

## President-elect Droupadi Murmu represents tradition with modernity

*She has to play her due role as the protector of Adivasi rights*

By Harihar Swarup  
New Delhi, July 23:

The NDA's Presidential pick Droupadi Murmu has been elected to the high office defeating her rival Yashwant Sinha, joint Opposition candidate. Hailing from a predominantly tribal district of Odisha, Mayurbhanj, Murmu's work as a state functionary in various capacities is remembered as bold with grit and humility. Known for her unwavering connections to her tribal heritage, Murmu is revered. A progressive leader, she is said to be a believer in tradition, walking hand in hand with modernity. This was seen in multitudes of initiatives she undertook during her tenure as a widely respected Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and as a governor of Jharkhand.

There was once a time when certain surnames, Murmu included, meant being subjected to derision in schools and colleges. While the social structure has witnessed reform, Dalits and tribals continue to face various forms of oppressions. That she is set to replace a Dalit President is proof of NDA's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Social justice and transformation — beyond just lip service, even post Mandal must not remain as an ideal in perpetuity. When B R Ambedkar spoke about three warnings on the eve of Independence, the question of representation was at top of his mind. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the NDA have walked that talk.

A tribal as the first citizen of India was a dream of the tribal community since Inde-

pendence. Murmu will symbolize the coming of a new age in India, ushering in the intersection of two vulnerable identities in society — a tribal and a woman — to transform and protect the people she represented with unwavering confidence. This is the highest honour for the marginalized.

In the past, P A Sangma, another tribal, as backed by NDA, was in running, but could not make it. Selecting Murmu may prove to be a stepping stone in bringing various issues involving tribal — especially, tribal women — into the mainstream public discourse. With her at helm as President, there are greater hopes of highlighting the tribal and tribulations of the tribal, women, the invisibles, the down-trodden and the often forgotten. Her approach, combining tradition

with modernity, is the need of an hour.

Since independence, speeches have been made on the question of tribal welfare. One has concentrated on giving this issue its true relevance and importance. Tribals have been a key concern, but have not received focused attention. This perhaps why their issues take ages to resolve.

For example, the demand for Jharkhand, a separate state for Adivasi, took more than half a century, though the demand began before independence. Similarly, official recognition of the Santhali language lingered for a long. It was only because the Atal Behari Vajpayee-led NDA government recognized these issues, that they got relevance they deserved.

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## Minister Biswajit highlights the importance of improving Library



IT News  
Imphal, July 23:

Agriculture Minister Th. Biswajit today re-iterated the importance of building more libraries in the state while inaugurating a Library and community hall constructed at Kakwa Leishram Selungba Leikai in Thongju Assembly constituency.

"I need not repeat the role and importance of Library in a society, but as I felt that people, especially the youths today have slowly sidelining themselves the habit of preserving and collecting books", the Minister, who has been elected from the Thongju Assembly constituency said.

Soibam Kunjabihari president KYC Club and

Ashangbam Dhananjay former senior Auditor AG etc. were among those attended in the inaugural function of the Library cum Community Hall.

Minister Th Biswajit elaborated the role of Library in transforming the society to the right direction with the knowledge the young generation of today get from the knowledge bank.

Library indeed is a knowledge bank and the more youths of today spend times in the library the more they learn the nature of the society or in any changes that has been going on around the world.

"It is a much that today generations preserved and collect books at Library for the youngster, who are the pillar of the nation.

"Education is the backbone of the society", Minister Th Biswajit quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech and said that the people need to enhance the level of education in the society.

Minister Biswajit also assured to launch free coaching classes for students of Thongju Assembly constituency.

It may be mentioned that Th. Biswajit along with his family members has been assisting monetary help to poor students from the Thangju Assembly constituency to ensure education. Not only in education but also the Minister had also taken up various initiatives to ensure quality sports facilities to the youths of his constituency.

## Minister Nemcha Kipgen inaugurates Handloom Showroom



IT News  
Churachandpur, July 23:

Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister Nemcha

Kipgen today inaugurated NKC Handloom Showroom by Chongboi Kipgen at Koite, Churachandpur in the presence of Paolienlal Haokip,

MLA, Saikot AC.

The Minister also launched Hank to Bobbin Winding Machine during the occasion.

Highlighting the various schemes implemented by the Directorate of Handlooms & Textiles for the welfare of weavers and artisans of the State, Manipur, Nemcha Kipgen encouraged the weavers and the artisans to produce the best products to showcase the rich Handloom and Handicrafts of Manipur to the world.

She further expressed that such platform contributes in uplifting the socio-economic life of the people, especially women folks and helped in generating employment as well as income in our society.

It may be mentioned that Manipur has around 2.12 lakh handloom weavers, around 2.11 lakh looms and around 2 lakh handicraft artisans as per the National Handloom Census Report, 2019.

## After Covid-19 hiatus, 2nd edition of North East Festival to be held in Bangkok next week

Guwahati, July 23:

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, the second edition of the North East India Festival will be held at the Thai capital of Bangkok next week.

The festival, organised by Trend MMS, a socio-cultural trust, with support of the Indian embassy and state governments of the region, is the biggest event showcasing the northeast's culture, food and history abroad. It is expected to boost trade, people to people exchange, tourism etc.

