that Rajan Vichare has been appointed as a Chief Whip replacing Bhavana Gawali (MP from Yavatmal-Washim) (who has joined the rebel group).

The MPs who have joined the rebel Shiv Sena camp are Dhairya Sheel Mane (Hatkanangale, Kolhapur), Sanjay Mandalik (Kolhapur), Bhavana Gawali (Yavatmal-Washim), Hemant Patil (Hingoli), Hemant Godse (Nashik), Krupal Tumane (Ramtek (SC), Nagpur), Srikant Eknath Shinde (Kalyan), Rahul Shewale (Mumbai South Central), Srirang Barne (Maval,

Pune), Rajendra Gavit (Palghar ST), Pratap Jadhav (Buldhana), Sadashiv Lokhande (Shirdi (SC) Ahmednagar).

Shinde visited New Delhi on Tuesday and met top BJP leaders and had consultations with them. Before that, he held a virtual meeting with these MPs.

### Petitions

The pending petitions filed by the Thackeray camp and rebel Shinde faction include WP (C) No. 468 of 2022, WP (C) No. 469 of 2022, WP (C) No. 470 of 2022 (petitioner), and WP (C) No. 479 of 2022.

They are : a petition preferred by rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde (now the Chief Minister) and the petition filed by Bharat Pogawale and 14 other Shiv Sena MLAs challenging the disqualification proceedings initiated by the then Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and seeking to restrain the Deputy Speaker from taking any action in the disqualification petition until the resolution for removal of Zirwal is decided. On June 27, the division bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala had extended the time for the rebel MLAs to file written responses to the Deputy Speaker's disqualification notice till July 12.

Another petition has been filed by Shiv Sena Chief Whip Sunil Prabhu (belonging to the Uddhav Thackeray group) challenging the Maharashtra Governor's direction to the Chief Minister to prove the majority of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government. On June 29, the Supreme Court refused to stall the floor test. After the Court's order, Uddhav Thackeray an-

nounced his resignation as the Chief Minister, and Eknath Shinde was later sworn in as the CM.

The petition was filed by Sunil Prabhu, the whip appointed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led group, challenging the action of the newly elected Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar recognizing the whip nominated by the Eknath Shinde group as the Chief Whip of Shiv Sena.

Yet another petition has been preferred by Subhash Desai, former Minister and the General Secretary of the Shiv Sena (of Uddhav group) assailing the decision of the Maharashtra Governor to invite Eknath Shinde to be the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and challenging the further proceedings of the State's Legislative Assembly held on July 03 and July 04 for the election of the new Speaker and the vote of confidence of Shinde government as 'illegitimate'.

Last week, the CJJ had asked the Speaker to keep in abeyance the disqualification proceedings against the MLAs - initiated by both Shinde and Thackeray groups against MLAs of the rival groups - till further orders.

It may be recalled that the rebel MLAs were taken to Surat (Gujarat) on June 20. Then they were moved to Guwahati (Assam) on June 22. They were shifted to Goa on June 30. Uddhav Thackeray resigned on June 29 after the Supreme Court refused to stay the floor test scheduled on June 30. Shinde and Devendra Fadnis (BJP) were eventually sworn in as the CM and DCM respectively.

# India's daily Covid cases jump by over 32% with 20,557 fresh infections

Agency  
New Delhi, July 20:

India on Wednesday reported a 32 per cent increase in daily Covid-19 cases, with 20,557 detected in the previous 24 hours. On Tuesday morning, 15,528 cases were reported in 24 hours. The active caseload in the country is now over 1.45 lakh, or 0.33 per cent of cumulative cases, which stands nearly 4.4 crore.

On Wednesday the country also reported 40 Covid-related deaths in 24 hours. The total

number of deaths formally recognised as Covid-related in India is 5.26 lakh.

Nearly 19,000 people were declared to have recovered from the coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours; the overall national recovery rate is 98.47 per cent.

The weekly positivity rate is 4.64 per cent.

India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 200 crore.

