

## First ever Medical College in Hill District to start academic session this year: Health Minister

IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

Health & Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapan Ranjan has assured the Manipur Legislative Assembly today that the academic session of the Medical College Churachandpur is expected to start this year.

On the 4th day of the ongoing second session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly today, replying to a question raised by Surjakumar Okram, MLA, Minister Ranjan said, the academic session of the first ever Medical College in the hill areas of Manipur will commence once the Letter of Permission (LOP) is given by National Medical Commission (NMC). He said application for LOP is at the processing stage and once the approval is given, academic session will be started. He said, the construction works of required infrastructures have almost been completed and installations of equipments are in progress. He said, recruitment of Professors may be completed latest by August this year.

Replying to another question raised by L.M. Khaute, MLA, Dr. Ranjan Singh said, Rs.15 lakhs have been sanctioned for the construction of Multi-Drug Resistant TB Centre at Churachandpur District Hospital. The work is in

progress and may be completed within a short period.

Public Health Engineering Minister L. Sushindro has informed the House that steps had been taken up to ease the water scarcity in Ukhrul town. Replying to a question raised by Ram Muivah, MLA, the Minister said, to ease the scarcity of water during lean season, the Ukhrul PHE division has engaged water tankers to supply water to the public as well as government buildings, hospitals and schools. As long term measures, installation of hand pumps at 38 locations and pumping arrangement have been included in the ongoing water supply project at Ukhrul district headquarters under New Development Bank (NDB) funding. Replying to another question raised by Kh. Joykisan Singh, MLA, the Minister said, Phase II of Imphal Sewerage Project will benefit people as the work of the phase will be completed within two years. Regretting inconveniences faced by the people, he said, tender process of five packages under the phase has been started and the work will be completed within the stipulated time.

Water Resources Minister Awangbow Nema said he assured the House that construction works of the left and right canal of Dolai Thabi

Project will be completed by December this year. Replying to a question raised by Th. Lokeshwar Singh, MLA, he said problems pertaining to the works will be solved shortly. He said compensation to 203 pattadars has been distributed and remaining compensation of 39 pattadars has also been deposited to Deputy Commissioner, Imphal East. Replying to another question raised by L.M. Khaute, MLA, the Minister said, the department is planning to provide tapping point from Khuga Dam to augment supply of drinking water in Churachandpur/Lamka and its surroundings.

Works Minister Govindas Konthoujam replying to a question raised by Kh. Joykisan Singh said that the total length of the State Highways in Manipur is 552.82 kms. and within this length, 163.10 kms. needs to be renovated/blacktopped at present. Replying to another question raised by Ram Muivah, MLA, the Minister said, construction works of Imphal-Ukhrul (NH-202) will be completed by June 2023. He said the compensation to the affected families due to widening of the road especially in Litan Sareikhong sector are yet to be distributed.

**Calling Attention:**  
Education Minister Th.

Basantakumar Singh said that steps have been taken up to ensure Dhanamanjuri University to be a full-fledged University. Replying to a calling attention motion moved by Kh. Joykisan and Surjakumar Okram, the Minister said, with the establishment of the University on 6th April, 2018, a regular Vice Chancellor has been appointed and recruitment of other administrative posts are also in the process.

Minister Basantakumar Singh said, above the existing 600 teaching and non-teaching posts of the University, more posts are required and recruitment processes have also been started. New infrastructures have been developed and most of the works have been completed. Regarding the recent agitation by the teachers, he said, talks have been initiated with the teachers and assured them to fulfill their demands. Classes have been resumed and examinations are on, he added.

Earlier moving the motion, Kh. Joykisan Singh drew the attention of the House over the class boycott by the teachers of the University and urged the Minister to look into the issue seriously as it relates directly to the academic career of the students. Surjakumar Okram also drew the attention of the House in this regard.

## 16 patients from Manipur get financial help from PM

IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

Sixteen people from the state of Manipur, suffering from various diseases, will get monetary help to treat the diseases under the Prime Minister National

Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Under the PMNRF, Rs. 30,96,500/- the Prime Minister's Office sanctioned the amount to treat the 16 patients. Rajya Sabha MP Leshemba Sanajaoba, who recommends financial help to the PMO

under the PMNRF lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the kind gestures.

Among those patients getting financial helps for treatment includes patients suffering from cancer, aplastic Anemia etc.

## PIL filed against MSPCL officials to accept the Manipur Lokayukta's recommendation dismissed

IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

The Manipur High Court had dismissed a PIL filed against MSPCL officials for failing to comply with recommendations of the Manipur Lokayukta.

One Laitonjam Megachandra, a resident of Pishum Ningom Leirak, Imphal West, filed a PIL in the High Court of Manipur seeking a direction to the authorities of the State Government to pass orders in terms of the order

dated 07.02.2022 passed by the Manipur Lokayukta in Complaint Case No.2 of 2020 and more particularly, in Paras 25 (D) & (E). On February 7, 2022, Manipur Lokayukta directed the State Government not to allow certain individuals to function in their official positions and to entrust their duties to others until the completion of the investigation against them. On July 25, 2022, the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Sanjay Kumar and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice MV Muralidaran of the High Court

of Manipur dismissed the PIL. The Hon'ble Court in this PIL had made the observation that the petitioner lacked bonafide in his motive and actions in filing and pursuing PIL No. 10 of 2022.

The Manipur High Court has also made the final remark in its order that though the petitioner is fully deserving of being mulcted with exemplary costs, the Court desists from doing so as the issue raised by him was in the public interest, though his motives were obviously not.

