

State to hosts Durand Cup, CM unveils trophies in Imphal

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today unveiled the Trophies for the 131st Edition of the Durand Cup 2022 at the City Convention Centre, Imphal and appealed to the people of the State to come out and enjoy the matches and encourage the players and organizers of the Cup, who have brought the Cup to the State to provide exposure to the State's sporting talents.

For the first time, Imphal will host 10 group matches of the Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia, from August 18 - September 5, 2022. The 131st edition of the Cup will be played in the three States of Manipur, Assam and West Bengal. In what is also a historic moment for the State, all three Durand Trophies, the President's Cup, the Durand Cup and the Shimla Trophy have reached Imphal and were unveiled by the Chief Minister during the ceremony.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, the Chief Minister said it is indeed a matter of great pride and privilege to be present at the monumental event of unveiling ceremony of trophies for the 131st edition of the Durand Cup, 2022. He thanked the Indian Army and the organizers of the Cup for bringing the iconic tournament to the "Football passionate State of Manipur."

"I wish the 131st edition of Durand Cup 2022 all the very best and I assure all support in



making the tournament bigger and better than the previous years," he said and further wished the participating teams.

He said Manipur is one of the States producing the highest number of Indian Super League players.

Stating that he had himself played in the tournament as a Left defender for BSF in the 1981 edition in which his team won the trophy at Ambekar Stadium, New Delhi, the Chief Minister said that Durand Cup matches happening in Imphal is like personally walking down the memory lane.

The Chief Minister wished all success to the tournament and also appreciated YAS Minister Govindas Konhoujam and his team for their efforts.

N. Biren Singh said 10 league matches will be played in Imphal.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the sacrifices of the Indian Army for the Nation and said that to further strengthen the bond with the Armed Forces, the Cabinet re-

viewed the remuneration awarded for gallantry award winners of the Armed Forces. He said earlier, only a paltry amount was awarded which we have enhanced significantly this time to Rs. 25 lakhs.

He said Manipur has the highest per capita officers in Armed forces in the country and further congratulated the Red Shield Division in their initiative to launch an outreach program to train and groom the youth of Manipur for entry into NDA, IMA and OTA and further assured assistance to the Red Shield Division.

Lauding the State's sportspersons, the Chief Minister said Manipuri sportspersons are playing in various disciplines and bringing laurels for the nation.

The unveiling ceremony was also attended by Hon'ble Minister Youth Affairs and Sports, Govindas Konhoujam, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Lieutenant General KK Repswal, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command and Chairman

Durand Organising Committee, Major General Navin Sachdeva, Major General Sharawat, IGAR (South), Lieutenant General (Retd) K. Himalaya Singh, distinguished guests from military and state administration, Padma and Arjuna Awardee Footballer O. Bemben, Padma Shri Awardee Rewben Mashangva, former Indian National player P. Renedy Singh among others.

The 131st edition of the Durand Cup will be played at the five venues of Khuman Lampak Stadium (Imphal), Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium (Guwahati), Naitathi Stadium (Naihati), Kishore Bharati Krirangan and Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Kolkata). Altogether 20 teams, including defending champions FC Goa and runners up from last year, Mohammedan Sporting, 11 teams from the Indian Super League, four Services team, NEROAFC, TRAUFC, SUDEVA FC of Delhi and Rajasthan United FC will play in this edition of the Durand Cup.

Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) to be made operational by 2025

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

On the third day of the Second Session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, Relief & Disaster Management Minister Awangbow Newmai informed the House that Geological Survey of India (GSI) has initiated the Research & Development Activities and the ground work for developing regional Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) including the North Eastern Region. He continued that the evaluation and calibration of the models is still continuing and will be made operational after successful ground evaluation w.e.f 2025 onwards. This was stated by the Minister while replying to the question raised by MLA Shri Surjakumar Okram.

Regarding the recent massive landslide in Marangching, Noney District, Minister Awangbow further replied that the total number of fatalities were 58 as on 23rd July, 2022; 3 missing persons and 18 were injured.

Forest Minister Th. Biswajit Singh replying to the question raised by MLA Chinlunthang informed that there are 37 reserved forests and 23 protected forests of all the Districts of Manipur. Chelkhalai covering an area of about 52.84 Sq.Km was declared as Reserved Forest by Manipur State Darbar Resolu-

tion No.2 dated 12.12.1945 before the Indian Forest Act, 1927 was enacted in Manipur, the Minister added.

Leader of the House, N. Biren Singh said that steps have been taken up by the State Government to curb attacks on Non-Manipuris. In the last five years i.e. from 2017 to 2022 (till 25th July, 2022), 20 (Twenty) Non-Manipuris were killed. To stop such incidents, CM informed the house that various preventive measures have been taken up by the State Government. Regarding this, 14 (fourteen) FIR cases have been registered and investigation is going on; one accused was arrested and remanded into Judicial Custody. He further informed that the District Police in the state have been given instruction to always remain alert to curb incidents of attacks on non-Manipuris by way of collection of intelligence, regular frisking/ checking, identification of suspected persons and regular checking of the places where the non-Manipuris reside; Deployment of police personnel round the clock in the work sites where non-Manipuris are working in the districts has been done; Dedicated deployment in localities where there is sizeable non-Manipuri settlement/populations; Surprise search and verification drives are done in random places from time to time based on inputs as well as on

suspicion; Frequent patrolling in and around vulnerable pockets where the non-locals are residing. Interaction with non-local by officers is done at regular intervals. Local landlords and employers have been asked to be careful about potential threats and to extend cooperation to non-locals so that non-locals do not have to move out. Beat System is being implemented and concerned beat personnel are monitoring round the clock at the vulnerable areas of non-Manipuris residing in the districts.

