

## PhD Degree awarded



IT News  
Imphal, July 03:

Wahengbam Rorkyachand Singh, S/o W. Imocha Singh and Wahengbam Shanti Devi of KumbiMayaiLeikai, BPO-Kumbi, District- Bishnupur, State- Manipur has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communication by the Kuvenpu University, Kamataka vide notification No. KU/EB/Ph.D/JMS/03/1828/2022-23 Dated 24-06-2022 for his thesis entitled "Factors Affecting Journalistic Freedom in the North-eastern States of India". He did his research work under the supervision of Professor Varghese Pulickal, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kuvenpu University.

During his research, he has attended a number of national conferences and seminars, and also published 3 (three) research papers in international journals.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (First class with distinction) degree from Sahyadri Arts and Commerce College, Shimoga, Karnataka and a Master of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication (First Class) from Kuvenpu University.

He is currently working as Correspondent of Organiser Weekly. As a journalist he had worked in various local and national media houses. Besides, he is also the founder of Humanism Foundation, a charitable organisation and actively working in the field of education, skill development and community work.

He is the husband of Laishram Chitrangada, Lecturer, Government of Manipur and father of Wahengbam Leepun and Wahengbam Meethoi.

## Landslide tragedy:

## Search operation continues, CM visits injured victims

IT News  
Imphal, July 03:

Search operations by Indian Army, Assam Rifles, Territorial Army, SDRF and NDRF at the incident site at Tupul, Manipur continues despite adverse weather conditions owing to heavy rains and fresh landslides last night.

The Through Wall Radar and Search and Rescue Dog inducted are being employed to hasten the search operation. Besides the 13 Territorial Army personnel and 05 civilians that were safely rescued, mortal remains of 23 Territorial Army personnel and 11 civilians have been recovered so far.

Mortal remains of seven personnel of Territorial Army were sent to respective home stations by IAF aircraft and an Indian Army helicopter to Kolkata, Bagdogra and Agartala. They were paid full military honors by GOC Red Shield Division and IG IGAR (South) at Imphal in the morning today. Similar befitting honors will be paid at respective home stations as well.



CM N. Biren Singh visiting injured landslide victim

"Relentless efforts to search for remaining seven missing Territorial Army personnel and 21 civilians will continue till the last individual is found," official said.

As bad weather and heavy downpour of rains continues, condition of NH-37 has worsen with landslide occurring at various places. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh tweets – "Due to continuous

heavy downpour and landslides, NH 37 has multiple road blockades at Nungdolan, Nungkao and Sibilong. Concerned authorities have been informed to clear the road. Please take care and avoid this road, NH 37 for time being."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today visited Assam Rifles Military Hospital at IGAR South, Mantripukhri and met the persons who are undergoing

medical treatment after being injured by the recent landslide tragedy at Tupul Railway Construction Camp, Noney on June 30.

The Chief Minister also handed over a sum of Rs. 50,000 each to the injured persons namely Havildar Marjison Singh, Havildar Nima Onchu Sherpa, Lance Naik Hirdya lamang, Riflemen Siddanth Chhetri, Riflemen Sarangthem Shyamchandra



Landslide occurring at NH-37 tweeted by CM N. Biren Singh

Singh, Riflemen Prokash Newar and Chef Kinkar Parua.

Minister for Health and IPR Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, DGP P. Doungel and other officials accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

On the other hand security forces bid adieu to brave hearts of landslide tragedy. A wreath laying ceremony was organised by Army and Assam Rifles for seven mortal

remains of soldiers of 107 Infantry Battalion (TA) at the Imphal Airport on Sunday.

GOC, Red Shield Division and IG, Assam Rifles (South) laid the wreaths on behalf of the Chief of Army Staff, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command and GOC, Spear Corps. The gathering paid their tribute to bravehearts before the mortal remains moved to their respective native places by IAF aircraft.

## Indian Journalists Union condemns Blocking of Sana Mattoo Flying Abroad

IT News  
New Delhi, July 3:

The Indian Journalists Union condemns the petty and vindictive action of both the Centre and J&K administration for stopping Kashmiri photojournalist and Pulitzer Prize awardee Sana Irshad Mattoo from flying to Paris to attend a book launch and photography exhibition as one of the 10 award winners of the Serendipity Arles grant 2020. Despite procuring a French visa, I was stopped at the immigration desk at Delhi airport. I was not given any reason but told I would not be able to travel internationally."

Mattoo, a photo journalist with Reuters, is among the 10 award winners in South Asia of the Serendipity Arles

grant 2020, supported by the Institut Francais en Inde, a section of French Embassy in India. On Saturday, she was stopped by the immigration desk of Delhi's International airport. Her tweet with a cancelled boarding pass read: "I was scheduled to travel from Delhi to Paris today for a book launch and photography exhibition as one of the 10 award winners of the Serendipity Arles grant 2020. Despite procuring a French visa, I was stopped at the immigration desk at Delhi airport. I was not given any reason but told I would not be able to travel internationally."

In a statement the IJU President and Former Mem-

ber of Press Council of India and Secretary General and Vice President of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Sabina Indjerji said that the action deserves the strongest condemnation. Instead of being proud that Mattoo was would represent India at an international fora, the authorities were being vindictive, given she was among three other Reuters photographers who had won the Pulitzer Prize in feature photography 2022 for their coverage of the Covid second wave in India.