"After the grand success of 2019, the second edition of the North East India Festival is back in Thailand from 30-31 July, 2022," the Indian embassy in Bangkok tweeted ear-

lier this week. This year, the festival will be held at Central World, a shopping complex.

This year, the festival will celebrate the 75th year of India's diplomatic relations with Thailand. The first edition was organized in February 2019 and was very well attended. More than 400 delegates are travelling to Bangkok to participate in the festival, organisers informed.

The second edition of the festival will start with an inaugural session on July 29 at Centara Grand Hotel, Bangkok hosted by Indian Embassy. Union minister of state for external affairs RK Ranjan, several chief ministers and ministers from NE states, senior bureaucrats and industrialists from both India and Thailand

will be present at the festival.

"Best wishes for the North East India Festival celebrating 75th anniversary of India-Thailand relations. It's a great opportunity to showcase our region to the international community and create opportunities for our youth. I hope it will have positive impact and strengthen ties for mutual benefit," Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio tweeted on Wednesday.

The main festival will have a large exhibition of governments of NE states, around 30 entrepreneurs from the region will showcase products with special focus on tea, crafts, agro products and tourism," Shyamkanu Mahanta of Trend MMS said.

"There will also be an ex-

hibition of cuisines, art and cultural display on both the days presenting various dance forms of NE states. This time the focus is on culture of the Tai community of the region," he added.

The two-day event will have a fashion show by leading designers of the region as well as a musical event by well-known bands and artists like Tetsuo Sisters, Zubeen Garg and Soulmate.

As part of the Centre's Act East policy, a series of interactions will also be held to promote bilateral trade. A business meet on tourism will be attended by major tour operators of Thailand who will interact with tourism departments of NE states and tour operators of the region.

## 37th Edition of Ambassadors' Meet by PHDCCI



IT News  
Imphal, July 23:

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon. Minister of State for External Affairs and Education addressed the 37th Edition of Ambassadors' Meet, organized by the PHD Chambers yesterday at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi. The annual gathering of Ambassadors/High Commissioners and other Diplomats of the New Delhi based Diplomatic Corps saw representations from over 59 countries.

In his address, MoS Dr. Singh recalled that at the height of the Covid pandemic in 2020-21, when the global supply and value

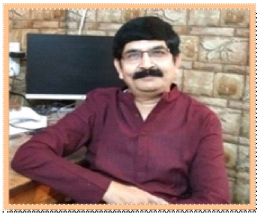
chains were disrupted, global manufacturing hit and international services industry was adversely affected; India took upon itself the responsibility to plug in the gaps in the global supply chains, wherever possible. He invited the foreign participants to examine opportunities offered by India, to participate and benefit from India's growth story, as India embarks upon a very ambitious programme of "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" through which it seeks to position India as a reliable and transparent, alternate manufacturing destination in the world, thereby pushing for the country to play a big role in

the global supply and value chains. He also highlighted the fact that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's Government is working tirelessly to provide the industry with a major boost to productivity through lowered costs of manufacturing and a rise in quality of the output in India.

MoS Dr. Singh also claimed that as India grows by engaging the creative energies of its 1.3 billion people, old connections and new partnerships will have to be harnessed. He called on the gathering to explore and initiate new conversations to generate ideas for new cooperation.



# President Ram Nath Kovind's nonconfrontational approach to political problems will always be remembered



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

nee and former speaker of Lok Sabha, Meira Kumar.

He first stepped into politics in 1994 when he was elected as a Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh. Ram Nath Kovind's achievements as governor paved the way for his credentials as a candidate for the presidency in 2017. He became the second Dalit to occupy the top constitutional post after K. R. Narayanan, who was the first Dalit president of the country from July 25, 1997 to July 25, 2002. Ram Nath Kovind has been one of the prominent faces of the Dalit community, who has spearheaded many important campaigns for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. His Dalit family background has always prompted him to fight for the community's cause. He was also a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes and Social Justice and Empowerment.

He was enrolled as an advocate in 1971 with the bar council of Delhi. His tenure in the Delhi High Court lasted from 1977 to 1979, during which he was a Central Government Advocate in the Delhi High Court. Between 1977 & 1978, he also served as the personal assistant of Prime Minister of India **Morarji Desai**. In the year 1991, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. As an advocate, he provided Probono aid to weaker sections of society, women, and the poor under the Free Legal Aid Society of New Delhi.

A lawyer by profession, he had been the Governor of the State of Bihar before he took over the highest constitutional office. As a member of parliament, he served on the Parliamentary Committee for Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Home Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Social Justice and Empowerment, Law and Justice. He brought to the office of President a rich experience of working across the spectrum of the republic, from the grassroots to the Top Court and Parliament. His vision and commitment towards the country's development was reflected in his speech after taking over as the President. He represented India in the United Nations in New York and addressed United Nations General Assembly in October, 2002. He visited 13 states and two union territories and met 780 people during these visits. It is to be appreciated that he invited some frontline corona warriors working in Delhi as special guests and lauded their courage and dedication in saving countless lives across the country. During his tenure, he set up a judicial commission to inquire into irregularities in the selection of ineligible persons, financial mismanagement, and promotion of unqualified teachers in universities, which was praised everywhere. As the President of India, he received the highest State honours from six countries - Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Croatia, Bolivia and Republic of Guinea. He donated his ancestral home in Paraunkh to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

He also quoted, "We have achieved a lot as Nation, but the effort to do more, to do better and to do faster is relentless". He also said that citizens of India are the real source which strengthens him and he is confident that people of India will continue to give him the same energy always and he will serve the nation better. Ram Nath Kovind has successfully discharged his functions as the President of India.