Earlier, K. Ranjit Singh, MLA moved a calling attention motion on the reported Night Shelter Home being rented out by a private individual. On this, Labour Minister Heikham Dingo said that the matter is currently under Judicial process. While giving clarification on the calling attention motion by MLA, Kh. Joykisan Singh on the reported scarcity of water for agricultural purposes in Imphal East, Agriculture Minister Th. Biswajit informed the House that under the supervision of the Leader of the House, N. Biren Singh, District Level Committee with all the line departments have already been constituted to look into the matter.

The Leader of the House and Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh (also in-charge of Home) laid "The Manipur Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Rules, 2021".

Result for improvement exam conducted by COHSEM declared

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

Result of the improvement examination conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) 2022, was declared today at its office complex at Babupara, Imphal.

1897 appeared in the improvement examination and among these 1843 student passed. Pass percentage is 97.15.

462 students appeared in Arts stream, among them 456 managed to clear the exam. In Science stream 1384 students appeared but 1336 passed. In Commerce 51 students appeared the improvement exam and all the 51 managed to pass the exam. The improvement examination was conducted in 6 centers on July 22.

Chairman of COHSEM Dr. Chingangbam Sarat Singh, Secretary Ch. Biren Singh, controller of examination A Sukumar and other committee members declared the result at COHSEM office.

ZUF conducts intensified operation to cleans their image

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

Armed group ZUF has said that after conducting intensifying operation of Special Action Mission set against all anti-people activities, elements and ostentatious UGs, taking the name ZUF in Zeliangrong areas, many social evils and corruptive designs have been detected and uncovered to public view.

In a statement by John Pame, Secretary, Information & Publicity, (ZUF), it is stated that the armed group said that the recently captured cadres of the merger group (NSCN-U) who are taking the sheltering name of ZUF revealed the concealed ample of sinister designs set to destroy the very fibre of Zeliangrong unity, political aspiration and determination. With the handful of biased and greed-based leaders, the merger group have been misleading the innocent cadres with the intention to make self-profit money making interest at the expense of destroying the hard earn historical rights,

values and cost of struggle that has been marked for more than half a century. Many attempts to sell out the rights of Zeliangrong political movement have been unleashed to open view. The fact is regretted to have named among Zeliangrong whose character depicts treacherous, betrayal and devilish nature that may go down the history of our people.

Nevertheless, it is our earnest appeal to leaders of the merger group to come out clean and restore the solemn and pure membership of the only Front to which we have sworn in with solemn affirmation before God and the people. The revealed version of the four captives proves evidential and substantiated the hypothesis that the merger group are privilege and money hunters and not true revolutionary armies. As per investigation with the captured cadres, one admitted that, he was dragged in and taken to unknown places in Manipur. He did not even join the group or trained and one of the captives too confessed and boldly revealed that,

the merger group could neither carry out its mission freely nor secure to act as ZUF as the group being subjected to the Naga faction. No sufficient provision is granted to sustain the group.

Therefore, cadres were impatient and losing their trust and interest in the group led by Raitu Chawang and S.Kamson. There remain only 5 to 6 members in the group almost unarmed. Further, as per the interview version extracted from SK. Thamei who recently came back home from the merger group, barely revealed the actual condition and predicament being faced by the group as they were tightened from every corner and quarter. SK. Thamei stated that, the merger group failed its policy and could not make any influence on the NSCN-U or NNPGs. Being incompetent and minor in number, the leaders could not raise their voice for Zeliangrong in any platform or meeting. He further stated that, he is regretted to have been named among the merger group.

contd. on page 4

Bijili Mahotsav and Ujala Diwas celebration at Senapati



IT News
Senapati, July 27:

Bijili Mahotsav and Ujala Diwas under Ujjawal Bharat, Ujjawal Bhawishya-power@2047 is celebrated today as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Multi Purpose Hall, Senapati. It was jointly organised by Ministries of Power (MoP) and Ministries of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India and MSPDCL, Government of Manipur.

Speaking on Chief Guest speech, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, Deputy Commissioner,

Senapati applauded the power department for availing the light and taking trouble where there is power supply shortage in the district. He also said that new project of diverging power supply are taking place in some part of the district and urged the people to co-operate with the line department.

Th. Thakho Peter, Ex-ADC member, President BJP Senapati District in his guest of honour speech urged the gathering to protect the environment and use electricity judiciously.

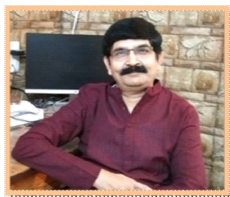
Earlier, the programme of celebration began with the

lighting of candles from chief guest and followed by ADM, SDO's and department officials.

During the programme, film on various achievements and projects on power supply were shown and also skit on conservation of energy was performed by Mave School. Beneficiaries from different villages also gave their testimonies.

The programme was attended by HL Jain, ADM, Senapati, various officials from MoP and MNRE, SDO's, DLO's, CSO's chairmen and secretaries of various villages and students

One Tiranga, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation evermore



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Kudos to PM Narendra Modi Government for taking initiative of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence. The Tiranga belongs to over a thousand million Indians who live in the country and abroad. The current Tiranga that we use was designed by Pingali Venkayya who was an Indian freedom fighter and is one of the unsung heroes of Indian freedom struggle. Our Tiranga represents the ideas, values and virtues of the citizens and the nation with which it moves forward. The sacrifices made and the struggles people went through are to be respected through "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign. As an Indian don't we feel proud to acknowledge the accomplishments and victories that we all have witnessed by staying united under this Tiranga?

The aim of this campaign is to make the relationship with the tricolour more personal than formal because the Tiranga is a symbol of free India that reminds us that we are all equal, irrespective of our religion, caste and creed. The Tiranga played a pivotal role in uniting people during India's freedom struggle. Bhikaji Cama, also known as Madame Cama, was the first woman who successfully unfurled the first version of the tricolour Indian Tiranga. She still remains to be one of the most prominent woman personalities to participate in the Indian Nationalist Movement.