Taking note of reports that Mattoo was stopped as she was among several journalists from the Valley put on

the 'no-fly list', the IJU demanded the Press Council of India and particularly the three-member Fact Finding Team, which went to J&K should take suo moto cognizance of the case and get the ban removed, to defend freedom of press.

Recall Kashmiri journalists Gowhar Geelani was stopped from travelling to Germany in September 2019 and journalist-turned academician Zahid Rafiq was prevented from flying to the US in 2021 to teach in a university. Ruwa Shah, another journalist met the same fate. The IJU said such actions are an attack on press freedom and unacceptable in any democratic society.

## 2 NSCN(K-YA) lay down arms, join mainstream



IT News  
Imphal, July 03:

Somsai Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) persuaded the homecoming of two cadres of proscribed insurgent group NSCN(K-YA).

The cadres surrendered one .22 pistol, one .22 pen pistol and one .32 pistol along

with ammunitions to Somsai Battalion in presence of Manipur Police on 01 July 2022 at Somsai, Ukhrul.

Security Forces compliment the cadres for this decision and wish that all those who have chosen the wrong path, join back into the mainstream and live a happy and peaceful life.

## BJP's Rahul Narvekar Elected Maharashtra Assembly Speaker

### Narvekar Becomes the Youngest Speaker of the Assembly in the Country

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, July 03:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Rahul Narvekar (45) was elected the Speaker of the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly after he defeated Shiv Sena candidate MLA Rajan Salvi by 57 votes in an election held by a voice vote in Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai on Sunday. Narvekar secured 164 votes against Salvi who bagged 107 votes.

The election was conducted by headcount against BJP's earlier demand to hold the Speaker's election by a secret ballot. The outgoing Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwar (NCP) presided over the election process.

The whip was issued by

Shiv Sena whip MLA Sunil Prabhu to the Shiv Sena MLAs to vote for Salvi. Whereas MLA Bharat Ghogawale (the rebel group led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde), had issued another whip claiming to represent the Shiv Sena. The Shiv Sena rebels followed Ghogawale's whip, while the original Shiv Sena group followed Prabhu's whip.

The post of assembly speaker has been lying vacant since Nana Patole of Congress resigned in February last year to become the party's state unit president. Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari had refused to permit the Speaker's election on the ground that a petition was pending in the Bombay High court on the issue. The matter was pending



BJP's Rahul Narvekar (top left) became Maharashtra Assembly Speaker by defeating Shiv Sena's Rajan Salvi (down) in an election held on Sunday.

since March 15 last year.

The first-time BJP legislator Rahul Narvekar represents the Colaba Assembly constituency in south Mumbai. Whereas, Salvi is the MLA from the Rajapur segment in Ratnagiri

district in the Konkan region.

Narvekar is a lawyer by profession. He had been a corporator and two-time legislator (since he was Governor's nominee in the legislative council earlier). He was with Shiv Sena,

then the NCP, and eventually landed in the BJP camp.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar (NCP), Abu Azami (Samajwadi Party), Bacchu Kadu (Independent -Prhar Janshakti), Sudhir Mungantiwar (BJP), Jayant Patil (NCP), Dhyananjay Munde (NCP) Deepak Kesarkar (Shiv Sena rebel), Nana Patole (Congress), Aditya Thackeray (Shiv Sena) and others spoke on a motion to congratulate Narvekar. AIMIM abstained from voting.

Abu Azami expressed displeasure over the recent renaming of Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar by the outgoing Uddhav Thackeray led MVA Government. This was an attempt to hurt the sentiments of the Mus-

lims, he claimed.

Narvekar in his speech, thanked all members and assured the house that he would deliver justice impartially.

The newly sworn-in Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, in whose cabinet BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis is the deputy CM, will face the floor test on Monday in a special two-day Assembly session.

With Narvekar's election as the Assembly Speaker, the Maharashtra State legislature will be witnessing a son-in-law and father-in-law duo holding top posts in the Assembly and Council respectively since Narvekar is the son-in-law of Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar, Chairman of the State Legislative Council. Narvekar is married to Nimbalkar's daughter Sarojini.

Nimbalkar's term as a Chairman comes to end on Thursday. He was re-elected as an MLC on June 20. As such he will be required to contest the Chairman's election again if fielded by NCP.

In the 78-member Maharashtra Legislative Council, the BJP has 24 members. If it can nominate 12 more members, then its way to claim the Chairman's post will be easy. The Government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is likely to present the list of 12 nominated members to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, who did not clear the earlier list submitted by the MVA Government for nearly two years. Eventually, the MVA Government lost the opportunity to nominate members of its choice.

# Monsoon Nail Trends



By: Shahnaz Husain

It is that time of the year again when there is a nonstop downpour. breezy winds and splashy water everywhere. It is a common perception that monsoon has a gloomy face.

Nails take the most hit during the rainy season. The season of monsoon calls for special care of nails to avoid damage due to red, swollen and itchy skin around them. The skin becomes sweaty or infected due to overexposure to water as a result of it both fingernails and toenails get affected by the rains.

The season of monsoon calls for special care of nails to avoid infection and chipping. The monsoon can lead to rough, brittle and discoloured nails.

Since we are all homebound since last over five months, trying out new nail colours and designs are something that just makes you feel groomed and uplifted in this gloomy and subdued atmosphere.

Well-kept nails are a part of our presentation and looks. Be it any occasion, we all know how essential it is to maintain them.

Painting your nails is like therapy. When your nails are groomed, you automatically get a dose of colour therapy that is just great for your mood.