There is no doubt that he has presented a suitable solution to all the issues brought before him and he will be always remembered as a successful President.

# A School has three feet to withstand a fall-administration, Teachers and Students alike are indispensable



By: Paojakhp Guite

Most awaited results of High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) and Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (HSSLC) examinations, 2022 have been declared. HSLC is conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM), while the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur (COHSEM) conducts the HSSLC.

The article is aimed at analysing the result trends in Churachandpur district, Manipur with a special focus on the HSLC results.

The overall pass percentage of matriculation this year of the district stands at 61% which is way behind by 10-15% of last five years. The previous best performing schools like St. Mary's School and Don Bosco Higher Secondary School are found to be at their ebb this time. "Normally, St. Mary's School used to bag 80-85% pass percentage in the past 5 years, but this time a meagre 64%", the disgraced John Jangminlal Guite lamented. Mr. Guite is teaching in St. Mary's as a lecturer and currently pursuing a PhD in Manipur University. St. Mary's is one of the most reputed Catholic schools in the district.

Ill-favouritism seems looming large in education sector of the State. Not only is St. Mary's; other Christian Missionary-run schools of the district are being looked at as a soft target. Schools such as these are at the receiving end of vulnerabilities allegedly meted out by incumbent BJP-led Government on Christian educational institutions. The acclaimed district ivy league schools like Don Bosco Higher Secondary School has suffered a huge setback in its HSLC result, 2022. The school sent 241 students to write the matriculation exam. To a dismay, as many as 50 students failed in the board exam, never like the past years. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School could hardly manage to garner a pass percentage of 67%. The Principal of Don Bosco, Rev. Dr. Jacob Chapao is so upset with the result, citing political game with the kind of institutes.



Mention may be made of the June 5 bomb blast on the campus of Little Flower School, Imphal. The school is a leading Christian missionary high school in the State Capital, Imphal.

Another conspiracy allegation from the Churachandpur (locals of Churachandpur district) is political. None from the district featured in the top 25 list of all the streams, and this is questionable as put by the common people of the district. At the backdrop of Kukis being tagged as "foreigners" or "refugees", and the resurfacing of the same in the general public domain at this time round of BOSEM/CHOSEM's results, the Kuki communities are seemed to be targeted. Enough high ranking Government officials have Kukis in the echelon while they are being ostracised by other two neighbouring communities-Kangleipak Kanba Lup (KKL) and Federation of Haomee (FoH). KKL is a majority Meitei society that oversees the territorial integrity of the State and FoH is a blend of Meitei and Naga communities who have a common minimum programme, primarily meant for radicalisation of the masses against the Kukis of Manipur. Therefore, taking all these into considerations, some pessimists are of assumption that Kukis are being conspired in a way of damaging their two to three generations down the line, so that they will be reduced to servitude thereafter.

However, the above two conspiracy allegations being made by Catholic schools in particular and Churachandpur in general could be counter-productive. All these should be debunked from the minds of those anti-social elements.

No concrete evidence could cor-

roborate the allegations. A counter-allegation put that if the schools are dissatisfied with their result why don't they go to the Board for a re-evaluation or lodge a complaint. The fact that they could not muster the courage to approach the exam conducting body with their democratic rights shows that they are not confident enough of their (false) allegations. The exam results cannot be generalised on a zero-sum basis, meaning no favouritism rules the law of education.

Some other private schools have come out inflying colours with their results. For instance, Salt Brook school has a 100% pass percentage as in the past years. Other schools like Young Pillar's College, Greenwood Academy, Rayburn School, etc., have a more or less same achievements like the preceding years. Pu Vanlallian Haokip, Principal of Salt Brook school argued that the overall bad performance in the matriculation exam in the district this time is primarily due to the indulgence practices of young students. He even revealed that there are a good number of schools and colleges in the district whose students are caught with intoxicant elements like brown sugar inside the classrooms. The Principal further pointed out that "poppy cultivation is the precursor of brown sugar manufacturing". Worse, during the lockdown period of over two consecutive years from 2020, the students themselves were heavily engaged in the poppy plantation which finally culminates in themselves into a regular consumption of poppy and poppy products (brown sugar). The 2022 exam was the first rigorous exam ever after COVID-19-induced lockdown. In the preceding year of

2021, the BOSEM carried out a mass promotion system to the matriculation candidates. The student-candidates this year expected that the Board would go again with the same system in the 2022 exam as well. With this unfounded hope, the students did not pay attention to their preparations for the exam. This way, Pu MV Haokip threw all the blames to the students who failed in the exam.