There is no other country in the world as diverse as ours, and we must take pride in that. Unlike earlier when the use of our national Tiranga was limited, today national pride can be expressed in many ways and many civilians do so by the use of Tiranga in our cars, homes, clothes and homes.

The National Tiranga of India was adopted in its present form during the meeting of Constituent Assembly held on the 22 July 1947, a few days before India's independence from the British on 15 August, 1947. It served as the national Tiranga of the Dominion of India between 15 August 1947 and 26 January 1950 and that of the Republic of India thereafter. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru described it as 'a Tiranga of freedom' while moving the resolution on the Tiranga in the constituent assembly. And, for the first time in the long history of the nation, Indians could look up with pride and honour at their country's Tiranga.

PM Modi has rightly appealed to citizens to strengthen the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement by hoisting or displaying the national Tiranga at homes between August 13 and 15. The Indian National Tiranga represents the hopes and aspirations of the people of India. It is the symbol of our national pride. Over the last five decades, several people including members of armed forces have ungrudgingly laid down their lives to keep the tricolour flying in its full glory. In 1921, Gandhi proposed a tricoloured Tiranga with the symbol of the spinning wheel at its center. The colors of the Tiranga represented the dominant religions of the Indian subcontinent with clear message of promoting religious harmony. But growing demands for further modification led him to change the interpretations of the colors into something more secular. The lowermost strip of red represented sacrifice, middle green stripe represented hope and the topmost white stripe represented peace.

When we display the national Tiranga, we rise above our religion, political affiliation and the region we belong to. There is no doubt that the idea behind the initiative will certainly invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people and to promote awareness about the Indian National Tiranga. Let us all be encouraged to own it, love it, respect it and display it and salute to the leaders who brought us independence, and the Tiranga that will forever hold their legacy and our history intact. It is every Indian's fundamental right to fly it with dignity and honour.

Forest & Its People in Manipur

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

The hilly State of Manipur is situated in the north-eastern part of the country on an area of 22,327 sq. km. It shares international border with Myanmar and lies between latitude 23 degree 50 minute and 25 degree 42 minute North and longitude 92 degree 50 minute and 94 degree 46 minute East. Geographically the state comprises the flat plateau of alluvial valley and hill territory. The state is drained by Imphal in the central, Barak in the west, Chindwin/Yu in the east and Liyai rivers systems in the north. The annual temperature in the state ranges 14.5 degree Celsius to 38 degree Celsius and the average rainfall ranges from 1,250 mm to 2,700 mm. The month from November to February remains dry and remaining eight months are more or less rainy. About three-fourth of the state's geographical area is under recorded forest. The state has 8 different forest type as per Champion & Seth's classification system (1968) belonging to 5 types of groups viz Tropical semi evergreen, Tropical moist deciduous, sub-tropical Broadleaved Hill, sub-tropical pine and Montana wet Temperate Forests.

Forests are among the most important repositories of terrestrial biological diversity. Together, tropical, temperate and boreal forests offer very diverse habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms. Blessed with an amazing variety of flora and fauna, 67% of the geographical area of Manipur is hill tract covered forests. Depending on the altitude of hill ranges, the climatic condition varies from tropical to sub-alpine. The wet forests and the pine forests occur between 900-2700 m above MSL and they together sustain a host of rare and endemic plant and animal life. Coveted the world over as some of the most beautiful and precious blooms, orchids have an aura of exotic, mysteries about them. In Manipur, they are abundant in their natural habitat growing in soil or on trees and shrubs speaking their beauty and colour, stunning the eye that is not used to seeing them in such profusion. There are 500 varieties of orchids which grow in Manipur of which 472 have been identified. Biological diversity is the basis for a wide array of goods and services provided by forests. The variety of forest trees and shrubs play a vital role in the daily life of rural

communities in many areas, as sources of wood and non-wood products, as contributors to soil and water conservation, and as repositories of aesthetic, ethical, cultural and religious values. Forest animals are a vital source of nutrition and income to many people, and have vital roles in forest ecology, such as pollination, seed predation, dispersal and germination, and predation on potential pest species. Forest biological diversity is one of the seven thematic elements of the concept of Sustainable Forest Management approved by the General Assembly of the UN in 2007, together with the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests. Losing forest diversity means missing opportunities for medicines, food, raw materials and employment opportunities, in one word: welfare.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 26, 32, 51 and 76 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927) the Lt. Governor (Administration), Manipur made Rules and issued Notification No. 56/27/70-For Secretariat: Forest Department on the 10th day of September, 1971 for the management and administration of Forests in Manipur namely, "The Manipur Forest Rules, 1971." There was no policy on forests prior to it. The commercial extraction of forest produce started only after 1889 through the DFO Cachar on 75:25 revenue sharing bases between the State of Manipur and the Cachar Forest Division, under the agreement with the Assam Government. However, prior to British rule in India (1891) there was no system of forest management in the State. The population of the State was very low and hence whatever extraction had taken place was below the annual increment in the forest produce. The value of the produce could not be appreciated for lack of market and communication. During the early period of British rule, no separate forest officer was appointed. In the year 1931, the Forest Department was set up with a separate forest member in the erstwhile Manipur State Darbar. There was considerable improvement in the management of forests with a brief forest policy highlighted under the Darbar Resolution No. 10-A (1932).