Try to keep your nails dry with extra care especially your toes. You may opt for open shoes / shandils /chappal as if you are wearing closed footwear all the days long then fungus/bacteria may thrive in your feet due to moist and damp environment which can result in dead skin cells and bacteria, ultimately affecting your toes.

Avoid wearing leather, plastic or canvas shoes. Do not wear the same shoes every day. It is better to have an alternate pair of shoes. Wash your footwear regularly. Desist from sitting in wet footwear and socks all through the day. Try to wear waterproof footwear to allow air circulation. Your nail health is important during the rainy season. Refrain from growing your toenails long. Wash and clean dirt from under the nails as also the edges.

Cut your toe nails short to avoid any chances of accumulating dirt and other infections. Try to spray deodorants /talcum /anti-fungal powder in between toe nails regularly at least once in a day to prevent infection.

During the hot and humid season, we go for light, serene, pastel colours for our clothes. The same goes for the nails too. We can select colours that are icy, "cool" and trendy. The way to protect the nails and keep them looking good is to give them regular care. There is no point wearing a glamorous outfit if the feet and toe nails show neglect and lack of care. Chipped nails and chipped nail polish can really spoil the entire effect.

You need to be very careful while picking a nail polish. While wearing nail polish does not harm your healthy nails but typical nail polish are filled with toxic chemicals such as Paraben, diethyl phthalates, dibutyl phthalate which cause nail brittleness, dryness, and thinning and are bad for the skin surrounding it. Always prefer water-based polishes, which don't last as long but are the safest option out there.

Try your level best to choose natural and chemical-free nail paints that are eco-friendly and cruelty-free. Avoid eating with hands that have paint on its nails as bits of the nail paint can chip and fall into the food, which will eventually go inside your body and cause harm. Pick a nail colour remover that contains vitamin A, C and E to treats conditions that adversely affect nails and cuticles. The cuticle (skin surrounding the nail) should be kept soft and smooth. Otherwise, it sticks to the nail and gets dragged as the nail grows.

Protection of nails is so important, especially during the Monsoons, when fungal infection can set in. Detergents can also lead to itchy and rashy conditions. Wear rubber gloves for your washing chores like cleaning with harsh chemicals, gardening, or doing anything that involves hot, soapy water dirtying your hand, always wear rubber, vinyl, nitrile, or plastic gloves — some of which have a cotton liner. It not only protects your polish but keeps anything harsh or drying in your cleaning solutions off your hand.

Massage a cream after your washing tasks, working it into the skin. This takes only a few minutes. Massage cream on the nails and the skin around the nails.

Choose from a range of hand creams, cuticle oil/creams/oils to moisturize them regularly to make them strong, shiny and healthy. I will recommend putting cocunut oil around the cuticles daily to moisturize your nails for strong, long, healthy nails.

Regular handwashing or use of hand sanitizer can dry out the skin and nail bed quickly, so try to moisturize after every wash, if possible. Cocunut oil is excellent for rubbing into your nails and cuticles.

It is advised to wash the hands with lukewarm water to help keep the hands and nails soft and smooth.

Keep a travel-size hand cream enriched with fruit extracts or cuticle oil bottle at every sink in your home.

Apply warm almond oil, soften cuticles and push them back gently with a cotton bud. Use a cotton bud to clean beneath the nails too. Avoid cutting cuticles and using metal instruments. Apply almond oil or olive oil on the nails and hands. Apply nail varnish, using smooth strokes, from the base of the nails to the tip. First apply one coat of colour on all the nails. Wait for it to dry and then apply the second coat of colour.

As far as nail colours are concerned, pink is ideal for hot and humid weather. Shimmer is very much in, so go for silver shimmer for the day and gold for the night. Lately dark colours have been in, like bright blue or green, but I feel that subtle colours are more suitable for monsoon hot weather. You can also go for icy colours like pink or mauve. Or, go for shades of brown, like coffee, bronze, copper, or sea shell and then add on glitter.

Classic Blue is the colour of 2020, so is also be for the nails. For a gala evening, go for gold or silver varnish, or try one of those colours with glittering stars. These come in many different colours, with gold or silver stars. As part of nail design, nail varnish can be applied in unusual colours like green, blue or purple. Or, use different colours for each nail.

Nail art has become a specialized field nowadays. In the past, simple ways of nail art were followed, but now it is a highly creative field.

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

# Impact of Land & Soil Degradation

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh  
Asst. Prof. JCRE Global College, Babupara, Imphal

*When the whole world is facing onslaught of aggressive climate change, land & soil degradation, we cannot remain mere onlooker. The state of Manipur is not sacrosanct. It has its own share of sorrow. The poor state has to suffer directly or indirectly, sooner or later. How many of us are aware of imminent danger of survival in the troubled age? How many of us think globally and act consciously? The uneasy culture of discounting future marks the beginning of the end.* We rely on soil and land to live on, produce our food, and make our cloths, support plant and animal life. Land degradation is the blanket term usually used to describe a number of land and soil degradation issues. Land and soil degradation can take many forms – up to 36 of degradation types exist. Some of the major types of land degradation include soil erosion, soil contamination (one form of land pollution), desertification, soil acidification, and soil salinity. Causes for land and soil degradation can differ from country to country (geographic region to region), in urban vs. rural areas, and on agricultural vs. non-agricultural land. Some of the major general causes include wind and water weathering of soil, deforestation and clearing of land, intensive or unsustainable agricultural practices, mining, urbanization and human development, carrying of contaminants by air and water, leaching and run off of contaminants, improper management/disposal of waste, natural or severe weather events. There are also indirect factors that can contribute to land and soil degradation, such as human population growth, which can place more pressure on land and soil resources. Something that is interesting to note is that what is land degradation to some, may not be to others. For example, an environmentalist or scientist may look at the environmental aspects of how farmed land is being used, whereas a farmer might look at the economic aspect of what that land can provide once cultivated or used in another way for economic and human benefit.