## 'Bijli Mahotsav' organised at Imphal West



IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, The Ministry of Power in association with MSPDCL, Powergrid and District Collector Office, Imphal West organized a 'Bijli Mahotsav' in Salam Mayailaikai, Imphal West district of Manipur. The Bijli Mahotsav was used as a platform to celebrate the collaboration between the state and the Central Governments and highlight the key achievements of the power sector. Some of the key achievement of the Imphal west district highlights have been -

1. Under DDUGJY-New Scheme, 72 habitation infrastructure and electrification successfully implemented.

2. Under System Strengthening and IPDS scheme 6987 ckt km HT line, AB cable of 29 Km, 15 nos DTRs and 11 Km

Ckt. Km. HT line, AB cable 420 Km, 66nos. Dtrs were added across 26 habitation and Imphal town, Lamshang Town and Sekmai Town respectively. 3. Under the Saubhagya Scheme 7081 households were given free registration for power/electric connection with 16.78 ckt. Km HT line, 31 nos. Dtrs, 43 Km AB cable and subsidised rate supply of 28930 LED 9 watt LED bulb. 4. And 2,50,131 nos. of prepaid meter installed till date across Imphal West District.

The Bijli Mahotsavs are being celebrated all over the country under the umbrella of Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047 for more public participation and getting across the developments in the power sector to the citizens at large.

Numerous dignitaries Th.Kirankumar, IAS, District Collector, Imphal West, Ku. N. Promo, Zila Parishad, M (O) Miranda Devi, Up-Pradhan, H.

Sunita, Member, H. Sunita, Member, S. Joy, Member and Jivesh Khanna, Chief Manager, Imphal Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and various MSPDCL officials graced the occasion, which saw large turnouts of crowds from nearby villages and districts. The dignitaries highlighted the benefits of electricity and the unprecedented growth shown the power sector over the past few years. The events also witnessed several beneficiaries sharing their experiences.

To engage with the visitors and guests, various cultural programme, nukkadnataks (Shumang Kumhei) and screening of short films in the power sector was organized. Given the large gathering, it was ensured that all Covid safety protocols such as social distancing and wearing of masks were adhered to. In addition, masks were also distributed to all the attendees.

## Visit of Union Minister of State for External Affairs to Thailand for Second North-East India Festival from July 29-31, 2022

IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh will visit Bangkok, Thailand from 29 to 31 July 2022 to inaugurate and attend the second edition of the North-East India Festival being organised by the Embassy of India in association with the North Eastern states of India and Trend MMS, India. The first edition of the North-East India Festival was held in Bangkok in 2019, which opened substantial business opportunities for North-East Indian business community, especially in the tourism, agro and food processing sectors.

In line with the Government of India's emphasis on revitalising North East India, the Festival is an endeavour to showcase the strengths and potential of the region. The Festival assumes special significance this year as India and Thailand are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. The focus of the Festival will be on trade, investment and tourism promotion and exchanges in the field of culture, education and people-to-people connect.

The three-day event will be inaugurated at a grand ceremony at Centara Grand, Bangkok, on 30 July 2022. Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit, Deputy

Prime Minister & Minister of Commerce Thailand and Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, will be the Chief Guests at the Festival. The Festival will also be attended by the Chief Ministers of Meghalaya and Nagaland and the Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, along with other Ministers and senior Government officials from the North-Eastern states of India. Ministers and senior officials from various Ministries of the Kingdom of Thailand are also expected to attend the Festival. Besides, a large contingent of artists, craftsmen, businesspersons & exhibitors, tour

operators and academicians from the North-Eastern states of India will be travelling to Bangkok to participate in this Festival and hold B2B meetings as well as academic exchanges. This Festival is expected to boost trade, connectivity, tourism, people to people connect, cultural integration between the North Eastern States and South East Asia.

During the visit, the Minister of State for External Affairs will also meet with the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and hold discussions to further strengthen the partnership between the two countries.

## Weeklong World Hepatitis Day concludes

IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

The weeklong campaign in connection with the World Hepatitis Day 2022 observance, to generate demand for testing and treatment of HBV and HCV in the state, wind up with a motorcycle rally at Palace Compound, Imphal East, today.

Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE) in collaboration with Manipur State Legal Services Authority

(MASLSA); BABINA Diagnostics and Two Stroke Motorcycle Club, Imphal West and CoNE affiliated community-based organisations in the state organised the campaign. Gilead Sciences, supported the campaign.

The motorcycle rally was flagged off from Palace Gate, Imphal East by Dr Kh. Lokeshwar and Dr Th. Dhabali. Altogether, 50 bikers took part in the motorcycle rally. The routes covered during the motorcycle rally included Ananda

Singh Academy Higher Secondary School Road, Nongmeibung; Imphal East DC Road; JNIMS Road; Lamlong bazar; KhuraiThangiangLeikai (Telipati road); Minuthong; Kangla Park road; Fly over bridge; Uripok Kanchup Road; Naoremthong Road; Sagolband Tera Road; Sagolband Sayang Road; Kwakeithel Bazaar; Khagempali Road; Pishumthong; and Singamei Chigamakhong Road. The rally finally culminated at PishumHao Ground,

Chingamathak.

During the weeklong campaign, they conducted a series of activities across the state like poster and leaflet campaigns, CMHT Scheme and e-SHRAM enrolment camp, Hepatitis B screening and vaccination camps, and Radio and TV talk shows.

Health Services Director Dr Kh.Sasheekumar Mangang launched the campaign on July 22, 2022 at Manipur Press Club, Majorkhul.