The hill areas of Manipur surrounding the valley are the home of different ethnic groups, viz.,

Nagas and the Kuki-Chin group or the Zo People, categorized as Schedule Tribes in the constitution of India and the indigenous people as per the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Ethnographers and anthropologists have attempted to differentiate the Nagas and the Zo people by the land holding system they practiced. Though the Nagas in Manipur are somehow similar to one another, when it comes to the whole of Nagas there are variants of land holding systems among them. Unlike the Nagas, the Zo people are rather homogeneous in terms of their land holding system, which is in a way intertwined with the hereditary chieftainship and sole ownership of land is with the chief of the village and village authority. The tribal people of Manipur, from time immemorial, have been under the leadership of their Chiefs and his council. They are the custodians of tribal culture, customs and traditions. In Manipur State the tribal people are protected through the Chiefs against total and absolute exploitation and suppression from external aggression and domination especially in the matter of land holding system. The tribal Chiefs of Manipur hold title and ownership over the village land under their jurisdiction, and share it with the villagers. Thus sustainable tribal economy evolves out of this practice.

Manipur was a princely State that merged with the Indian Union in 1949 after some initial reluctance on the part of the then Maharaja. A peculiar feature of the State is that out of its total geographical area only 10% is in the valleys, which is home to around 65% of the total populations (overwhelmingly non-tribal) while the hill areas are inhabited by various tribal communities belonging to Naga, and Zo Indigenous Peoples (Chin-Kuki-Mizo). The outbreak of insurgency in the Naga Hills in the 1950s affected Naga inhabited Northern, Eastern and Western Hills of the State too. Similarly, eruption of violence in Mizo Hills in the 1960s caused disturbances in the Southern hills dominated by kindred tribes. The Valley inhabited largely by the Meitei community, too, has been the scene of insurgency caused by local armed groups from the 1970s. "Integrity" of the State has been a major issue as there is a

demand from certain Naga groups for merger of areas dominated by them in the Greater Nagaland. The Kuki underground group (KNO) demanded a full-fledged State and at the same time, the Zomi, Hmar and Kuki group under the umbrella of United People's Front (UPF) has demanded Autonomous Hill State within the State of Manipur under Art. 244A of the Constitution of India while maintaining territorial integrity of Manipur. In short the state has remained in the midst of conflict and violence for long.

There is only one land holding system in the entire State of Manipur so far whereas in Assam there are about three land holding systems. The Hill Areas Committee (HAC) is responsible for initiating to framing of Rules and Regulations for land holding system to be implemented in the hill areas of Manipur in the interests of indigenous tribal peoples in accordance with the provisions given under the Second Schedule of the Hill Areas Committee Order, 1972 since the MLR & LR Act, 1960 is purely meant for the valley people. After lapses of even more than 44 years the HAC is not properly or fully functional till date. Across India's forest areas, people are fighting for democracy, livelihood and dignity. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, is one instrument in that struggle. The Manipur Forest Rules, 1971 may sincerely be checked by the tribal people's representative and these rules should not be contradicted to the customary laws and traditional practices of indigenous tribal ancestral land holding system under the chieftainship institution in the State of Manipur. The huge deforestation for poppy plantation in many parts of hills in Manipur has threatened our rich biodiversity and disturbs ecological balance which could be the beginning of the end of our lives if not stopped right now. To avoid this the long cherished political aspirations of the indigenous tribal peoples of Manipur may be addressed within the frame-work of the Constitution of India by both the Central and State Governments in order to protect the territorial integrity and ecological balance of the State of Manipur.

(Writer can be reached to: sjgshwor7@gmail.com)

Financing of Livestock sector – Enhancing credit availability

By: Atul Chaturvedi

A working group constituted by Reserve Bank of India in 2019 noted that traditional agricultural farmers have better access to credit than livestock and dairy farmers. As 75% livestock farmers are marginal farmers with 2-4 animals, access to credit continues to be a major challenge in India's animal husbandry and dairying sectors. The RBI report observed that allied activities (livestock, forestry, and fisheries) receive only 10% of the total agricultural credit while they contribute 40% of the agricultural output. A major challenge for livestock farmers emanates from the fact that the census defines a farmer based on his landholding. Consequently, it is difficult for farmers without registered land records to avail credit. To remedy the situation, the Government has come up with a series of measures to enhance credit availability and debt financing for farmers and entrepreneurs in

the livestock and dairy sector.

Only 41% of small & marginal farmers covered by public & private sector banks, and that leaves the vast majority vulnerable in the face of usurious moneylenders. So, to remedy the situation, the first significant measure in this context came about in 2019 when the Kisan Credit Card facility was extended to farmers in the livestock sector. KCC provides for interest subvention of 2% to banks and Prompt Repayment Incentive of 3% is given to farmers on Short Term Loan for agriculture and allied activities up to Rs. 3 lakh which makes the effective rate of interest on such loans at 4%. Importantly, KCC can play an important role in empowering rural women as approximately 70% livestock farmers are women, the majority of whom struggle to access credit due to absence of collateral.

Additionally, the RBI report highlighted the fact that certain states receive more Agri-credit than their Agri-GDP, implying that credit may be diverted for non-agricultural reasons. It thus underscores the issue of regional inequity, as states in the central, eastern, and north-eastern areas received very little Agri-credit as a percentage of their agricultural GDP. In this context, the government came up with a slew of measures attempting to empower the network of cooperatives beginning with a scheme providing for 4% interest subvention on working capital loan to support Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations during the COVID lockdown under which Rs. 333 crores have been released to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to leverage working capital loan of Rs.24,000 crore. Further, dairy farmers struggle from challenges brought about on account of unreliable electricity supply. Consequently, over 3 percent of milk produced gets wasted. To remedy this, the Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Scheme

was announced with the objective of providing loan assistance to Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations across the country. DIDF seeks to upgrade the entire dairy value chain in the country by incentivising projects focused on infrastructure development. In the past few decades, the private sector has played a formidable role in the dairy processing infrastructure. Currently, there is processing infrastructure gap of about 120-130 MMT, which translates into an investment potential of approximately 12,000 crore. If the infrastructure needs for milk processing and distribution are included, then the overall potential investment opportunity is to the tune of Rs. 1,40,000 crore across the dairy value chain. Considering this, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has come up with a flagship scheme for private companies and entrepreneurs in the form of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) to provide interest subvention on loan for setting up

of processing units related to dairy products, meat products, and animal feed. Credit guarantee is an important risk mitigating tool which provides cushion to the lender for lending to MSMEs. Hence, credit guarantee fund of Rs 750 crores has been established to provide guaranteed coverage for AHIDF loans up to 25% of the principal loan made available to the borrower. To plug the deficiencies in the value chain, the AHIDF has been revised to extend the scheme to infrastructure related to breed improvement technology, vaccine manufacturing and waste to wealth.