For agricultural land in particular, the main causes of erosion might be intensive cultivation, overgrazing by livestock, poor management of arable soils, and the clearing of land to convert it to land for farming (although it differs between developed and developing countries – industrial agriculture vs. pasture grazing for example). According to some estimates, in non-rural areas – wind and soil erosion might account for over 80% of land degradation, and in rural areas over 70% might be caused by overgrazing and agricultural activities. Estimates indicate that a third to a half of the world's agricultural land is moderately or seriously degraded. Estimates also indicate that countries like American have lost about half their topsoil since colonial days. Countries in Sub Saharan Africa might be worst affected by land and soil degradation globally. Land and soil degradation might impact: (i) Soil fertility and soil health – Land used for agricultural productions and obviously agricultural production itself. Specifically the yield/productivity of arable land used to grow crops. But, also pasture land that has been overgrazed (ii) Agriculture's contribution to the economy, and the economic contribution of other industries that rely on land and soil (iii) Humans' health and well-being, in the instance where contaminated soil leaches into water supplies. Poor soil structure can also increase the risks of landslides and other disasters in some places (iv) Other areas of the environment, such as where soil that erodes from a farm causes sedimentation in a river, or where soil contamination on one plot of land leaches and causes water pollution in a nearby water body (v) Wildlife and living organisms that depend on soil, or that are indirectly impacted by issues like soil contamination (via leaching into aquatic environments for example)

There are a number of potential effects of land and soil degradation. Some of the large level effects might be related to land and soil's: (i) Role in helping regulate aspects of the environment (ii) Role as resources humans use to produce other resources, such as food and fibers, just as two examples. With a growing population, growing demand, and more resource intensive products being consumed, there will need to be more production or better efficiency in the future from land resources, not less (and degraded land and lost topsoil usually leads to less productive soil. One effect of land and soil degradation is lost productivity/yield on agricultural land, and some estimates indicate that productivity may have reduced by 20% to 30% in some regions. Economically, some estimates put the economically loss that land and soil degradation is responsible for at tens of billions of

dollars worldwide annually. Degradation of the world's arable land and top soil might be a significant issue for the future – some estimates indicate we may only have 60 years' worth of harvests in top soil left in some countries.

It is not a surprise that the running phenomenon of Increasing Rate of Diminishing Returns in agricultural sector remains age-old challenge in Manipur. This sad scenario is largely brought about by highly degraded and wastelands as well as conversion of agricultural land into land of industrial purpose. 79% of Total Geographical Area is reported to be accounted for by degraded lands (1768 thousand ha) in 2010 according to ICAR and NCAS, much higher than 42.6% in 2005 (Ministry of Agriculture, GOI). About 72% of the state is affected by soil acidity and 6.7% by water erosion. The visible decrease in productivity of food grains from 2241 kg/ha in 2005-06 to 1468 kg/ha in 2015-16 may be traced to high percentage of degraded and wastelands. As a result, 40% of farmers are willing to change their occupation. The rising trend of transfer of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes; especially for "service industry" is not a surprise. Dispossession is on the rise. The regressive land market operates against the poor. The short fall of food grains was 1,58,000 tonnes in 2015-16 even after 65 years of economic planning. We are recklessly mismanaging our ecological interdependence and environmental capital. The emerging sad scenario of increasing land degradation is bound to aggravate the crushing burden of cultivators whose per capita operated land is only 0.86 acre; much less than basic holding of 1 hectare. The holding is small. The land is also getting degraded. The farmers cannot produce sufficient enough to meet their domestic requirement; forget "marketable surplus".

Some types of land degradation are reversible – but, can differ in the amount of time and money required to address them, and some types of land degradation are easier to address than others. There might need to be an assessment of what land degradation problems can practically be fixed (and what ones we can't), along with the effectiveness of pursuing certain solutions, as well as the expected ROI and benefit. Solutions to land and soil degradation should ideally be aimed to address the main causes contributing to land and soil degradation in a specific geographic

region, or on a specific area of land (as each region and area of land has different causes for its soil and land degradation). The best solution to land and soil degradation might be to prevent it from happening in the first place, but there can be solutions to restoring already degraded land/soil. As just one example of a possible solution aimed at a specific cause of land degradation, ground cover, cover crops, and building up the top layer of soil (with more organic matter), may all help protect against soil erosion, and particularly wind and water erosion. Another example – using natural fertilizers (like animal manure, or organic matter), and natural or biological pest control methods, over synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, may be one way of reducing soil contamination. Other ways might be limiting general water, air and waste pollution that can leach into soil and onto lands from the various parts of society. Better sealing landfills might be one specific way to prevent soil contamination at landfill sites. Already polluted and contaminated soil might have its own set of solutions to consider, such as removing, treating, aerating, and remediation of soil. Funding large scale projects to restore significantly damaged and degraded soil and land is an option for already degraded land.