In contrast, Mr. Haopu Haokip, an educationist and Director of ULTIMATE Coaching-cum-Reading Room opined that the students' failure this time round was due to lack of managerial skills of school administrations. A huge fraction of students is coming from other districts of the State. However, school administrations could not provide enough ratio of teachers to students. Lack of infrastructures like laboratory and classroom are partly responsible. In the same vein, Mr. Shokhomang Guite courageously blamed the Principal of the school where he is teaching. The Principal whom Mr. Guite does not want to name is lacking requisite quality managements and administrations of the school. Unfortunately, the Heritage School where Mr. Guite is teaching has a zero per cent success. "None of the 14 matric candidates the school sent to write the exam was seen successful", lamented Mr. Guite. In this unfortunate school, both teaching and non-teaching staffs are found wanting in strength. Mr. Guite shared to me that he was once so upset to see "a class X girl student sitting in the school counter as a cashier while an admission process was at its peak" showing a dearth of non-teaching staffs in this particular school.

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# Skin fasting for refreshed skin



By: Shahnaz Husain

Skin fasting is a new-age beauty trend of taking a break from all of your current skincare products or routine and letting your skin naturally do its magic. Basically, it's like the fasting you practice with your diet, except this is for the skin and is in the spotlight owing to social media.

Skin fasting is basically done by the non-application of any product or ingredients or reducing the use of skin care products you use

and finally stopping them altogether to allow your skin to breathe, rest, and reset but basic skincare shouldn't be avoided especially cleansing and sunscreen. Anyone, especially whose skin requires a reboot, can try skin fasting to let it relax and allow it to naturally replenish and heal. This trend is also beneficial to treat the harmful effects caused by any skincare product.

Absolutely nothing is applied to the skin except basic skin care. No serums, hydrators, or moisturizers. Letting your skin's own natural sebum [oil] do all the balancing and protecting is the main action. It's important to listen to your skin throughout the process, which can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.

Just like any other trend, you have to be quite cautious of trying it out as well. The method is not one-size-fits-all, and listening to your skin in real-time is the safest way to proceed when testing skin

fasting. Skin fasting is ultimately successful on a case-by-case basis. Especially, people with sensitive skin should slowly inculcate fasting into their regimen.

Those with skin sensitivities may benefit from skin fasting. It gives the skin time to not have any active ingredients that can trigger inflammation. Skin fasting is more beneficial to those with dry skin and those experiencing trouble with their skincare routines like oily, uncontrolled acne, rosacea, melasma, or other skin disorders will not benefit from a full skin fast of any length. These skin types need regular nourishment.

It is recommended to switch out one product for a certain period of time only so that you can reconstruct your routine instead of resetting it all together. It helps the skin to recover in situations where it acts adversely toward certain products or ingredients. It can guide you to stop using products that irritate your skin. Removing these products can result in sharp changes simply by fasting from them.

The skin secretes sebum, which is the natural oil of the skin. It is be-



lieved that skin fasting helps to regulate the secretion of oils and thus achieves a balanced skin. It protects the good health of the skin and also helps cell renewal. The youth and beauty of the skin depend on healthy cell renewal. Skin fasting is

a way of restoring good health of the skin and rejuvenating it.

Skin fasting will certainly help those who use a lot of products and make-up cosmetics. Whether skin fasting helps you or not depends on your individual skin

type. If you have dry and dehydrated skin, you should avoid skin fasting. For normal to dry skin, one may follow skin fasting when the weather is humid.

Skin "brushing" is a system that may be followed while abstaining from the normal skincare routine. Skin brushing helps the elimination of toxins. The entire surface is brushed, using a rough cloth, or a natural bristle brush. Begin from the feet and go upwards. Then brush from lower to upper arms. Go across the shoulders and back. Brush gently on the chest and abdomen.

My experience is after following skin fasting for one night, you can try the tissue paper test to see if your skin's oil-moisture balance is restored. Put dry and clean tissue paper on your face. If the tissue sticks to your face but falls off if you lean over, your skin is normal and the balance is restored. This is what skin fasting helps to achieve.

Skin fasting is a way of detoxifying your skin and achieving a healthy glow.

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

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# India logs 21,411 fresh Covid infections, active caseload crosses 150k mark

Agency  
New Delhi, July 23:

India added 21,411 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday, pushing the overall caseload to 43,868,476, the Union health ministry's dashboard showed. However, the country now has as many as 150,100 active patients – accounting for 0.34% of the total cases – as the 150,000 mark was breached yet again, with the addition of 618 cases to the cumulative active

case tally.

The data also showed that the virus claimed 67 lives in a day, while 20,726 people recovered from the viral disease, with the respective total numbers rising to 525,997 and 43,192,379.

Recoveries and deaths account for 98.46% and 1.20% of the national caseload.

Also, the latest daily infections were detected from a total of 480,202 samples tested on Friday, which means that

the daily positivity rate stood at 4.46%. With the addition of samples tested on July 22, as many as 872,136,407 samples have been tested nationally since the beginning of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, the nationwide vaccination coverage is at over 2.01 billion; in the last 24 hours, 3,493,209 doses of Covid-19 vaccines were administered. India's inoculation drive commenced on January 16 last year, and, on July 17 this

year, topped the two billion mark, taking just 18 months to reach the historic milestone.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that the state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

# 1 more Japanese Encephalitis death in Assam, toll rises to 38

Agency  
Guwahati, July 23:

With one fresh death, the fatalities due to Japanese Encephalitis in Assam have increased to 38 this month.