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# ★ Editorial

## MLA Nishikanta's concern on garbage management should be taken with extreme seriousness by CM

Legislator of the Keishamthong Assembly Constituency, Sapam Nishikanta is perhaps one among the member of the Manipur Legislative Assembly who not only showed extreme seriousness to the failed garbage management in the state, particularly in the Jurisdiction of Imphal Municipal Corporation but also gave suggestions for a solution. His suggestions to enhance revenue collection by the IMC to use the money collected for making the city clean need to be pondered by all lawmakers sitting in the ongoing state Assembly session.

From the brief speech delivered during the ongoing session, the Independent MLA from Keishamthong Assembly Constituency opened - How irresponsible are we and those assigned to make the city clean? Maximum of the people inhabiting Imphal city tried every means to pay taxes and almost all those in the IMC closed the chapter with just a couple of tips. The Independent MLA didn't mention this, but even ordinary people know such things regularly happened. House tax, and hotel tax, among others besides octroi and parking taxes, are the major source of revenue for the IMC. If the elected corporators are sincere and if those working as employees in the IMC consider the task assigned to them, it may not take a day or two to make the city clean. Playing blame game to the roadside street vendors whether or not with small boxes, but by collecting a few tips by those assigned to look after them is another matter that makes Imphal a more dumping place. Every citizen knows this. Those paying tips to allow them to sit for selling Pan, Cigarette and another plastic-packed pan masala among others also knew that those goods are dirtying the footpaths. If one crosses the foot bridge built for the convenience of people, it is easier to guess what ruined the beauty of Imphal city.

On house-to-house garbage collection (with payment of Rs. 150 to 200), MLA Nishikanta had rightly pointed out that these collectors at which the IMC had outsourced come only 4 times a month. Sometimes only three and once a week. The growing urbanisation has left little space for each house to keep the garbage. Rot smell started spreading and in a week family members sometimes had to bear the smell which may cause many kinds of illness.

Now, if one travels from Keishampat to Pishumthong in Keishamthong Assembly constituency, waste plastic package field with garbage, banned water bottles and dirty stuff will be found piled up in many places. If someone visits the one and only government school -Model High School, which saves the image of government school in the recently declared HSLC examination, the person will definitely think that whether the site is a garbage dumping site or a school.

Local people are not so selfish. They wanted to clean it and did that. But nobody from the IMC comes to collect it. No private garbage collectors did that either.

As stated by the Independent MLA from Keishamthong Assembly constituency, the Imphal Municipal Corporation does not own even a single garbage dumping site on its own. The one at Lamdeng is also not under the direct control of the IMC as they have outsourced.

Indeed, the state government needs to empower more to the functioning of the IMC. Experts who have been deployed paying lot of money as salary should be directed to find more garbage dumping sites.

The government of Manipur particularly the MAHUD and the Chief Minister should take the matter raised by MLA Nishikanta with extreme seriousness.

## Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam – a Man of Vision



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

The journey of a poor boatman's son, who sold newspapers to help his family after his school time, from the temple town of Rameswaram in the extreme south of the country to the highest seat of power in Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, is no less than a fairy-tale. It is hardly surprising that APJ Abdul Kalam will be remembered as India's most popular President. India's Missile Man, great educationist, teacher, communicator, inspirational leader and humanitarian, our President APJ Abdul

Kalam, loved and respected by one all, was immensely popular among the students and the youth. Kalam was the role model of the young generation, communicating with whom he liked most.

Normally we see that the president and the people portrays the president as a figurehead whose only job is to cut a few ribbons or lay some foundation stones. If we ask the common man on the street, he will belt out Dr. Abdul Kalam's name as the president that he wanted to see leading his country. He had everything going for him and was loved by one and all — the kid on the street and the older gentleman sipping coffee in his retirement days. He was a messenger of humanity and a spectacular personality. His achievements have always ensured that India has held its head high. His simplicity, honesty and people skills were inimitable.

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## Viswhaguru India- Fantasy or Reality?



By: M.R. Lahu

Amid the clutter and clamour on India being judged as a multicultural entity with diversity bubbling every inch of its landscape, a huge section of its populace feels that there is a religious (in)tolerance for which India is often appreciated or criticised. As a country India professes and feels proud - in many ways, about its cultural ancestry, that if not all, a great amount of political interpretations accept and silently validate and often put an emphasis on. But tremors on the bedlam that a controversial media debate ignited followed by the blatant brutality in Udaipur can indeed be felt, though not profound but still capable to shake the very idea that the Indian wisdom represents - a collaborative upbringing irrespective of its irrational interpretations. What comes as an unfounded allegation is that not only politically but also culturally, India at present is under the captivity of a majoritarian mindset. Parties across the country began to feel the heat of an indelible imprint of a globally recognised era since 2014 which goes rampant against all that it identifies as a blockage in its path of a majoritarian success. Though it is yet to be established, windmills producing perceptions and narratives in this direction are active and this is what we need to put for analysis.

The present government dispensation at the centre under Prime Minister Modi is often heard propagating the idea of India being hoisted to the realm of a Vishwaguru, which most of his opponents call an unrealistic and unreasonable elucidation

on the Indian state. The complexity that India's multiculturalism offers is genuinely visible and the essence of its spiritual wisdom seems to be fading but slowly, without being able to bring a convincing flavour to the platter of India's religious concomitance. Seeing India as a world teacher amidst the modern tumult of a universal disorder was first conceived by Swami Vivekananda; who, throughout his deliberations in India and abroad had spoken about the potentiality that India held in terms of delivering a spiritual solace. The reasons he frequently highlighted were spiritual, scientific and the effect of the Vedic semantics which were propounded since a period unknown to the common minds. Undeniably, the government since 2014 in India was all afoot transforming the very idea of Vivekananda into its politically modified version of global leadership. Has the idea propagated by the folk got a meaningful depth? To look at it from the cultural perspective of India, we need to say yes. But the political incongruity that we devised since independence tells us a grisly tale of insensitivity with which we polluted the enormity of India's cultural essence, downsizing it into a mere political subject. What seems to be the most alarmingly deep-seated argument is that the Vishwaguru India will be an India of ethnicities striving to conquer the world intellectually and economically with its spiritual principles eventually disseminated in various forms.