Although, what is apparent is that each region has different causes of land degradation, along with different local climates, conditions, pre-existing soil profiles and makeup (some soils are difficult to work with, lack organic matter, or are unresponsive), farming practices, local knowledge – factors that lead to addressing land and soil degradation having unique challenges in each area. Dry land restoration in particularly can be uniquely challenging. Some effects of some types of land degradation, such as some types of water and wind erosion, may be largely irreversible – at least over the span of thousands of years (top soil can take millennia to form again naturally). One of the best ways to prevent land degradation worldwide in the future would be to better map the world's land and soil (with satellites and other technology), and track the impact of different factors (like deforestation, farming, weather etc.) on this land and soil. An example of how this is currently being done is the Global Land Outlook.

(Writer can be reached to: [sjugheshwor7@gmail.com](mailto:sjugheshwor7@gmail.com))

# Selecting a Stream after Class 10

By: Kaustov Kashyap

Every student needs to know his/her choice of stream before opting for it in class 11. After class 10, selection of the right stream is the most crucial step as a student's whole future will be affected by this particular decision. Generally, students pick a course of their parents' choice or they go with the one taken by most of their friends. This happens because students are not aware of making the choice of a stream after class 10. Before selecting a stream, one needs to look at some important factors to arrive at the right choice.

**Self-Awareness**  
This is the most important thing to be considered before deciding a stream after class 10. This involves identifying your interest, understanding your aptitude and skills. Adequate attention must be given to your interests and aptitude. For example, if you are weak in any one of the subjects - Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology, then you will have a tough time understanding that subject in class 11 and class 12 with Science stream. This is

why a detailed strength-weakness analysis is necessary and important while choosing a stream after class 10.

**Know the streams and find out details associated with them**

Find out the available streams and then introspect yourself with respect to each field. Find out every minute detail about the stream like subjects, difficulty level, higher education courses and career prospects, etc. Also, list down details about professional courses that one may pursue after passing class 12 with a particular stream. Making a list of professional courses will help you get an idea about career prospects associated with that stream.

**Take help of a counsellor**

Approaching a counselor is essential when you are not sure about choosing a suitable path after class 10. It is advisable for the students to attend career guidance seminars and educational fairs where the experts can assist in discovering the student's potential and aptitude and accordingly suggest the right stream. For more clarification, a stu-

dent can personally visit a career counsellor who will conduct tests to explore out a student's aptitude, interest and personality to consequently find out the stream that will best suit him.

**Do not follow the crowd**

This is the time when most of the students get influenced by their friends and end up taking streams that don't even match their interests or skill set. This ultimately has an adverse impact on their career prospects in the future. So before making a decision, think wisely about the factors that will motivate you throughout the course. Make sure to choose a stream that matches your own interest, potential, and ability. Do not simply follow the crowd.

**Discuss with your parents & teachers**

Seeking guidance from reliable people in the community is another way to go. Parents and teachers are among those experienced people who can easily judge the inner strengths and interests of a student. Both serve as a major influence on a

child's decision-making actions. So, guidance from experts and experienced people always matters. However, their decision should not be solely imposed on children while choosing a stream as often it is seen that students are made to ignore their own passion and follow parent's decision which ultimately takes student's future nowhere. So, a healthy discussion with parents or teachers and conveying about their own real happiness should not be missed out during this phase of the academic career.

Different parameters must be considered while selecting the right stream for your Senior Secondary Education. The foremost criterion is to select a stream that matches your strength. Choosing the right stream makes a significant improvement in one's career path. There is no good and bad stream and a lot of opportunities are there in every field. One just needs to take the right step for building a successful career in the future.

(The writer is a HR & Career Consultant)

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# Assam Floods: CID to Investigate Silchar Deluge, Six People Identified for Embankment Breach, Says CM



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma serves food to residents of flood-affected areas, at a relief camp in Silchar.

Agency  
Silchar, July 03:

Six people have been identified as responsible for an embankment breach that led to devastating floods in Assam's Silchar, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said during a visit to the Bethukundi dyke.

He said the accused who allegedly left a gaping hole in the Barak river embankment, more than 3km from the town center, would be brought to book, adding that lapses on the part of officials would also be looked into.

Assam's flood situation worsened with 14 more people losing their lives on Friday, taking the toll to 173 while a population of 29.70 lakh in 30 districts remained affected. Many parts of Cachar district's severely affected Silchar town are still waterlogged. Rivers such as the Brahmaputra, Beki, Kopili, Barak, and the

Kushiyara are flowing above the danger level at several places though most of them are maintaining a receding trend.

"The Bethukundi incident is a big lesson for us. The next time there is a flood, we have to post policemen at the embankment so that nobody can breach it. Regarding Bethukundi breach, CID has been asked to register a case in Guwahati. Now the case for the Silchar flood shall be registered in Guwahati, people shall be interrogated in Guwahati and all investigations shall be done from Guwahati. It will be done by CID under a Special Task Force lead by the ADGP CID. Whoever is arrested in this connection shall require to take bail from Guwahati," the Chief Minister said.

It is speculated that residents of Mahisha Beel breached the embankment at Bethukundi to drain out excess

water into the Barak river that flows down from Manipur and meanders into Bangladesh. On May 23, Debabrata Pal, the executive engineer of the Water Resources Department, lodged an FIR against unknown persons under Section 427 (mischievous causing damage) of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

"As of now, we have information of six people's involvement in the breach. The SP had earlier filed an FIR in Silchar but now we have taken things to the next level," said Sarma.