Some of the prime challenges facing our livestock sector pertain to the low productivity levels and lack of affordable quality feed and fodder. Hence, to extend support to farmers in this area, new initiatives have been announced for providing capital subsidy to entrepreneurs towards breed multiplication farms related to cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and commercial backyard poultry hatcheries. Similarly, 50% capital

subsidy scheme is also being implemented for those rural fodder entrepreneurs who are looking for opportunity to set up facility related to affordable quality feed supply to livestock farmers. Such programmes of capital subsidy and interest subvention can ensure easy availability of bank loans to livestock farmers.

To boost credit availability, earmarking of term loan for banking institutions under ground level credit targets for livestock related activities was announced in the budget of 2021. Based on 192% achievement of 2021-22 targets, similar earmarking has also been done both for term loan and working capital loan for 2022-23. All such recent measures taken by Government are thus enhancing credit availability in livestock sector which in turn would result in multiplier effect towards entrepreneurship development and wealth creation in rural India.

(The author is Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Impfal Times'

can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com.

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

Mumbai emerges as H1N1 hotspot as cases at 3-year high, BMC alerts high-risk groups

Agency
Mumbai, July 27:

As Mumbai emerged as a new hotspot for Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu) as cases in the city crossed the tally of past two years, people from high-risk groups have been advised by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to approach doctors if they develop symptoms like breathlessness and chest pain.

The city has reported 66 cases this year, surpassing 64 in 2021 and 44 of 2020, according to a report by *Times of India*. Out of 66 cases, 62 were reported in this month alone.

From January 1 to July 24, 2022, a total of 1,66,132 people were screened, deputy director of health services (Mumbai circle) Dr Gauri Rathod had said.

Two of the patients from Thane succumbed to the infection last week, she said, adding that these are the first deaths due to the H1N1 virus in the Mumbai circle this year, PTI reported.

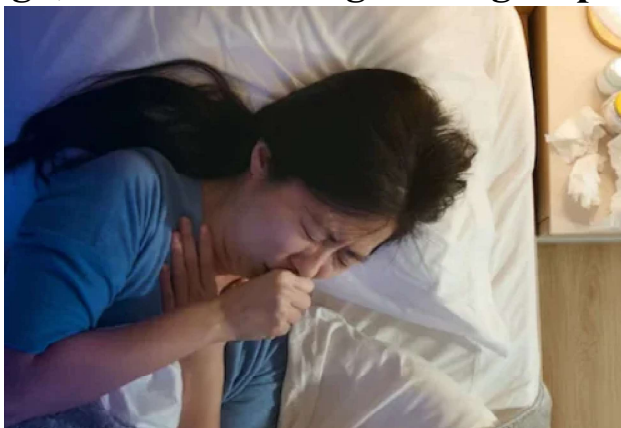
Maharashtra confirmed its first H1N1 casualty of 2022 when a nine-year-old girl from Talasari, Palghar died on July 10. Cases have been reported from Mumbai's neighbouring Thane, Palghar and Raigad districts.

Free Testing for Swine Flu in Thane

Meanwhile, Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has announced free testing to detect swine flu cases. People can go to civic body's health centres across Thane to avail free testing facility. However, a doctor's recommendation is needed for testing.

A total of 20 cases of swine flu were detected in Thane city so far this month and 15 patients recovered, while two others died, PTI reported citing the TMC's release.

The civic body also conducted a survey of houses where swine flu patients were found but did not found any new swine flu case.



Not only Maharashtra, cases of Influenza H1N1 (swine flu) in others parts of the country have raised an alarm for a new threat. Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have also confirmed several Swine Flu cases so far, prompting authorities into action.

What do Doctors Say About Sudden Rise in H1N1 Cases?

Doctors have warned that the official numbers don't reflect reality due to limited testing.

Dr Sangeeta Ravat, dean of Parel's KEM Hospital, said they detect five to six positive H1N1 cases every day.

Testing is a constraint as most public hospitals don't have the facility and test at private centres cost Rs 2000-Rs 2500, Times of India quoted Dr Bela Verma of JJ Hospital as saying.

Dr Sanjay Pujari, a member of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Covid task force, was quoted by Indian Express as saying that the rise in cases in the northern region usually happens during winter, and in the southern part of the country it happens during the monsoon. So high-risk people should get vaccinated against H1N1 at

least two-three months prior to the season, Dr Pujari said.

What is Swine Flu or H1N1 influenza?

Swine Flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. It affects the respiratory tracts of humans and can be caused by coming close to infected pigs. H1N1 virus has the potential to spread from person to person.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the influenza virus spread rapidly across 74 countries after early reports of influenza outbreaks in North America in April 2009. It was declared a pandemic by the WHO in June 2009. Two months later in August, the WHO declared an end to the H1N1 influenza pandemic.

Swine Flu or H1N1 influenza symptoms

Fever, cough, running nose and sore throat, head ache, bodyache, fatigue, diarrhoea and vomiting are symptoms of flu caused by the H1N1 virus.

Influenza may affect all age groups but health workers and persons with comorbid conditions (such as lung disease, heart disease, liver disease, kidney disease, blood disorders, diabetes) and immuno-

compromised persons are at higher risk, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) pointed out.