In the 12-14 age group, 3.81 crore people have gotten first doses and 2.64 crore the second. Over 6.08 crore people in the 15-

18 age group have gotten their first doses and more than 5.02 crore their second. Over 4.64 crore precautionary doses have been given to people above 60, healthcare workers, and frontline workers, and over 1.46 crore to those between 18 and 59.

India achieved the milestone last week. Congratulating the country on crossing the 'special figure', prime minister Narendra Modi declared himself 'proud of those who contributed to making the vaccination drive unparalleled in scale and speed.'

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four-crore mark on January 25 this year.

## Career Guidance

# Decreasing Participation of Women in Top Positions



By: Vijay Garg

The participation of women in technical roles is only 29.2%. The rate of women reaching the top positions is even worse. The leadership of women in the top positions is only 14.6 per cent. According to a report last year, the percentage of women in the positions of CEOs and managing directors in Indian companies was only 3.8. In the last few decades, there has been a lot of talk about the economic empowerment of women around the world. But there was little discussion about how much improvement in the condition of women came.

However, at the international level, many organizations do make some effort to estimate the status of women in comparison to men and keep giving suggestions to governments around the world. This trend has

also been going on for many decades. But the irony is that till today the situation remains the same. The assessment of the status of women as compared to men is still considered a complex task. Yet it is certain that the most reliable and acceptable measure of equality between any two classes is economic. Economic determinism the economic base determines all other sectors even from this consideration.

In this context, what better measure to describe the economic status of women than their participation in the labor force of a country? No one can hide the fact that the participation of women in India's gross work force has not increased in the slightest in the last few decades, but it is already decreasing. For example, in 1990, the participation of women in the total labor force of the country was about thirty-five percent. After that, in three decades, it has come down to 22.3 percent today. Women in the labor force this figure of participation is going to put a question mark on the claims of women empowerment and equal opportunities to women.

A question can also be raised that if women have really

progressed educationally and socially, then why is this gap between women and men in the labor force increasing? The World Economic Forum releases the Global Gender Index report every year. The surprising thing is that in this index released in 2021, India's place was one hundred and forty out of one hundred and fifty-six countries of the world. We are eighty as compared to the year 2020 went down a notch. This is no less worrying. Similarly, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) also releases the Gender Inequality Index.

In this index of the year 2020, India's place was one hundred and twenty three among all the countries of the world. In terms of economic participation and opportunities, we are ranked one hundred and fifty-one among one hundred and fifty-six countries. That is, our situation is much worse than other countries. To the extent that even small and poor countries are doing better than us in this matter. Therefore the equality of men and women or some aspects of women empowerment need to be looked at more closely. The figure of women's participation in the labor force also gives an in-

dication of how important this issue is for an accurate assessment of the country's economic and social development. Every achievement is incomplete without inclusive growth.

According to last year's report of global gender inequality, only 22.3 percent of women in India are participants in the labor force. The signs of gender inequality in India are now clearly visible in every field, big or small. It is surprising that in India The participation of women in ministerial posts also declined drastically. According to the report, the participation of women in ministerial posts in India has come down from 23.1 per cent to 9.1 per cent. It is being talked about for many years that if women reach the top policy making positions of the country, then only women-centric policies will be able to be made better.

In this matter of political field, the representation of women thus falling is not a good sign. If you want to compare with other countries, it is surprising that the representation of women in the entire political arena India has fallen from eighteenth to fifty-one in terms of When it comes to the status of women in eco-

nomic matters, it should also be noted that the participation of women in the industry, which contributes the most to the country's economy, has not increased significantly. In fact, there are many myths about the ability of women to work in the office and outside. Even today, despite similar educational and technical training, women are confined to beginner and mid-level jobs.

Although for women not getting employment opportunities is not the only problem, equal value of their labor is also a problem. Discrimination in the wages of men and women is also common. The Gender Inequality Report says that the wage inequality gap in India is still bridged only forty-six percent. Women in India earn an average of 20% less than men. Women are still rarely given opportunities to work in important positions.

The participation of women in technical roles is only 29.2%. women's access to top positions the rate is even worse. The leadership of women in the top positions is only 14.6 per cent. According to a report last year, the percentage of women in the positions of CEOs and manag-

ing directors in Indian companies was only 3.8.