The Chief Minister also distributed ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of 10 of the 24 people who died due to floods in Cachar district. The process of granting relief to family members of the other deceased will be taken up in a phased manner.

Visiting the Bethukundi

dyke, Sarma reviewed the reconstruction activities being undertaken on breached locations and instructed officials to ensure that good quality raw material is used. Sarma, in his third visit to Barak Valley within 10 days, also held a meeting with Cachar district administration to review measures being taken to deal with the situation.

The Chief Minister visited two relief camps in Silchar and four in Karimganj and assured those who have taken shelter there of all help by the administration. He also went by boat to the affected people of Sriprang village in Karimganj and directed the district authorities to take steps to provide relief to them.

As many as 2,450 villages under 88 revenue circles have been affected across the state while 3,03,484 people have taken shelter in 563 relief camps, according to the official bulletin. Besides Cachar where a population of 14,04,748 were hit by the calamity, Nagaon and Barpeta districts were also hugely affected.

A total of 17 embankments were breached - 12 in Cachar, four in Udalguri and one in Baksa while 486 roads and 14 bridges have been damaged. A crop area of 63,314.75 hectares has been inundated while 795 animals were washed away and 9,55,089 were affected. Large scale erosion was also reported from Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Jorhat, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri.

Urban flooding was reported from Cachar, Dibrugarh, Udalguri and Tinsukia, the bulletin added.

# NIA to Probe the Killing of the Chemist in Amravati in Maharashtra The Prime Accused Arrested from Nagpur by State Police



(Left): The slain Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal Teli, BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and (Right) the slain Amravati chemist Umesh Kolhe.

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, July 03:

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday directed the National Investigating Agency (NIA) to take over the probe into the brutal killing of chemist Umesh Prahladrao Kolhe (54) in Amravati in Maharashtra on June 21 following his Facebook post in support of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

"MHA has handed over the investigation of the case relating to the barbaric killing of Shri Umesh Kolhe in Amravati Maharashtra on 21st June to NIA. The conspiracy behind the killing, involvement of organizations, and international linkages would be thoroughly investigated" MHA tweeted.

Investigators believe that Kolhe, residing at Ghanshyam Nagar in Amravati, was killed while returning home on the night of June 21 near Prabhat Chowk, allegedly in retaliation for a social media post supporting Nupur Sharma, who had alleged made controversial remarks on the Prophet Mohammad during a television debate.

Based on a complaint by Umesh Kolhe's son Sanket, the City Kotwali Police Station in Amravati arrested the accused Muddasir Ahmed alias Sonu Raza Shaikh (22) (a resident of Bismillah Nagar behind

Abuzar mosque) and Shahrugh Pathan alias Badshah Hidayat Khan (25) (a resident of Sufiyar Nagar) on June 23. After the interrogation of the accused

Nanu alias Abdul Thoufik (24) (of Lalkhali area near Imam Hussain mosque), Atib Rashid (22) (of Maulana Azad Nagar) and Shoaib alias Bhurya Khan (22) (a resident of Chhaya Nagar) were arrested on June 23. Shoaib was stated to be the one who stabbed Kolhe.

The sixth accused Dr. Yusuf Khan Bahadur Khan (44), running a clinic in Amravati city, was arrested on Friday night, on charges of provoking other accused against Kolhe. "Khan had made a post on a WhatsApp group against Kolhe saying he was circulating posts supporting Nupur Sharma. This provoked the accused against Kolhe and they decided to murder him."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Amravati city) Vikram Sali said, "The motive behind the murder was to take revenge for the post made by Kolhe in support of Nupur Sharma. The arrested Dr. Yusuf Khan was remanded to police custody till July 04 by a magistrate court on Saturday."

Similarly Shaikh Irfan Shaikh Rahim (Irfan Khan) (32) the 7th and the prime accused, was arrested by the state police from Nagpur on Saturday.

According to officials, Khan allegedly hatched a conspiracy to kill Kolhe and roped in five others, by offering them money.

**The murder of the Udaipur tailor**

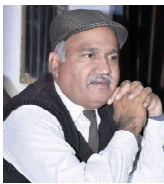
In another development the Jaipur court (Rajasthan) sent the four accused arrested in connection with the murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal Teli, to 10 days in NIA custody on Saturday.

The four accused were produced before the CBI court number 01 dealing with NIA cases. The court sent them to 10-day NIA custody. Subsequently, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Rajasthan Police handed over all documents related to the case to the NIA. Besides two more accused stated to be Muslim, based in Rajasthan, were held for planning Teli's murder on Saturday.

Teli was hacked to death, allegedly by Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, on June 28 for purportedly sharing on social media, Nupur Sharma's remarks on the Prophet. While Riyaz and Ghouse were arrested the same day, two other accused-Asif Hussain and Mohsin Khan- were arrested subsequently. The incident sparked tensions between two communities and the police imposed a curfew and suspended the Internet services to prevent the clashes from escalating.

## Career Guidance

# National Exit Test (NExT) improve the quality of doctors



By: Vijay GarG

To implement a standardised national medical examination in the country for PG medical admissions, plans are on to start the National Exit Test (NExT), though its implementation in 2023 is yet to be confirmed. NExT will be the qualifying examination not just for final year MBBS students and for postgraduate seats in broad specialties, but will also apply to institutes of national importance. The exam will also be the qualifying criteria for foreign medical graduates (FMGs) seeking validation to practice medicine in the country.