Contradicting the above view, the reality that India exudes at present does not give us a glimmer of hope. This is because the polity that has predominantly been carried away by divisive tendencies fail to muster up courage or lack tenacity to question the audacity of politics that redefined the all-encompassing values that India was once a light-house of. Sanatana Dharma - that is what the cultural essence of India is

literally termed as, never sent feelings of hatred even when swords of invasion pierced its throat. This was the eloquence of its cultural beauty, acceptance of all views without undermining any. Seeing the globe as a family, with prayers pouring in from the hermitages of wisdom for the welfare of the global community, Bharat (to be precise) from its days of antiquity has been fulfilling the role of a global teacher. Nobody, not even the beliefs emanated across the globe could successfully articulate an idea that India proposed - to absorb the world as a family irrespective of the prevalent differences. This was the reason why India hesitated to invade any land militarily. While it sent emissaries for cultural exchange across continents and maintained trade relations with most of the land available on the planet for long, never did the idea of invading a space occurred to it. But the humongous challenge that the Indian nation is presented with is the self contradicting principles that the arrogance of Semitic beliefs brought into its social precincts and the unrest that the concomitance is troubled with.

The right leaning government of India in principle has confused its people on what it means by saying the chiselling of a Vishwaguru out of India with the potential furore of discontent that it carries in its underbelly. India has so far been known for its cultural eminence and natural diversities that its landscape is blessed with. But to a modern world, beleaguered by the blench of bloodshed of wars and their intercontinental implications, India's role to heal and bring about solace by assuming the role of a global teacher with values seems to be a delusion. Surrounded by inimical neighbours and susceptible to its internal conflicts, India's stature as an emerging global guru would be like a bird waiting with its clipped wings before its potential takeoff. Unable to come out of the differ-

ences that the interventions of invasions caused, India at present is inching towards a more complicated social dynamics. Brushing it aside as hallucinatory will be catastrophic. In order to take a plunge in the direction of becoming the Vishwaguru, India needs to rediscover its values of yore once again, remodelling and restructuring them for humanity.

India's pitch as a global player in a modern geo-political scenario needs to be seen as a push in the direction of a dream being fulfilled. Except its unfriendly neighbours it could successfully spread its wings everywhere and the acceptance and the global respect that it managed to garner tells us the gist of its real potential. Being an important stakeholder in an international system and a contributor for world peace; nothing, except the internal complications of India would pull it back from becoming a world leader. India's evolution as the Vishwaguru will remain an archaic idea as long as it is a nation with a large number of people stay under illiteracy, malnutrition, social backwardness and communal conflicts. This would remain a reality not so feeble and frail and get noticed internationally. India will still remain an important player globally with the largest population (projected to be) but the disorder that it seems to have failed to settle in its landscape would always be a hindrance. A political desire to transform India as a world leader is achievable only if it can afford to uplift its people from poverty, social inequality and many more maladies that it wriggles in. This new narrative by the Modi government should gain currency, not at an emotional sphere but practically articulating it to the ground, starting a course correction from home. India's ancient spiritual wisdom should act as a lubricant in this process but never should it be seen as a weapon to divide and rule.

(The writer is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

## How to become a Career Counselor



By: Vijay GarG

Career Counselor also known as Career Consultants are the professional who helps people from almost all walks of life, of all age groups and with different education and experience levels to make up their mind to choose a career best suited to their caliber and liking irrespective of the fact that they are just entering in the working environment or they've already spent a lot of time in it.

The main objective of a Career Consultant is to help his clients in the right direction when it comes to choosing careers that they will excel at and be happy with.

### Career Counselor Eligibility Educational Qualification

There is no specific educational qualification or experience necessary to become a Career Counselor. However, someone having related certification or field experience in areas like public relations, Human Resource Management, Human Psychology and Career Counseling etc. will have edge over the others and his chances of getting work at the initial stage will increase many folds.

### Institutes offering Courses for Career Counseling

There are various institutes pro-

viding certification/diploma/degree programs covering Career Counseling, Public Relations, and Human Resource Management etc. Like: Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Bharathiar University

### Career Counselor Required Skills

The foremost requirement for a Career Counselor is an interest in working with different kind of people or organizations and an ability to connect with them with just to make a difference in their lives.

Excellent communication skills and knowledge of more than one language is a must for handling people from all walks of life. It may be corporate students or already working professionals.

Besides a good Career Counselor must have knowledge of various career options for different kind of people.

A Career Counselor must have the ability to convince his clients with his logical reasoning rationalism.

Ability to put his prospective clients at ease will work wonders for a Career Counselor to work efficiently and satisfactorily.

Not last but he should have skills and expertise to run his own Career Counseling business.

### How to become a Career Counselor?

One has to follow the below-given steps for becoming a Career Counselor.

**Step 1** The first step towards becoming a qualified Career Counselor Consultant is to complete Senior Secondary i.e +2 in any stream. However, +2 with related subjects will help in the long run.

### Step 2

After completing +2 the aspiring Career Counselor can go for Certificate, Diploma or Under Graduate Course in the related subjects like that of Career Counseling, Human Resource Development, Public Relation etc. For some courses, the students may also take an entrance test. Some of the related courses are:

Diploma in Guidance and Counseling  
B.A. (Human Resource Development)

### Step 3

After getting UG degree or diploma the candidates can go for higher studies in the related field or can join with some Career Counseling firms to have firsthand experience before establishing his own organization.