However, in a country where the female population is more than sixty-five crores, if they cannot be provided with proper wages or work according to their qualifications, then it also shows the social, political and economic failure of that country. Increasing the participation of women in the labor force as much as it is necessary on the basis of morality, it is equally important for the development of the country. It is necessary. A few years ago, at the meeting of the World Economic Forum, International Monetary Fund chief Christina Lagarde, citing a research, said that if women are given equal opportunities with men in India's workforce, then the size of the Indian economy can be up to twenty-seven percent may increase. That's when the United Nations and the International Labor Organization had also said that if women are given more opportunities, then India's growth rate can be increased by four percent.

The industry that contributes the most to the economy, there is also a responsibility to increase the participation of

women. He is also capable of doing this. But it has to break out of the myths about the female workforce. The strange thing is that about sixty percent of the women with bachelor's degree have not been able to be engaged in any productive work economically. Apart from the lack of equal employment opportunities in this, many other reasons are counted. For example, even after the beginning of the twenty-first century, the social pressure to prevent women from earning economic still exists on a large scale today.

A serve in 2016 Forty to sixty percent of men and women in the survey believed that married women should not work whose husbands earn adequate salaries. Moreover, the problem of harassment at workplaces is no less serious. Pregnant employees are not even able to get other benefits by law. Usually these things are made the basis of not giving employment opportunities to women. The planners have to understand that at present the organizational structures of establishments in our country are being built with a view to employing men be it working style or work time. It needs to be changed.

# Silver Jubilee carnival for Kaliabor Press Club

By: Nava Thakuria  
Guwahati, July 20:

That was an amazing experience to attend the foundation day of a 25 years old press club in central Assam on a lazy Sunday, where a number of senior citizens along with rural scribes and novice journalists were waiting to listen to my speech. It's easier to address a journalist's meet-where we can discuss many issues with liberties, but while the audience include respected senior citizens and young people, it becomes a difficult task to speak to them together.

First, the question that arises, how much should I highlight the eroding credibility for the mainstream media around India in general and Assam in particular and secondly what may be the role of social (alternate/digital) in re-shaping the newspapers and satellite news channels! Thirdly, I must discuss the abundant opportunities brought out by the internet services, which has almost redesigned the present socio-cultural, political and economic landscape around the world.

As I got down from the long-drive bus at a point near to Jakhlabandha stoppage, it was Jayanta Kumar Sarma who came to escort me for the function. Jayanta, secretary of Kaliabor Press Club, gave me the initial briefing about the organization and the function. Soon Nayan Saikia, a Guwahati-based senior journalist-who continues to be a supportive hand to the local press club, welcomed me for the program. Before the meeting began, we had some time for lunch, which was simple but tasty.

After a few formalities, including a welcome chorus by some local girls who performed a spirited song of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, the chair asked me to



address the gathering. Prior to it, the organizers greeted me (along with Nabin Borthakur associated with Asom Sahitya Sabha and Pranab Mahanta, a media enthusiast on the dais) in traditional ways and the press club president Tapan Saikia introduced me to the audience. Some of the distinguished listeners (Hemadhar Hazarika, Bhupen Sarma, Dhruva Borgohain, Puspendra Saikia, Pulak Bora, Ajit Bhagawati, Jayanta Kr Khound, Bipul Hazarika, Achyut Saikia, Krishna Mahanta, etc) were even known to me.

I tried to analyze the crisis faced by the mainstream media outlets with the advent of an aggressive social media. The shrinking space for newspapers was multiplied during the Covid-19 pandemic induced national lock down, as rumours spread that the physical paper would carry the coronavirus. Slowly the readers turned to alternate media (precisely the news portals) and many of them did not return to their age-old habit of reading a newspaper in the morning hours. Once a sizable number of committed readers go away, the newspapers have lost their influence on them for good.