"While there is no official information on the pattern or scheme of examination, NExT will possibly replace final year MBBS and NEET PG, if

not FMGE," says , director professor, Department of Surgery, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. Dismissing the need for a single standardised exam, he claims not every medical college has AIIMS-like infrastructure, so to put students through the same grilling process seems unfair. "Considering there is no uniform medical education in India, it would not hurt to maintain the status quo," he adds.

"The National Medical Commission (NMC) had proposed the idea of a common exit test for all medical graduates through an act of parliament, the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. NExT is expected to be conducted within three years since then and should ideally be implemented from 2023."

Stressing at the need for "quality clinicians" and a common yardstick to assess students, he cites the case of the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination) that medical practitioners need to clear before they can practice medicine in the US. "NExT too should be given similar weightage -

with a theoretical and practical component to test the proficiency of doctors both in India or from overseas."

The exam will be based on the conceptual knowledge of the first, second and final year syllabus. "This will put an end to the culture of rote learning, unlike NEET PG which is MCQ based and focuses mostly on the final year syllabus. The exam is likely to be far more robust to assess the critical skills of doctors; consequently, it would compel the foreign medical institutions to upgrade the quality of training and education they impart to foreign medical graduates. The exam would also be a wake-up call for private medical colleges in our own country to improve their standards of teaching-learning," the professor adds.

NExT may be conducted prior to the internship period of final year MBBS students which would help them get an idea about the kind of specialisation they need to pursue, as the allocation of seats for PG will be merit-based. "Currently, some of the medical interns may lack

due diligence, and are busy cramming for their NEET PG attending coaching classes - NExT may end that for good," he says.

Talking about the importance of quality medical education in the country and the importance that needs to be attached to human lives, Dr. professor & head, Department of Medical Education, JIPMER, Puducherry, says, "NExT aims to be at par with global standards which will allow the medical education system to set quality benchmarks and achieve the stated outcomes."

The difficulty level of the exam will not increase the shortage of doctors post-Covid; what remains to be seen is whether these doctors (foreign returned or home-grown) are effectively utilised, as most of them gravitate towards the larger cities, he says. "Unless efforts are made to improve medical infrastructure and civic amenities in the small towns, such disparities will continue to exist since the problem lies not in the numbers, but lack of proper distribution of doctors."

# Next 30 to 40 years will be era of BJP; Opposition disjointed: Amit Shah at BJP national executive meet

Agency  
Hyderabad, July 03:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the next 30 to 40 years will be era of BJP while targeting the Congress over its internal bickering.

Speaking at the BJP's national executive meet, Shah said that the Opposition is disjointed and the Congress members are fighting for democracy within their party.

"Next 30 to 40 years will be era of BJP and country will be 'vishwa guru' (world leader)," Shah said at the meeting of the BJP's key decision-making body in Hyderabad.

"Congress has become party of family, it's not electing new president as ruling family fears loss," he added.

Shah also asserted that the BJP will defeat family rule in Telangana and West Bengal.

"Amit Shah spoke about Opposition. He said that today Opposition is divided. Congress members are fighting to establish democracy in the party, but

not electing a party president out of fear. Congress has 'Modi phobia'. They are opposing every decision taken in the national interest," Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma said at a press briefing in Hyderabad.

## RC Book Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Registration Certificate of Dio (two wheeler), bearing Registration No. MN01R-9955 on the way between my residence to Wangkhei on June 24, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

**Meitram Kirankumar**  
S/o, Meitram Shyamkumar  
Yaikul Janmasthan Leikai  
Imphal West, Manipur  
Contact No. 7629008059



# All problems of northeast will be solved by 2024, Amit Shah tells BJP meet

Agency  
Hyderabad (Telangana), July 03:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who made a number of strikes to resolve the length-pending points of the Northeastern states, on Sunday mentioned that the BJP has discovered a "permanent address" within the area.

He additionally mentioned that the area will haven't any extra problems within the coming occasions and that each one its points will be solved by 2024.

The Home Minister made the remarks whereas talking on the BJP nationwide govt assembly throughout his deal with on the political decision.

Notably, in a significant step in March, the Centre had eliminated AFSPA from 15 police station areas in seven districts of Nagaland, 15 police station areas in six districts of Manipur and 23 districts solely and one district partially in Assam.

Assam and Meghalaya governments, in March this yr, signed a historic settlement right here within the nationwide capital to resolve their 50-yr-outdated pending border dispute. The settlement was signed between Assam and Meghalaya two months after a draft decision was submitted by the chief ministers of the 2 states to Amit Shah on January 31 for examination and consideration by the MHA.

Speaking on the speech of Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma briefed the media and mentioned, "It has been a journey for us in the north-east and the Home Minister told us that he was delighted that we now have a permanent address in the Northeast and that we are going nowhere."

When requested what Amit Shah mentioned in regards to the motive that the Citizenship Amendment Act has not been carried out, the Assam CM mentioned that the objection by the Opposition to the reforms introduced in by the federal government has led to the delay, nonetheless, the federal government is dedicated to implementing the CAA.

"You know that the Opposition has been objecting to a number of things on a number of reforms by the Modi government including the CAA. There has been a delay but we are committed to implementing CAA and the rules will be formed," Sarma mentioned.

Detailing how the BJP plans to resolve the problems of the Northeast area, Sarma mentioned, "Amit Shah spoke about how the journey of the BJP has been in the north-east and development post-arrival of the Modi government in 2014... We also discussed how the AFSPA has been removed from the northeast region in about 60 per cent of the areas... He also said that by 2024, there will be no more fault lines in the north-east and all the issues will be solved."