Some Postgraduate Level Courses that a budding Career Counselor can join:

M.A. (Career Counseling)  
M.Phil. (Career Counseling)  
PhD (Career Counseling)  
Career Counselors should also be licensed, particularly if they choose to open the private practice.

### Career Counselors Job Description

Career Counselors help their prospective client to make up their mind for a career best suited to their liking and ability.

They may offer them guidance and advice about some particular career that they want to know about.

Career Counselors take various kind of aptitude and skill test to know his/her clients' strengths liking etc. for a particular career.

Career Counselors play a role in determining the best career for

their clients by getting to know his educational and other qualifications.

The career counsellors job description also include to take a number of tests and surveys like IQ and aptitude tests, as well as fill out questionnaires on their interests and skills.

Besides they help their clients with writing resumes and cover letters to get their jobs.

### Career Counselors Job Prospects

With the globalization of the world economy and opening of so many fields to make once career the job prospects of career consultant have increased many folds in the recent past. In such a wide range of options, every other person is little confused to select a career path for him/her self. So to help them out from this mess a career consultant has almost become an indispensable professional in today scenario. Today a career consultant can find works in high schools and colleges to help students get ready for their chosen careers. They can also find jobs in social services organizations and staffing agencies. Someone have entrepreneurial skills can go for private practices and make a name for themselves in this field.

### Career Counselors Salary

There is no limit for Career Counselors who work independently. They can earn according to their expertise and counselling skills which can be as low as Rs.1,000 per case to as high as Rs.20,000 depending upon their clients. Once an Image Consultant established his credentials in the market there is no upper limit for him in this every growing field.

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# Outrage over 'Rashtrapatni' remark row in Parliament; BJP claims Sonia Gandhi spoke to Smriti Irani in 'Threatening Tone'

Agency  
New Delhi, July 128:

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury stirred a massive controversy after referring to President Droupadi Murmu as 'Rashtrapatni'. The row kicked up after a video of Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury surfaced in which he could be seen calling President Droupadi Murmu "Rashtrapatni." However, later he called it a "mistake" and a "slip of tongue".

While Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman called Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remark an "sexist insult", Smriti Irani slammed the Congress for insulting the newly-appointed President of India Droupadi Murmu, saying the party continues to "demean" the women in constitutional posts, and demanded an apology.

BJP's Amit Malviya said that the characterisation was "not just sexist but reeks of disdain for a Tribal woman,



who has risen from a modest background, to the highest office of land".

In other news, the Union government on Wednesday said the suspension of Opposition MPs can be revoked by the Chair if they apologise and assure they would not show placards in the House.

As many as 24 opposition MPs, 20 from the Rajya Sabha and four from the Lok Sabha,

have been suspended for their unruly behaviour and creating ruckus in Parliament.

The 20 MPs, suspended over the last two days, include seven from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), six from the DMK, three from the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), two from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one each from the Communist Party of India (CPI) and

the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

They began a 50-hour-long protest inside the Parliament complex on Wednesday and stayed through the night.

Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha witnessed repeated adjournments, following uproar by Opposition MPs over the suspension of the 24 MPs among other issues such as price rise, GST hikes, and inflation.

# India adds 20,557 new COVID-19 cases, 44 fatalities; active cases increase to 1,46,323

Agency  
New Delhi, July 28:

India added 20,557 new coronavirus infections pushing the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,39,59,321, while the active cases increased to 1,46,323, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 5,26,211 with 44 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.33 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.47 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 1,297 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

According to the ministry, 203.21 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 5.18 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 4.71 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,32,86,787, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.20 per cent.

According to the ministry, 203.21 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on

August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

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

The 44 new fatalities include 12 from Kerala, eight from Maharashtra, five from West Bengal, two each from Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura and one each from Assam, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim.

# Masks, 21-Day Isolation: Centre Issues Guidelines for Monkeypox Patients

Agency  
New Delhi, July 28:

A 21-day isolation, wearing masks, following hand hygiene, keeping lesions fully covered and waiting for those to fully heal are among the guidelines by the Central government for monkeypox patients and their contacts. The national capital has reported one confirmed case of monkeypox, taking the total number of such patients in the country to four. Till now, 14 contacts of Delhi's first monkeypox patient have been identified and none of them has shown symptoms, sources said, adding one of the contacts had complained of body ache but he is doing fine now and has no symptoms.

Another suspected case has been admitted to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital in Delhi and the samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune. Officials,

however, said there is no need to panic. One has to stay in isolation for 21 days from the last contact with a monkeypox patient or their contaminated materials, they said. Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis that gets transmitted to humans from animals with symptoms similar to those seen in smallpox patients, albeit clinically less severe.

Because of the recent developments, the Centre issued guidelines for monkeypox management. The Delhi government has directed its hospitals and 11 revenue districts to follow the guidelines. The Centre's guidelines state that health workers who have unprotected exposure to monkeypox patients or possibly contaminated materials need not be excluded from duty if asymptomatic but should undergo surveillance for symptoms for 21 days. The infected person should wear a triple-ply mask while the skin lesions

should be covered to the best extent possible to minimise the risk of contact with others, according to the guidelines.

It stated that patients should remain in isolation until all lesions have healed and the scabs completely fallen off. Explaining the process of identifying a contact, an official said a person who comes in contact with an infected person through face-to-face exposure, direct physical contact, or comes in contact with contaminated materials such as clothing or bedding is identified as a primary contact.