Prevention from Swine Flu

If you want to keep Swine Flu at bay, wash your hands frequently with soap and water/alcohol-based hand rubs/antiseptic hand wash. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare says that hand hygiene is the single most important measure to reduce the risk of transmitting infectious organism from one person to other. Clean your hands after using the washroom and public transport and public toilets.

For all individuals with signs and symptoms influenza-like illness, the health ministry recommended that they should cover the nose/mouth with a handkerchief/tissue paper when coughing or sneezing and perform hand hygiene.

People have been advised to stay at arm's length away from those showing symptoms of influenza-like illness.

If one has caught the virus, one should quarantine oneself to contain the spread of swine flu. People are also advised to wear face masks while venturing out of their house.

India reports 18,313 fresh COVID-19 cases, 57 fatalities

Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

With 18,313 fresh cases reported in a day, India's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 4,39,38,764, while the count of active cases of the infection has declined to 1,45,026, the Union health ministry said on Wednesday.

The death toll due to the viral disease has gone up to 5,26,110 with 57 more fatalities, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am.

The active cases account for 0.34 per cent of the total caseload, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.47 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 2,486 cases was recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours, it added.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.31 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 4.57 per cent, according to the data.

A total of 87.36 crore tests have so far been conducted to detect the viral infection in the country, including 4,25,337 in the last 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has gone up to 4,32,67,571, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.2 per cent, the data showed.

According to the ministry, 202.79 crore vaccine doses have

so far been administered under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

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

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore Covid cases on May 4, 2021, the three crore mark on June 23, 2021 and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

The 9th Edition of Young Leaders Connect to be held in Imphal



IT News
Imphal, July 27:

In a press note issued by Hekani Jakhalu, North East Leaders Connect led by Union Minister of Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu declared today that the 9th session of the Young Leaders Connect will be held at Imphal, Manipur in the month of October 2022.

The Conclave will seek to converge and design reforms and strategies that will reshape the economies of North East India.

The conclave will facilitate discussions, bringing together policymakers, stakeholders, industry leaders, civil society, academia, and young leaders to deliberate, identify and find a collective response to strengthen partnerships for inclusive growth and development.

The conclave will see deliberations on the future course of North East India and the steps the region should take to improve the economic conditions of the region. This will also give space to new age business leaders and visionaries, to share their vision and

ideas on how to strengthen and transform North East India's economy.

North East Leaders Connect (formerly Young Leaders Connect) was started in 2001 in Kohima, Nagaland with the objective of bringing young leaders and achievers of North East in one platform. The Chairman is Bhaichung Bhutia and other founding members include Union Minister of Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu.

Homage paid to War Heroes on Kargil Vijay Diwas

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, July 27:

fought at an altitude of approximately 16,000 feet.

Mumbai

The homage was paid to martyrs on the occasion of 23rd Kargil Vijay Diwas by organizing programs by different Defence establishments across the country on Tuesday.

The Kargil Victory Day is commemorated on July 26 every year, to observe India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil war by ousting Pakistani Forces from their occupied positions on the mountain tops of Northern Kargil district in Ladakh in 1999. It is the saga of gallantry and valour of a battle fought in the most inhospitable terrain in the World in the area of the Kargil-Drass Sector of Ladakh.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Armed Force braving the most difficult terrain, battling extreme weather conditions fought valiantly on the steep slopes of icy peaks with grit and valour thus defeating the evil designs of the enemy and throwing the intruders out from Indian Soil. The Kargil War "Operation Vijay" was

laid by Lt Gen HS Kahlon, General Officer Commanding (GOC) Maharashtra Gujarat & Goa Area, Vice Admiral K Swaminathan, Chief of Staff Western Naval Command, Veterans, and other senior officers from all three services and Coast Guard.

Nagpur
Group Captain Brijesh Kumar Chauhan (IAF) (Group Commander NCC Group) laid the wreath at a memorial at Vayu Sena Nagar in Nagpur. Similarly, Major General Dinesh Hooda, General Officer Commanding, Uttar Maharashtra, and Gujarat Sub-Area along with Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers, Other Ranks, and

Veterans laid a wreath at the war memorial at Kamptee, Nagpur. On the solemn occasion, the General Officer interacted with the soldiers and veterans, while remembering the deeds of the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice on the icy heights to protect their motherland.

Besides, a blood donation camp was organized by Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon in Wardha. In all 278 volunteers attended the camp and donated their blood.

On the occasion, Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said that "I was in Southern Command at that time and a major portion of the task was carried out by the Northern Command. Our troops faced the challenging task valiantly and recaptured all the posts intruded by the Pakistani troops. We lost many Bravehearts. Manoj Pandey, Mohammed Hanif, Krishnakant Dharashivkar, and Anuj Nayyar were my batch mates at National Defence Academy, Khandakwala, and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. Salute to all the Bravehearts".

Career Guidance

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) to study undergraduate courses in basic and natural sciences



By: Vijay GarG

Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, has invited applications for Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) 2022-23, a component under Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Scheme.

The Scheme aims at attracting meritorious students to study basic and natural sciences at the college and university level and to pursue research careers in both basic and applied science areas including engineering, medicine,

agriculture and veterinary sciences.

Under INSPIRE-Scholarship for Higher Education (INSPIRE-SHE) component, scholarships are offered to pursue undergraduate (UG) studies and to be continued up to post-graduate (PG) studies, based on Class 12 examination results (top 1% of respective Boards or within eligible rank in chosen competitive examinations such as JEE (Main), JEE (Advanced), NEET, and securing admission in science stream (in any of science courses or their combination out of the 18 identified subjects). The identified subjects include The following subjects under Basic and Natural Sciences are within the scope of INSPIRE Scholarship: (1) Physics, (2) Chemistry, (3) Mathematics, (4) Biology, (5) Statistics, (6) Geology, (7) Astrophysics, (8) Astronomy, (9) Electronics, (10) Botany, (11) Zoology, (12) Bio-chemistry,

(13) Anthropology, (14) Microbiology, (15) Geophysics, (16) Geochemistry, (17) Atmospheric Sciences & (18) Oceanic Sciences.