The state recorded 15 fresh cases taking the caseload to 251. The new fatality due to the infection was reported from Biswanath district in the last 24 hours, the National Health Mission, Assam said in the press release.

According to the NHM, since July 1, at least 38 people have fallen ill after being infected by the vector-borne disease in more than 20 of the 35 districts.

With the direction of the NHM authorities, District Rapid Response Teams were constituted to keep a close watch on the situation and to take preventive measures.

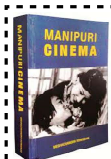
Japanese Encephalitis and malaria kill many people in Assam every year, specifically

during the monsoon season which usually starts in May and stretches to October.

Principal Secretary, Health, Avinash Joshi and NHM Director M.S. Lakshmi Priya are in close touch with the district authorities and asked them to remain proactive to deal with the situation.

The NHM has also issued a standard operating procedure and guidelines to tackle the situation arising from the outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis.

## A handy encyclopedia of the beginnings, rise and expansion of Manipuri cinema



A still from Manipuri film *Brojendragi Luhongba*  
Manipuri Cinema  
By: Meghachandra Kongbam  
Publisher : Ningthoukhongiam Ranjana Devi  
Page: 576  
Price: Rs 1200  
Available: Amazon

By Amit Mukherjee

In his book *Manipuri Cinema*, author Meghachandra Kongbam, a film critic and former director, State Information and Public Relations, Manipur, gives an insight on the Manipuri cinema, the story of which has largely remained unknown to the world outside.

In his book, which marks 50 years of Manipuri cinema, Kongbam asserts that the industry, despite being fairly young in terms of age, has created a significant place for itself in the world cinema space today. It talks about the inception of the Manipuri film industry, the works of its pioneers, the digital era among other things.

In the book, Kongbam speaks of the long cultural heritage of Manipur in detail,

the influence of which is reflected in the richness and depth of the films from the region.

Music, dance and various forms of performing arts have been means of entertainment of the people of the State since time immemorial. This, the author cites, is the reason that though Manipuri cinema was born in the 1970s, it sprang up like a brilliant upstart achieving flying colours overnight and went on to carve a niche for itself.

Kongbam, in detail, captures life before the arrival of motion pictures and even the magic lantern (a simple projector to show photographic slides) which first came to Manipur in 1890 during Christmas. He points out how even before this, music dance, arts in social and religious segments used to be powerful tools

of mass communication and entertainment for centuries.

The book documents glorious history of Manipur, which dates back to 33 AD, which has on record the coronation of Nongda Lairon Pakhangba.

Over the centuries, music, dance and other performing arts evolved with the royal patronage and people's love for the richness, depth and maturity of their culture began getting reflected in their cinema.

Kongbam also pays tribute to the personalities who raised the bar of Manipuri Cinema and took the industry to a new level. MK Priyabrata, father of Manipuri documentary cinema, finds a prominent space in the book. Priyabrata, younger brother of King Bodhachandra, used to make documentary films with his 8mm Bell & Howell movie camera, which became the precursor to Manipuri cinema. His film, *Reception Ceremony of Assam Governor Sir Robert Neil Reid* is considered to be one of the most historically significant pieces of work.

The author also captures the attempts and failures of

individuals and teams who did not achieve their goals initially, but their works became significant in terms of their pioneering efforts which eventually made Manipuri Cinema a reality. Contributions of the likes of *Mainu Pemcha* find adequate mention in the book, which Kongbam has peppered with several interesting anecdotes and instances- some narrated and other reported by personalities, artists and technicians associated with the Manipuri film industry.

The story of Karam Monomohan Singh- a timber merchant, a jungle contractor dealing with cinnamon and spices, also a pisciculturist; basically a resourceful businessman with a positive attitude- who was the first man to venture into making the first Manipuri film makes an interesting read. It was over a drinks party, amidst soaring spirits that Singh took a vow to produce a film in a month. And he did!

Another interesting story is how a well-known lyricist Chandam Shyamacharan Singh all of a sudden became producer and director of a film



A scene from *Brojendragi Luhongba* (1972)

in 1995 and went on to produce three more feature films in a row, which were all accepted with great enthusiasm by the audience.

This book, in chronological order, mentions and lists the works of all prominent personalities associated with the Manipuri cineworld, besides listing all the movies, which have been made since 1972 to 2021.

Kongbam also highlights

the issues of Manipuri cinema and mentions several efforts and representation made by associations, personalities, artists and local film bodies to improve the status and condition before the State government.

The book also gives details about the Acts and Rules which govern the State film industry, the Central Government's recommendations on Film Industry and

even details of associations and bodies associated with the State film sector and representations made by them till 2021.

For those who want to take a deep dive into the genesis, evolution, journey and the current status of the world of Manipuri cinema, this book by Meghachandra Kongbam is certainly a handy encyclopedia. (Courtesy- *The New Indian Express*, Sunday July 17, 2022)

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## A School has three feet to withstand a fall-administration, Teachers and Students....