"District surveillance teams ask contacts to self-monitor their symptoms and stay in touch with them. Preferably, the contacts should isolate themselves in separate rooms but they can also stay in the same room. They should ideally wear a mask and follow hand hygiene and social distancing norms," an official said.

The official also said the asymptomatic contacts should not donate blood, cells, tissues, organs or semen while under surveillance.

Monkeypox typically manifests itself with fever, headache, rashes for up to three weeks, sore throat, cough and swollen lymph nodes. The symptoms include lesions, which usually begin within one to three days of the onset of fever, last for around two to four weeks and are often described as painful until the healing phase when they turn itchy.

In May this year, multiple cases of monkeypox were identified in several non-endemic countries. Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have now been reported from 75 countries and there have been five deaths so far due to the outbreak. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.



Agency  
Kohima, July 28:

Hundreds of Nagas from different states Assam, Arunachal, Manipur and Nagaland on Thursday joined the Global Naga Forum (GNF) organised two-day Naga Solidarity Walk, on the theme One People, One Destiny.

The walk commenced from Kohima, early this morning and will culminate with the expected convergence of thousands of Nagas in Senapati Town in Manipur on Friday afternoon covering a distance of 81 km.

They will halt at night at mid-way in Maram Naga area in Manipur.

Addressing the flagging off programme, Adviser of GNF and President Overseas Naga Association, Dr Visier Sanyu said while Naga people are deeply divided, the walk is a common journey to unite the Nagas as one and to defend the Naga history and land with the

right spirit.

There is time for everything and this is the right time to come together and build the "Naga nation as one people with one destiny", he said.

In the past, our ancestors fought to defend the land of Nagas with guns but violence has an expiry date and that period is gone today we want to fight for our people with our heart and love, he said.

We want to show ourselves and the world that Naga people are one, he said while expressing hope that the walk will enrapture the Naga soul to do the right thing to receive blessing, he said.

We are walking to become one people in order to defend our history and land with the right spirit, said Dr Sanyu.

This is the first leg of a people's relay for unity and peace among Nagas, while GNF will conduct more such walks to reach out to Nagas in other states and country, said GNF

co-convenor and advisor of Naga Mothers' Association, Dr Rosemary Dz vich.

GNF officials announced that the walk is totally peaceful and requested all participants to refrain from indulging in any form of violence or untoward incidents and also not to provoke any security personnel.

As leaders and volunteers from various Naga tribal bodies and organisations are walking, people from different villages along the National Highway-29 are extending them refreshments and drinking water.

On the core motive of the walk, GNF President Chuba Ozukum on Wednesday told PTI that, We are not talking about the ongoing peace process between the Naga groups and the Government of India, but this time we are simply exhibiting our aspiration and willingness for our rights to live together because Nagas have been divided into different states.

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# Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam....

One needs to admire A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for his phenomenal rise — from a rural town to the pinnacle. He retained a childlike curiosity till his end. His last interaction, while with students, is a fine example of his attachment towards our youth. APJ Abdul Kalam had said, "Don't declare holiday on my death; instead work an extra day if you really love me." There are too many political holidays on birth and death anniversaries of leaders. Great leaders like Kalam, who are no more with us, always desired that their countrymen work hard rather than remember them through political holidays on their birth and death anniversaries.

Mr. Kalam had the rare dis-

tingtion of being a scientist who contributed to the progress of developments in space, defence and atomic energy. No other President or head of a state has this distinction. His simple but powerful speeches and inspiring writing have always ignited young minds.

He has bequeathed a "mixed legacy". His eventful life has a lot to commend to. Full marks for him for doing all that he could to "ignite" young minds and unleash the latent energy in them. He excelled at motivating students "to aim high and work hard" to realize their full potential. His love for children is what made him dedicate his book, *Ignited Minds*, to a child who once impressed

him with her answer to his query, "who is our enemy?" The answer: "Poverty." The nation has lost a great visionary and an outstanding technocrat.

Kalam was a saint and a living legend. He was a Muslim but he held equal respect for Quran and the Bhagavad Gita. He played the rudraveena in his spare time.

In the passing of Dr Kalam, India has lost one of its tallest sons of the 21st century whose ideas, life and works will continue to inspire generations to come. "India's Missile Man" and "the People's President" brought a life and dignity to everything he did and every position he held. As he wished so he lived

— a teacher throughout his life till his last breath. He not only had a vision for a developed India but had a blueprint of how to achieve this within a time frame. His passing is a great loss to the country on the threshold of leaping into the future with great hopes. Lastly, I would like to recall Einstein's words about Mahatma Gandhi: "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a man ever walked upon this Earth." A person like Dr Kalam is born once in centuries. A real star on earth has now become a guiding star in the skies. Let us hope that our tribute to the great man would be carry forward his mission for a strong and prosperous India.

# Over Rs 50 crore, gold worth Rs 4.31 cr seized by ED so far from TMC Minister Partha Chatterjee's aide Arpita

Agency  
Kolkata, July 28:

Over Rs 50 crores and Rs 2.76 crore worth gold have been seized so far by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) during its raids at multiple locations linked to West Bengal Commerce and Industry Minister Partha Chatterjee's close aide Arpita Mukherjee in connection with the West Bengal SSC recruit-

ment scheme.

The ED recovered Rs 27.9 crore packed in bundles of 50 lakh each during its raids on July 27. All the currencies recovered were in Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations. The agency also seized gold and jewellery worth Rs 4.31 crore, which included 3 gold bricks of 1 kg each, 6 bangles of 500 gm each and other gold jewellery and one gold pen.