Scholarship Amount: The scholarship amount is Rs. 60,000/- per annum (Rs. 5,000/- p.m) + Mentorship grant 20,000/- per annum.

Eligibility: Applicant should have completed Class 12 in 2022 and must be pursuing the first year of B.Sc., B.S., Integrated M.Sc. or Integrated M.S. courses in Natural and Basic Sciences in any recognized College/University/Academic Institution in the country.

Applicant should in addition satisfy anyone of the following criterion: (i) should have aggregate marks within top 1% of their Class XII examination of any State/ Central Board in 2022 (Top 1% Cut-off marks of Various Boards Result in Class XII Examination in Year 2022 and Reposi-

tioning Cut-Off Marks are given in the detailed Notification available at <https://www.online-inspire.gov.in>. Cut-off for the Year 2022 for respective Boards shall be finalized by DST Based on Board Inclusive Model) (ii) secured ranks within top 10000 in JEE Main/Advanced or NEET (iii) be a National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) scholar (iv) be a Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) scholar (v) be an International Olympiad medalist.

Applications can be submitted online at <https://www.online-inspire.gov.in> on 31st January every year.

Exam. Conduct every year in November/Dec

The list of documents to be uploaded along with the application is specified in the detailed Notification.

For details, visit <https://www.online-inspire.gov.in>

Bijli Mahotsav and Ujala Diwas celebrated in Bishnupur

IT News
Bishnupur, July 27:

On the occasion of Celebration of "Ujjawal Bharat, Ujjawal Bhavishya—Power @ 2047" under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Bishnupur District observed Bijli Mahotsav & Ujala Diwas organized by Ministry of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India in association with Government of Manipur. The celebration was held at Kwaspipai Mamang Community Hall in Bishnupur today.

Education and Law & Legislative Affairs Minister, Th. Basanta Kumar Singh graced the function as the Chief Guest while Smt. Irembam Nalini Devi, MLA Oinam AC, Thiyam Dilip Meitei, Member, Nachou Zilla Parishad and Smt. Thoudam Ahanbi Devi, Pradhan, Khoijum Kwaspipai Gram Panchayat, Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur Lourembam Bikram, Divisional Forest Officer, Dr. S. Rebika



were the Guests of Honour at the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Th. Basanta Kumar stressed the importance of energy conservation as the day-to-day quality of life improved with access to energy. The Minister also maintained that electricity is one of the main indicators of a State or a country's development. Stating that irresponsible consumption of power adversely impacted consumers' electric bills as well as the power distribution of the country, the Minister urged the gathering to conserve energy

for the benefit of the future generation and the country.

Deputy Commissioner, Bishnupur Lourembam Bikram stated that power sector reforms over the years have ensured power supply even to the remotest corners now. He also informed that the introduction of the pre-paid meter system has considerably enhanced revenue collection in the State. Suggesting that adoption of simple measures like shifting from CFL bulbs to LED will significantly contribute to energy conservation efforts, the DC urged the people for cooperation and support.

During the celebration, various beneficiaries of electrification schemes shared their testimonies in the interactive session. Short films were screened on Universal Household Electrification, Village Electrification, Distribution System Strengthening, Capacity Addition, One Nation One Grid, Renewable Energy, Consumer Rights and a film on State Achievement. Nukkad Natak and cultural performances were the other highlights of the function.

H. Bobby Sharma, ADM Bishnupur, Satyam Takhellambam, Additional SP, Bishnupur, SDOs/BDOs, Dr. Thokchom Jayshree, General Manager, NHPC, Loktak Power Station and District Nodal Officer, Bishnupur, Laishram Joykumar Singh, Deputy General Manager, MSPDCL, Bishnupur Division, DLOs, villagers, officials concerned and staff of the Bishnupur District Administration and MSPDCL attended today's celebration.

State Handloom Expo concludes



IT News
Imphal, July 27:

The State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 organised under NHDP was concluded on Tuesday at Urban Haat Nilakhuthi, Imphal East.

That State Handloom Expo was organized by Manipur Apex Handloom Weaver And

Handicrafts Artisan 'C.S. LTD. (AWAS) under the sponsorship of O/o Development Commissioner for Handloom, Ministry of Textile, Govt of India, New Delhi. It was 14 days expo. The Chief Guest of that function was M. Radhamani Devi, National Awardee and President was Smt. A. Ronika Devi, president AWAS. The

guest of Honour of that function we're H.K. Baro, Deputy Director & HoO Weaver Service Centre (WSC), Porompat Imphal East and Gaihlung Kamei, Officer-on - Special Duty, MSME, Manipur and Th. Ibemcha Devi, Project Manager, District Handloom and Textile, Imphal East, Government of Manipur

Nagaland CM Rio meets Amit Shah; discusses peace talks

Agency
New Delhi, Jul 27:

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Tuesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed with him various issues concerning the state, that include the ongoing Naga peace process.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also the convener of North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), was present in the meeting.

"Today, I met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. NEDA convener and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

was also present in the meeting. We discussed the Naga issue," Rio told reporters outside Parliament.

When asked about resolving the border dispute with Assam, Rio said it will be done after the assembly elections next year.

On Naga peace process, Rio said, "Negotiations are going on. It depends on the negotiating parties... We are hopeful." The Government of India had signed a framework agreement with the major Naga group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) on August 3, 2015, in the pres-

ence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to find a permanent solution.

The framework agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, with the first breakthrough made in 1997 when the ceasefire agreement was sealed after decades of insurgency in Nagaland, which started soon after India's independence in 1947.

However, talks with the NSCN-IM are currently going nowhere as the group has been insisting for a separate Naga flag and constitution, a demand rejected by the central govern-

ment.