Worse is that this admission was at a time while a post-course Study Camp was being conducted in the school. Thus, the school administration seemingly turns out to be a school authority wherein the Principal exploits any student in times of absence or shortage of non-teaching staffs in their place.

Demand for a salary hike has always been an intractable issue in the school administrations of private schools and colleges. A high school teacher earns no more than ten thousand rupees a month except for some well-to-do private schools and colleges that are having student strength of over 1500 like Salt Brook School, Rayburn School, to name few. The disproportionate pay to the teachers in the private schools is one of the manifestations of greed on the part of school administration. Mr. DJ Haokip, the Joint Secretary of Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO), Churachandpur unravelled the nature of school and college establishments of the district. He pointed out that the school administrations have a frantic race allegedly for profit-making, compromising with the quality competition among schools and colleges. Schools and colleges are mushrooming up implicitly or explicitly with an agenda of business motive in

the guise of providing learning or educational institutions.

Teacher's Absenteeism unleashes a wide chasm between teachers and students. Teacher Absenteeism is mainly prevalent in government schools and colleges. Boinu Doungel (name changed) who has passed out her 10+2 this year said that she got admitted in Churachandpur Government College and in a private coaching institute simultaneously. She chose the two paths because "teachers are not regular in the class as much as students' attendance is lenient in the college", said she.

Similarly, Tuibong Government High School is so excited to share me the school's performance in the recently declared HSLC results. The school has a commendable pass percentage of 55.22%. Sixty-seven students wrote the exam; 10 students secured first division while 27 students are second divisioners. To bridge the gap between teachers and students of the school, the Headmaster has a wish list of about seven more teachers, out of which 4 are likely to be inducted very soon.

He was given a positive assurance by the local MLA, Pu Paolienlal Haokip, 59-Saikot A/C (ST). The Headmaster is so positive of a much better result in next year HSLC exam result if the MLA's assurance is materialised.

In private schools and colleges, salary needs to be hiked and regularised. Miss Lamkhonei Chongloi (name changed) shared me her grievances related to pay of the school she is teaching in. She lives with her single elder brother, and their parents passed away a decade ago. She wishes if minimum of Rs. 2000/- (Two thousand only) could be increased from what she presently earns.

Students are the face of schools. In Churachandpur district, unfortunately, drug abuse is rampant among the student community. Poppy cultivation is not the only factor for a drug abuse. The COVID-19-induced lockdown exacerbated this issue all the more.

In the guise of online classrooms, students mostly indulged in phubbing, i.e., giving no attention to their studies. Rather, they are busy with internet worlds on electronic gadgets like smartphones in their possession. They eventually become addicted to the

internet esp. on social media like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Awareness seminars on social media and internet have to be promoted among students. As we are now just back to the threshold of a new beginning, students have to be ingrained once again with these subtle requirements. Civil society organisations should spearhead in this regard. I am happy to know that KSO, CCPur are much aware of drug abuses among the students esp. in CCPur district.

Schools and college administrations should take a proactive role in this matter. They should not compromise students' future at the altar of profit-making. Churachandpur District Private Schools and Colleges Association (CDPSCA) has to work in unison with district's student bodies like KSO, SSP, ZSP and the like to shape our students' future in particular and society as a whole. The President of CDPSCA, Pu Vanlalien Haokip feels so sorry for the state of drug abuse the district has been witnessing among student community. The President even propagated for continuing of schools and colleges in the midst of the most recent new wave of COVID-19. He is hopeful that the student bodies

should stand by the schools and colleges in having clearance from the district DC. The CDPSCA is right in its take in that the present generation has to learn on how to live life with the "century phenomenon called COVID-19". Continuing and consistency of schooling would pave a way for dissuading young students from falling prey to what an adage says, "an idle mind is devil's workshop".

The Government of Manipur is claimed to be proactive in initiating education related entities. With its flagship programme, "School Sagathansi Mission", both physical and manpower infrastructures shall be provided to Government schools to meet basic standards as per RTE and other relevant norms shall be provided. As a pilot project, the government in 2019 had chosen 60 government schools across the 16 districts of the State for the Mission.

With the recently concluded workshop on System Transformation and Rejuvenation of Education Manipur (STAR), the landscape of the education sector of Churachandpur in particular and Manipur in general is likely to get transformed.

STAR was launched in 2021. More than 59 experts from the NEW GLOBAL team participated with trainees of about 700

teachers in the second phase of training under STAR. The Government also decided to provide 2500 tablets to government teachers and 500 mobile phones to school leaders. This would hopefully help withstand the newly started wave of COVID-19 in case lockdown is in place again.

Another feather in the cap is the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in Manipur. A seminar on NEP 2020 was organised on the 17th July, 2022 in different Government schools. A trainee as well as a Government Primary school teacher, Mr. Thangminlien Haokip observed that the new education system stresses on mother tongue as a medium of teaching and promotes indigenous systems of knowledge and learning. This would take us back to our Indian cultural ethos which we have almost lost. He also warned that we should not compromise with the western world competition that we have been through ages.