The huge amount of cash was seized by the central probe agency while carrying out searches at two residential flats in Rajdanga, Belghoria area and Diamond Park Housing Complex at Tollygunge in South Kolkata.

The ED agency on July 27 raided a flat belonging to Mukherjee's mother at Belghoria Club Town in North 24 Parganas and also searched three other locations.



# A fake doctor arrested on charges of female foeticide

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, July 28:

In a most horrific incident, a fake doctor recently pulled out and cut the female fetus of a pregnant woman to prevent the birth of a girl child at Parli in Beed district sending shock waves throughout Maharashtra.

The fake "Doctor" Nandkumar Ramling Swami and Prakash Kawale, one of the in-laws of the victim- Saraswati Narayan Waghmode (22), have been arrested and remanded to police custody for 7 days by Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Beed. The other two accused are absconding.

While Kawale was arrested from Parli, Swami was arrested from Barshi in Solapur district, by the police team comprising Police Sub-Inspector Chand Mendke and constables Sachin Sanap and Gopinath Dake.

An FIR (No. 144/2022) has been registered with the Sambhaji Nagar police station of Beed district, under sections 313, 315, 318, 34, 498A, 504, 506 of the Indian Penal code against Nandkumar Swami, Chhaya Waghmode, the mother-in-law of the victim, Prakash Kawale, her relative and Narayan Waghmode, the husband of the victim. The Superintendent of Police Sunil Jaybhaye told the **Transcontinental Times**. The teams have been dispatched to trace the absconding accused, he added.

The staff at Sambhajanagar police station said that the accused will be booked also under provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021, once a detailed statement of the victim is obtained.

The victim Saraswati, was married to Narayan Ankush



The fake doctor Nandkumar Swami is being taken into police custody. (Inset): Swami. (Right): A certificate awarded to him for practicing alternate medicines. (Photo credit: Multiple sources).

Waghmode in 2020. She gave birth to a girl child in September last year. After that, her in-laws began harassing her. When she again became pregnant this year, her mother-in-law Chhaya, insisted that she must have a boy this time or else she should carry out an abortion. Saraswati resisted but was shouted down and beaten up many times, the locals said, adding that she was not allowed even to speak to her relatives.

Subsequently, her husband and mother-in-law contacted Nandkumar Swami, to carry out a sonography (pre-Natal diagnostic test). The test report is said to have revealed the female foetus. As such Saraswati's in-laws began insisting that she must carry out the abortion. However, she refused and consequently was beaten up again.

In the middle of July Saraswati was suffering from a very high fever. As such Kawale in the evening of July 15, brought Swami at home. He reportedly administered an injection to give her relief from the fever. However, within a few hours, she began vomiting and had a severe stomach ache. As such Swami was again called in the wee hours of July 16.

After examining her, Swami advised the family that the situation is aggravated and now the fetus will have to be aborted. Although Saraswati resisted, her mother-in-law and her husband held her and made Swami, carry out the "surgery" forcibly. He reportedly pulled out the fetus and cut it. He then handed over it to Kawale, who promptly went out to destroy/bury it.

Writhing in pain, Saraswati messaged her brother residing in Pune. The next day her brother rushed to Beed and after having talks with her husband, took her to Pune. Since her pain continued, she was admitted to the Sassoon Hospital, Pune.

After recovering a little bit, Saraswati mustered the courage and complained to Kondhwa police station, Pune. They registered the complaint and transferred it to the Sambhaji Nagar police in Beed.

The said Swami moves with a mobile clinic carrying a portable sonography machine. There are cases related to illegal abortions, registered against him at Karmala police station in Solapur and also in Parbhani. He was earlier convicted as a compounder in Hiremath Hospital, Barshi in Solapur. Subsequently claiming to be a doctor practicing

alternate medicine, he began carrying out surgeries. We have been demanding that he be booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act 1999 for a long. Shiv Sena leader Bhausaheb Andhalkar told the **Transcontinental Times**. Swami also visited Thailand to participate in a medical conference recently.

The incident sparked heavy resentment and voluntary organizations took out a morcha to the Beed district collector's office demanding stern action against the accused on Thursday.

**Similar incident**  
In a similar incident, an offence was registered against 5 persons on charges of illegal abortion and subsequent death of a housewife Sita alias Shital Ganesh Gade (30) at Bakkarwadi in Pimpner in Gevrai taluka of the same district on June 06. The FIR was registered against her husband Narayan Gade, father-in-law Sundar Gade, brother Narayan Nimbalkar and Anganwadi sevika-Manish Sanap and Seema. They were booked under provisions of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021.

The victim Shital who was admitted to the District Hospital, died after she suffered heavy bleeding. It was revealed that the deceased having three daughters and expecting a fourth issue, was a victim of forcible abortion carried out by her in-laws.

A few years back Dr. Sudam Munde and his wife Dr. Saraswati Munde were convicted in connection with a female foeticide racket. Yet such incidents continue to erupt giving Beed district, tag of the "district of female foeticide".

# ZYF new office bearers elected

IT News  
Imphal, July 28:

Election for new Office Bearers for the Zeliangrong Youth Front (ZYF) Manipur State unit for the tenure of 2022-2026 was conducted by the Election Commission, ZYF today at its Head Office, Imphal, Manipur.

Thonribou Pamai has been elected as President, ZYF Manipur, Samuel Daime as Vice - President, Sagumlung Pame as General Secretary, Ajin Palmei as Development Secretary, and Pougongrei Panmei as Information & Publicity Secretary, ZYF Manipur. The Oath of Affirmation was administered by Romeo

Palmei (Member Election Commission) to the newly elected Office bearers of ZYF, Manipur State Unit. Representative from various Zeliangrong Civil Organization (Zeliangrong Baudi, Manipur, Zeliangrong Students Union Manipur, ZYF Zonal and former ZYF leaders) were present during the election.