Across India, we should have over 50 crore mobile phone (connected with internet) users and many of them continue to read newspapers. The problem began, when the readers started ques-

tioning the contents of newspapers columns as often old, one-sided and non-comprehensive. The issue did not end here, as many internet users began to criticize the newspaper (also satellite news channel) contents in digital media space. Some of them even went on criticizing the editors with personal attacks. So gradually the editor-journalists have found themselves in an awkward position while facing the public.

Hence it's the time for the mainstream media persons to be more cautious, authentic and credible to the readers, listeners and viewers. Perhaps, we have arrived in a period where we can no longer generate news items according to our convenience. If we keep our accountability aside, the social media users (some of them may be retired working journalists) will remind us of it. The reminders may be polite in nature or even aggressive (and we will have no other option than acknowledging it).

Finally, I insisted that journalists may continue to be popular, inspiring and influential, if we can maintain our credibility and be honest to the respective audience. The so-called glamour, wealth and political affiliation would be useless in the days to come. A challenging time for professional journalists has welcomed all of us and we must survive with our truthfulness, dedication and commitment to

the medium, our society and the nation.

For records, Kaliabor Press Club was formed by some struggling rural scribes on 17 July 1997 and the present set of members (not more than 50) are celebrating their silver jubilee year. State minister Keshab Mahanta, hailing from the locality, launched the year long celebration at its premises on 16 January last in presence of distinguished personalities including performing artiste Jina Rajkumari. The press club members organized the foundation day program on 16 and 17 July.

A journalist workshop (in memory of two pioneer journalists from Kaliabor namely Govindaram Bhuyan and Abhiram Bhuyan) was also organized at Jakhlabandha HS School auditorium where Asom Bani editor Dileep Chandan and NKTV news reporter Biswajyoti Sarma were present as resource persons. It was followed by a competition for information gathering and news presentation among the aspiring students. Senior rural correspondents Kanak Hazarika and Narendranath Hazarika guided the event, which was assisted by Tarun Muktiyar, Bhaskar Saikia, Ashish Saikia and others.

My proposals for the local press club include a media health check-up camp (where their families would get the benefit of traditional and modern healthcare), regular sittings with classic movie shows, cartoon exhibitions and discussion on new books, interactions with celebrated personalities, and programs with video conference engaging journalist-authors across the globe time to time, so that the local scribes can make them updated with the latest trend in national and international journalism, socio-political and environmental scenario for their own benefits.

# Team Bonjovi MMA/Fitness Academy has opened today

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

The 4th and 5th floors of Konung Mamang, next to Bazar India Road, hosted Team Bonjovi MMA/Fitness Academy today. As a special invitee, Khwairakpam Raghmani Singh, a distinguished MLA, Uripok AC, and chairman of the Manipur Renewable Energy Development Agency, attended the grand opening ceremony. MMA, according to Khwairakpam Raghmani Singh, is an excellent sport. It combines all forms of martial

arts. Even yet, it is relatively new in Manipur. It will be extremely beneficial to Manipur's youth. This MMA will assist Manipur's young in finding the correct path given the rising number of problems in the state. No holds barred (NHB), cage fighting, and ultimate fighting are all forms of mixed martial arts (MMA), formerly known as Vale Tudo. It is a full-contact combat sport that combines tactics from several combat sports from across the world and is centred on striking, grappling, and ground fighting. It is academic train-

ing for MMA fighter as well as fitness which is quite different from gym. In addition to emphasising Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), the academy focuses on health and fitness and is enormously beneficial to ladies learning self-defence. The squad consists of fighters that have the capacity to compete internationally and is aiming for the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

Anyone interested in enrolling in the training programme is invited to come to the academy at the location provided above.

# Assam Rifles conducts Walkathon for Senior Citizens

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a Walkathon for Senior Citizens at Imphal West in Manipur today.

In continuation with the

efforts of Assam Rifles to encourage and empower the local populace to a fitter India, a Walkathon for Senior Citizens was organised at Mantripukhri. The attendees were motivated to do minimum 30 minutes of physical activity daily. A total of 30 senior

citizens along with members of local youth clubs from different localities attended the said events.

The Senior Citizens appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles and pledged to include walking in their daily routine.