The setback that schools of Churachandpur district suffers is similarly felt by schools across districts of the State. Some of the bad performing schools in Churachandpur assure that they will strive harder again from scratch. They have begun their rigorous preparations for a bet-

ter result next year. This is what I call "Healthy Competition" that is prevailing among private schools and colleges in the district. Also, as per School Sagathansi Mission, the Government has also provided to do better in their schools and colleges in terms of infrastructures (classrooms, toilets, furniture, pedagogy, etc.), teacher regularisation, etc. This competition among private and Government schools and colleges would give us a level playing field esp. to the BPL household parents, so that they can send their children to any school or colleges of their choice without much burden on financial matters.

Most importantly, the student bodies of the district should work in tandem with both private and Government schools and colleges. This would eventually be fruitful in the triangular performance of Administration, Teachers and Students of an institute.

(The writer is pursuing an MA in Media Studies at the Central University of Hyderabad. Currently, he is undergoing a media internship with Imphal Review of Arts and Politics undertaken by Free Press School of Journalism under Pradip Phanjoubam Sir. He may be contacted at guttepaajukhup9@gmail.com)



# NIA makes eighth arrest in Udaipur Tailor's Murder Case



Udaipur tailor's murder case: Clockwise: The accused Ghouse Mohammad and Mohammad Riaz Akhtari, Nupur Sharma and the slain Kanhaiya Lal.

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, July 23:

A 19-year-old man Mohammad Javed, a resident of Sindh Sarkar Ki Haweli, Kheradiwala, was arrested on Thursday by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the gruesome killing of Kanhaiya Lal (48) in Udaipur in Rajasthan last month.

Mohammad Javed became the eighth arrested accused related to gruesome murder that sent shockwaves across the country.

A week before Kanhaiya Lal's murder, the chemist, Umesh Kolhe (54), from Amravati in Maharashtra was murdered on June 21, allegedly for his social media posts backing former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks on the Prophet.

Mohammad Javed had played an "important role" in the conspiracy to kill Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur by conducting reconnaissance and passing on the information about the victim's presence at the shop

to the main killer, Riyaz, before the attack," a spokesperson of the NIA said.

Kanhaiya Lal was killed with a cleaver inside his tailoring shop in Udaipur's Maldas Street, Bhoot Mahal area on June 28, by two assailants armed with sharp-edged weapons. The gruesome attack by Riaz, was recorded on a mobile phone by Ghouse Mohammad and the video was posted online. In another video, the duo said they hacked Lal to death to avenge an alleged insult to Islam. Both were arrested

within hours of the killing.

The NIA took over the case the next day. Earlier, seven accused, including the main culprits, were arrested during separate raids on June 29, July 1, July 4, and July 9.

The eight accused involved in Kanhaiya Lal's murder are Mohammad Riaz Akhtari (39), Ghouse Mohammad (38), Mohammad Javed, Farhad Mohammad Shaikh alias Baba (31), Asif Hussain, Mohammad Mohsin, Wasim Ali, and Mohsin Khan alias Bhai. While Mohammad Javed has been sent to NIA custody, other accused have been sent to Jaipur Jail.

In another development 7 accused arrested in connection with Kolhe's murder were sent to judicial custody till August 05 by Special NIA Court in Amravati on Friday.

The 7 accused involved in Kolhe's murder are Mudassar Ahmed alias Sonu Raza (22), Sharukh Pathan alias Sharukh Kha alias Badshah Hidayat Kha, (24), Abdul Thoufik alias Nanu Shaikh Taslim (24), Shoaib Khan alias Bhurya, (22), Atib Rashid (22), Dr. Yusuf Khan Bahadur Khan (40) and Irfan Khan.

# Assam Rifles foils Cross Border Narcotics Smuggling



IT News  
Imphal, July 23:

Khuga Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) foiled cross border smuggling of narcotics in Songdoi village, CCPur district on July 22.

Based on intelligence input

received regarding transhipment of contraband items from across the Indo Myanmar border, troops of Assam Rifles launched an operation near BP-35 and BP-36 and apprehended a drug peddler coming from across the border. On thorough search of the indi-

vidual, 697 grams of heroine in 50 soap cases were recovered.

The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth Rs 2.784 Crore.

The recovered items along with the drug peddler were handed over to Singhat Police for further investigation.

Contd. from Page 1

# Assam Rifles organises lecture on awareness about Indian National Flag

IT News  
Imphal, July 23:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a lecture on awareness about the Indian National Flag at Sawomung, Imphal East, Manipur today.

The aim of this lecture was to make the people aware about

our National Flag as symbol of pride, hope and aspiration for all the people of India. The National flag occupies a unique and special place in the Heart and Mind of the people of India.

A total of 58 students and locals attended the event. The event culminated with Tea and Refreshment along with inter-

action with the local youth and villagers.

Meanwhile, Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South), conducted a lecture on awareness about Indian National Flag for locals in Imphal West and Bishnupur district today.

Furthering the efforts of Indian Government Initiative

of "HarGhar Tiranga" and "Azadika Amrit Mahotsav" a lecture on the Awareness about Indian National Flag including the Flag Code was conducted rousing the true spirit of Nationalism. This opportunity was also utilised to educate them on Agniveer Scheme of Military Recruitment.