# Nagaland-Manipur link snapped after landslide on NH-2

Agency  
Kohima, July 28:

National Highway 2, which connects Nagaland and Manipur, was completely cut off on Thursday following a landslide between Khuzama and Mao gate near the Khuzama police check gate.

The landslide reportedly occurred around 2-2:30 PM, moments after participants of the Naga solidarity walk crossed the inter-state border, making it to Mao gate in Manipur.

Vehicular traffic along the highway was suspended, and no casualty was reported till the time of writing this report.

Southern Angami Youth Organization (SAYO) president Metekhrielie Mejura informed that an excavator was on its way to clear the land-



slide. Due to the rains, a portion of landmass with uprooted trees fell over. No damage to vehicles was also reported.

Hundreds of Nagas had joined the Naga solidarity walk on Thursday morning which began in Kohima. The partici-

pants safely crossed the inter-state border and reached Mao in the evening before the landslide occurred.

An alternative route from Mao gate to Khuzama via TB hospital, bypassing NH-2, remains open for small vehicular traffic.

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# Weeklong World Hepatitis.....

Screening and vaccination for HBV was organised under the joint aegis of CoNE and BABINA Diagnostics while the CMHT Scheme and e-SHRAM enrolment camp was held jointly by CoNE and MASLSA on July 24 and 26 respectively.

A total of 55 people from the marginalised community were screened of hepatitis B

among which 1 was found to be positive. He has been linked for further diagnosis and treatment under National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP). The other 54 persons who were found hepatitis B negative were vaccinated under the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended rapid regimen doses of 0 - 7 - 21 days. The

first dose has been administered on the screening day itself. The follow up for the second and third doses will be done by volunteers of CoNE.

In the CMHT scheme and e-SHRAM enrolment camp, a total of 30 drug users and family members were enrolled for CMHT while 10 drug users and family members enrolled for e-SHRAM card.

# Sports

# CWG 2022: India Women Hockey Team's Golden Chance to Win Medal



Agency  
New Delhi, July 28:

Manchester is around 140 kilometres from Birmingham and the venue of one of the biggest triumphs for the Indian women's hockey team—final of the 2002 Commonwealth Games in which India defeated the host to win their one and the only gold medal in the competition so far.

India defeated hosts England 3-2 in extra time to win the gold medal—coming back to score the winner in the final moments of extra time. The two teams are on the path to collision in Birmingham too as they are in the same Pool A with Canada,

Wales and Ghana as the other teams and will face off in their preliminary round match on August 2. Winning that match and topping the group could be crucial so as to avoid strong Australia in the semifinals.

But recently India have found England a tougher nut to crack as compared to Australia, whom they defeated in the quarterfinals of the Tokyo Olympic Games last year. India had reached the semis for Argentina followed by a narrow defeat to Great Britain, comprising mostly of England players, in the third-place match.

So, it's redemption time for the Indian women's hockey team

as it will aim to recapture the gold medal it won in 2002. India followed it up by finishing second in the 2006 edition.

Team India will also try to redeem itself following a disastrous campaign in the FIH Women's World Cup in Amsterdam and Spain as they finished ninth overall.

India women are still smarting from their 9th place finish in the World Cup experience. Janneke Schopman and her team arrived in Amsterdam on the back of a number of good FIH Pro League results, including wins over the Netherlands and Argentina (currently the teams ranked at world number one and two).

# UEFA Women's EURO 2022: German skipper Popp nets twice against France; sets Wembley finale with England

Agency  
London, July 28:

Germany captain Alexandra Popp said she is savouring a starring role at Euro 2022 all the more following years of injury struggles after scoring twice beat France 2-1 in Wednesday's semi-final.

Popp's side will face hosts England in front of an expected record crowd for a women's Euro match of 87,000 at Wembley on Sunday.

Just making it to the Euro was a success for the Wolfsburg striker after missing the two previous European Championships through injury.

The 31-year-old battled back from two knee surgeries in the past 15 months to make the tournament and has exploded in England with six goals in five games.

"I am enjoying these moments a lot more. I enjoy football a lot more," said Popp after setting a new record by becoming the first woman to score in five consecutive women's Euro matches.

"It doesn't mean I didn't



enjoy it before, but it became a bit pedestrian. Now to have the moments on the pitch, I really value that a lot.

"It makes it very special to be here with such a performance individually, but also as a team being so successful."

Popp's double also took her level with England's Beth Mead on six goals in the battle for the Golden Boot, matching the record for a single women's European Championship held by Inka Grings from Euro 2009.

That tournament ended in a German rout over England in the final and Die Nationalelf will be hoping for a repeat as they aim to upset the hosts.

"England versus Germany

weren't able to hone in on the goalkeeping chances we had."

Popp gave France a warning of what was to come when her powerful free-kick from the edge of the area was brilliantly clawed away by Pauline Peyraud-Magnin.

The French goalkeeper was helpless five minutes before half-time when Svenja Huth's cross picked out Popp, who smashed home a volley into the roof of the net.

However, the lead lasted just five minutes in unfortunate circumstances for German goalkeeper Merle Frohms.

Kadidiatou Diiani's fierce strike from outside the box came crashing off the post into the back of the Wolfsburg stopper and into her own net.

Frohms more than made amends at the start of the second period with a brilliant save to her left to turn Wendie Renard's header behind.

Selma Bacha's goalbound effort also rebounded behind off Kathrin-Julia Hendrich's face and Diiani's shot from a narrow angle stung the palms of Frohms.