Separately, the government is also holding peace parleys with splinter groups of the NSCN after entering into ceasefire agreements.

The groups which have entered into ceasefire agreements are: NSCN-NK, NSCN-R and NSCN K-Khangho.

The central government had signed a ceasefire agreement with another faction of the Naga insurgent group led by a dreaded militant Niki Sumi.

All these outfits are breakaway factions of dominant groups NSCN-IM and NSCN-Khaplang.

One Day Workshop held

IT News
Imphal, July 27:

JCRE Global College, Babupara, and MIMS, Manipur University, jointly organized a one day Workshop on Entrepreneurship Develop-

ment Programme (EDP) under the banner Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan, Manipur Prant in connection with the Azadika Amrit Mahotsav today at the premises of JCRE Global College.

Prof W. Chandrabu Singh, Registrar Manipur University, Dr. S. Kishorjit Singh, Asst. Prof MIMS, Manipur University and Shri Lairenjam Niranjan Singh, Director, JCRE Global College attended the workshop as resource persons.

Contd. from Page 1

ZUF conducts intensified.....

The front cautions some few Zeliangrong leaders whose names have been reported and recorded, to refrain from making personal gain or financial profit sharing with the privileged leaders forfeiting our common interest and aspiration. Failing to heed this

caution may result any eventual consequences. The Front also conveys its appeal message to all public and citizens of Zeliangrong and its kindred tribes to continue to support with even greater cooperation towards the struggle of the Zeliangrong

Political Movement. As the progress of the political process is heading fast for final settlement, it is high time to consolidate our peoples' unity and solid stand for Zeliangrong political settlement with the Government of India.

Sports

UEFA Women's EURO 2022: England run riot at Bramall Lane; thrash Sweden 4-0 to reach final

Agency
London, July 27:

England's women will be talked about "all over the world" said coach Sarina Wiegman after thrashing Sweden 4-0 in Sheffield on Tuesday to reach the Euro 2022 final.

After semi-final heartache in the last three major tournaments, it was fourth time lucky for the Lionesses to the delight of the home crowd of 29,000 at Bramall Lane to set up a clash against Germany or France.

England have never won a major tournament in the women's game, but on this form will take some stopping in front of a sold out Wembley on Sunday.

Goals either side of half-time from Beth Mead and Lucy Bronze put the hosts well on course to inflict Sweden's first defeat from open play since 2019.

But it was substitute Alessia Russo's stunning back heel through the legs of Sweden goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl that will live long in the memory.

Fran Kirby then added a fourth 14 minutes from time.



"Second half, it was such a performance tomorrow they will talk about it all over Europe, all over the world," said Wiegman.

A record crowd for a women's Euro of 87,000 is expected at Wembley for the final, hoping England will end a 56-year wait for a major title in either the men's or women's game.

"I am going in my own bunker," added Wiegman on the hype that will follow in the upcoming days.

"We noticed that a little bit. We want to inspire the nation, I

think that's what we are doing and we hope we make a difference. That the whole country is proud of us and even more girls and boys start playing football."

Sweden's unbeaten run smashed

Sweden's only defeat in the last 34 matches came in a penalty shootout at last year's Olympics.

The number two ranked side in the world showed why early on as England struggled to contain the Swedish threat on the counter-attack.

Mary Earps was forced into a fine save by Sofia Jakobsson inside 20 seconds before Arsenal striker Stina Blackstenius crashed a header off the bar.

"The first 25 mins I felt we had enough chances," said Sweden boss Peter Gerhardsson.

"When you play this type of opponent you need to be effective with the chances that you get."

In keeping with their tournament, England were far more clinical when their chances came.

Blackstenius' club teammate Mead extended her lead in the race for the Golden Boot to two with a perfect control and volleyed finish from Bronze's cross on 34 minutes.

Mead has also now matched the record of six goals in a single women's European Championship held by Germany's Inka Grings at Euro 2009.

That was also the last time England reached the final of a major women's tournament and Bronze's header from Mead's corner three minutes after half-time put England well on the way to Wembley.

Any Swedish hopes of a fightback were truly extinguished on 68 minutes with a goal that will be replayed the world over.

A brilliant England move involving Keira Walsh and Kirby teased up Russo, whose initial finish was straight at Lindahl.

Yet, despite the presence of two Swedish defenders, with her back to goal and the angle narrowing, Russo produced a moment of magic to backheel the ball with enough power to catch Lindahl napping.

India at CWG 2022: Execution the key as women's hockey team looks to leave World Cup disappointment behind

Agency
New Delhi, July 27:

A historic fourth-place finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and a creditable third position in their maiden outing in FIH Pro League raised the hopes among the Indian women's hockey team fans as the World Cup came calling.

The campaign of the Savita Punia-led team however left a bitter taste as they finished ninth and failed to reach the quarter-finals. For a high-flying team that had experienced two major highs in the past year, it was a crushing blow.

But beyond the spectrum of black and white, the real truth of India's campaign lies in the shades of gray. The results went against the Janneke Schopman-coached side but they also belied the work done by the players on the turf.

The trademark of the current team is their willingness to take the game to the opposition. They have little respect

for reputation after the pushback. And it was no different in the World Cup.

"You see a small transition happening when we play teams now, that some teams prefer to play more defensively (against us). Some teams are quite happily just defending in their own 25 and that means there are 11 people around the circle," coach Schopman said, in a press conference, on her team's World Cup campaign.

It wasn't just another statement from an under-pressure coach trying to justify her work or the team's performance. That claim is strongly backed by the stats. They won only one of the six matches at the mega event, but in all games dominated the proceedings, earning more circle penetrations and penalty corners than their opponents. A marked improvement over the teams of yesteryears. However, the same stats also lay bare India's shortfall — a heap of chances created, very little converted.