# President-elect Droupadi Murmu represents tradition....

However, several issues persist, which require discussion and resolution. This included the implementation of the 5th schedule provisions, the Sarna code, the self-rule issue system, the issue of false witchcraft lynching, and Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for tribals of Assam, among others.

As per the Constitution, the powers of the governor

along with the President are limited. They have to work in unison with government through consultations with the Cabinet. However, Murmu is not one to go along with the wishes of the government. She has time and again proved to be real custodian of the Constitution for the tribals of Jharkhand. Her firm stand against Raghubar Das led government in Jharkhand on

Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and Santhala Pergana Tenancy act proved her will to fight for tribal rights. It was a bold step by a governor from the same party. She exercised her Constitutional powers again to oppose the formation of the Tribal Advisory Council by the UPA government in Jharkhand, as her consent was not taken by Chief Minister Sibbu Soren. (IPA Service)

# Sports

# UEFA Women's Euro 2022: Sweden edge past Belgium to advance to Semifinals

Agency  
London, July 23:

Sweden broke down Belgium's dogged resistance with a goal in the second minute of stoppage time to win 1-0 on Friday and set up a semifinal against host nation England in the Women's European Championship.

Linda Sembrant smashed home a loose ball from inside the six-yard box following a corner after Belgium goalkeeper Nicky Evrard produced one of many scrambling saves on a rainy night at Leigh Sports Village.

Sembrant, a 35-year-old defender, was playing only because of a slew of COVID-related absences in the Sweden squad.

The dramatic winner came from Sweden's 33rd shot of a one-sided quarterfinal between Europe's top-ranked team, at No. 2 in the world, behind the United States, and a Belgium side playing in its first knockout match at a European Championship.

Belgium defended stoutly, repeatedly getting bodies in the way of Sweden's shots. When



the ball did reach Evrard, she stood firm and made seven saves, two coming off close-range efforts by Sweden striker Stina Blackstenius.

Evrard was heavily involved in the goal, too. She batted away an inswinging corner, and raced across her line to keep out a shot by Nathalie Bjorn, only for the ball to rebound out to Sembrant. She could hardly miss.

"We weren't going to give this up," Sweden defender Magdalena Eriksson said. "We were going to keep pushing to the 94th minute."

"I felt tears coming (after the goal) because I was so happy for us as a team. It was a frustrating evening. I am so proud of the girls for how hard we fought. It's not been an easy week for us."

Sweden joined England and Germany in the semifinals. France or the Netherlands will complete the lineup for the last four on Saturday.

"It is going to be an extremely tough game for us," Eriksson said about playing England, which beat Spain in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. "We are going to have to be really on it."

# CWG 2022: India hoping to recreate Tokyo-esque Buzz in Birmingham

Agency  
Birmingham, July 23:

Their appetite whetted by their best-ever performance in Olympics in last year's Tokyo Games and the subsequent Paralympics, a 215-strong Indian contingent is headed to Birmingham for the 22nd Commonwealth Games to be held from July 28 to August 4.

Led by Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Deepak Punia, two-time Olympic medalist shuttler P.V. Sindhu and world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen, the squad is hoping for a rich haul of medals that will maintain the momentum of the country's recent resurgence in international sports.

Other prominent names in the Indian party of 322 comprising 215 athletes and 107 coaches and support staff include Olympic medalist wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Tokyo silver medalist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, table tennis stars Sharat Kamal, Manika Batra and G. Sathiyan, and wrestler Vinesh Phogat and Olympic bronze medalist boxer Lovlina

Borgohain.

Having won a bronze medal at the Olympics after a gap of four decades, the men's hockey team is looking to grab their maiden gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, while the women's team will be hoping to prove that the semifinal appearance at the Olympics was no flash in the pan.

India won seven medals, including one gold and two silver and four bronze, at Tokyo Olympics while at the Paralympics, the country claimed a record high of 19 medals, including five gold. Both these performances were India's best-ever in these games in recent times and since these events in 2021, Indian sportspersons have done well in most of the international events in which they took part.

At the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, India will compete in 15 sporting disciplines as well as four para-sports disciplines. Some of the disciplines where India look to perform well include traditionally strong events like boxing, badminton, hockey, weightlifting, women's cricket (making its debut at the CWG)

and wrestling. The squad will look to improve upon its 2018 Gold Coast CWG performance, where it finished third behind traditional powerhouses in Australia and England.

India had bagged 66 medals, including 26 gold and 20 silver and bronze apiece in Gold Coast. Their all-time best performance in the Commonwealth Games came in the 2010 edition of the Games held in Delhi, when India bagged 101 medals, including 38 gold and 27 silver. Overall, India have won 181 gold, 173 silver and 148 bronze medals for a total of 502 medals. Though the target is to improve or match the Gold Coast performance and achieve the third spot in the final medals tally, it may prove difficult in the absence of the shooting events in Birmingham.

Shooting has contributed 63 gold, 44 silver and 28 bronze medals to India's overall medal count in the Games since 1982 when India started participating in that sport in CWG. In the 2018 Games in Gold Coast, shooters captured 16 of the 66 medals India won, including seven out of the 26 gold medals.