# AR organises Organic Farming Awareness and Training Programme

IT News  
Imphal, July 20:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a field visit for locals to Vermicompost and Mushroom farm under awareness programme and training on Organic farming at Haraorou village, Imphal East today.

The aim of this programme was to make the people aware of Organic Farming practices along with its health benefits. This programme will also assist the vision of State government in promoting organic



farming culture in Manipur.

A total of 30 locals attended the event. The event culminated with Tea and Re-

freshment along with interaction with the local youth and villagers.

## Sports

# Manipur athlete bags silver at 54th Asian Physique Sports Champ



Imphal, July 20:

Solimlo Jajo and Solan Jajo from Manipur who represented team India at the ongoing 54th Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship-2022 in Maldives, have been awarded silver medal and 4th position in the same category.

Solimla Jajo, aged 17 from Kasom Khullen village won the silver medal in the 165 cm Senior Model Physique competition while her 17-

year-old colleague Solan Jajo from Leishi village secured 4th position in the 160 cm Senior Model Physique category. Kasom Khullen and Leishi villages are under Kamjong district.

In all, seven individuals including Solimla and Solan represented team India at the 7-day 54th Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship-2022 which is scheduled to conclude on July 21.

Both the athletes underwent intensive training prior

to the Maldives competition under the guidance of instructor L Robert at Royal gymnasium in Ukhrul, 85 km north of Imphal.

On getting the titles at an Asian championship, instructor Robert said, "I am indeed delighted and happy to be their Coach, we have proven those naysayers wrong by showing that even the hilly athletes also can excel in the international arena."

"Usually bodybuilding by women in a place like ours

(a hill region) was meant a taboo in our society but now we have prove them wrong by telling that bodybuilding is a lifestyle or can be kept as a profession," added the instructor of Royal Gymnasium which had produced 3 international athletes from Moreh and 3 international athletes from Ukhrul.

Instructor Robert on behalf of the two athletes also thanked everyone who helped the two young girls financially and morally.

According to Robert, the first tribal bodybuilder from Manipur who represented India in the Junior Mr Asia 2019 was also a product from Royal Gymnasium Ukhrul which was given recognition by All Manipur Body Building Association in 2018.

Solimla-a Miss Manipur title holder in her weight category in 2019 when she was studying Class 10, said, "I feel joy and happiness. I think things are possible if you are ready for it." On the other hand Solan is aiming to become a fitness ambassador in future. Both athletes are arriving here on July 23.

## Contd. from Page 1

# MoU signed between Railways, Noney District Administration.....

It may be mentioned that more than 700 personnel from various organisations were engaged in the Search and Rescue Operation (S&R) with more than 43 machines. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had also earlier an-

nounced ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakh each to the Next of Kin of the deceased and Rs. 50,000 for the injured persons. In addition, Rs. 30 lakh were also sanctioned for management of the S&R operations. For those cases,

where the bodies are still not found consisting of one Territorial Army, three villagers and one VSC, the ex-gratia may be paid after observing necessary enquiry and formalities which would take a period of 30-35 days.



**MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Regd. Office: Secure Office Complex, 3rd Floor, North AOC, A.T. Line  
Imphal West, Manipur - 795001)

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Imphal, Dated the 19th July, 2022

**No. 2/221(LED-Lamp)2022-MSPDCL-TECH/708-16:** Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL), a Government of Manipur enterprise, invites Sealed Tender from Manufacturer/Authorized dealers for Supply of 100W & 200W LED Flood Light and 130W LED Lamp with Fixture required for operation & maintenance of MSPDCL.

The tender details and documents shall be available from 22/07/2022 to 05/08/2022 on payment of cost of tender of **Rs. 500/- (non-refundable)** at the office of the **General Manager (Purchase), MSPDCL, Secure Office Complex, 3rd Floor, North AOC, Imphal West.**

Last date of Submission of Tender : 08/08/2022 (upto 11.00 A.M.)

Date of Opening : 08/08/2022 (Time : 2.00 P.M.)

Venue: MSPDCL Conference Hall.

Sd/-

**M. Rabi Singh**

General Manager (Purchase), MSPDCL