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday moved the political decision on behalf of the BJP throughout

the social gathering's nationwide govt assembly and slammed Opposition events for concentrating on the then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi within the 2002 riots case.

Shah threw gentle on the latest verdict of the Supreme Court giving a clear chit to then Gujarat Chief Minister within the 2002 Gujarat riots case the place the petitioner was Zakia Jafri, widow of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, difficult the clear chit given by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to Narendra Modi.

The Supreme Court on June 24 dismissed the plea filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, difficult the clear chit given by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to then Chief Minister Narendra Modi and several other others within the 2002 Gujarat riots.

A bench headed by Justices AM Khanwilkar mentioned that it finds the attraction as "devoid of merit".



Social worker Konthoujam Monorajan Singh today distributed machineries and other materials for cultivation to farmers at his Kwakeithel Konjeng Leikai Residence today. The items includes Kubota power tiller, Pesticide Sprayer pump etc.

## President Election 2022: Droupadi Murmu to campaign in Bihar on July 5; to meet CM Nitish Kumar, BJP leaders

Agency  
New Delhi, July 03:

National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu will visit Bihar's Patna on July 5 for campaigning for the presidential election which is scheduled to be held on July 18.

During her visit to the state capital, Murmu will meet all senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Murmu is continuously touring in states for the presidential poll campaign after being made the candidate for the post of President.

The preparation for her

welcome is in full swing in Patna by the Bihar BJP state unit. As per the sources, all the senior leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Janata Dal (United), Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP), MLAs and MPs including Nitish Kumar, BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal, Ravi Shankar Prasad will be present in the program organised for Murmu.

Murmu has visited many states since being nominated for the presidential candidate including Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, where she has sought support for herself. The sources have also informed that the NDA's presidential candidate is likely to visit more states in the coming

days, where she is expected to meet MPs and MLAs.

Earlier on Saturday (July 2), Murmu visited Puducherry to seek support from the legislators of the ruling AINRC-led coalition in the Union Territory. She met Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy and sought support for her candidature in the presidential election.

On Friday (July 1), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), which is to be an ally of the BJP, announced that it will support NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu in the presidential elections. The BJP-led NDA had declared Droupadi Murmu as the presidential candidate on June 21.

## India logs 16,103 new Covid cases

Agency  
New Delhi, July 03:

India on Sunday registered 16,103 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,35,02,429, while the active cases increased to 1,11,711. The death toll climbed to 5,25,199 with 31 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.26 per cent of the total infections, while the national

Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.54 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 2,143 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.27 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 3.81 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,28,65,519 while the case fatality rate was

recorded at 1.21 per cent. According to the ministry, 197.95 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Meanwhile, amid rising cases in Bengal, the state government has issued advisory where it allowed only asymptomatic and fully vaccinated people to attend public gatherings. The advisory only said that special emphasis should

be given on completion of primary vaccination and precaution dose administration.

"Health care workers and front line workers having close contact with the public must be asymptomatic and full vaccinated," it said.

It further said that people in public gatherings must follow Covid appropriate behaviour including physical distancing, wearing of masks, hand and respiratory hygiene.

The toll due to Covid-19 in

## Sports

## Women's Hockey WC: India eye revenge against England in opener

Agency  
Amstelveen (Netherlands), July 03:

No more considered as pushovers, a rejuvenated India would seek revenge against England when the two sides open their Pool B campaign in the Women's Hockey World Cup here on Sunday.

The Indian women's hockey team would be eager to settle scores against a side which shattered their bronze medal hopes in last year's Tokyo Olympics.

India came tantalisingly close to claiming their maiden Olympic medal in Tokyo, only to lose 3-4 against England, who are playing as Great Britain in the showpiece here.

But going into the tournament, the Indians would be high on confidence, especially after finishing a creditable third in their maiden outing in the FIH Pro League.

India's best performance in the World Cup was a fourth place finish at the inaugural edition in 1974, but since achieving a historic fourth place in Tokyo Games, the team has been on a phenomenal rise.

The Indian women's team achieved its best-ever world ranking, a sixth position in May and then gave some top teams of the world a run for

their money in the FIH Pro League. The Indian team finished on the podium ahead of strong sides like Belgium, Australia and England.

Experienced goalkeeper Savita Punia performed captaincy responsibilities brilliantly since taking over from talismanic Rani Rampal, who has been sidelined since the Tokyo Games due to a hamstring injury.

Savita has been in stellar form, while she will have young and energetic back-up in Bichu Devi Kharibam.

The backline will be under the watchful eyes of vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Udita and Nikki Pradhan, while the responsibility of building the attacks will be on the shoulders of Sushila Chanu, Neha Goyal, Navjot Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, Nisha and Monika.

Salima Tete, who has been in terrific form and is known for electrifying runs down the flanks, will need to play the linking role.

The responsibility of scoring goals will be on experienced Vandana Katariya, Lalremliam, Navneet Kaur and Sharmila Devi.

India finished eight in the

last edition in 2018, but they are hoping for their first podium finish in this edition of the tournament and going by their form and recent results, it is definitely not impossible.

And, India's chief coach Janekke Schopman knows the potential of her players.

"If we truly play to our potential, we play the way we know we can consistently, anything is possible. Women hockey at this moment is very tight, anyone can beat anyone," Schopman had said.

"(But) consistency is a big point of attention. If we can play consistently well, top-4, and who knows a podium in the World Cup is a possibility."

"I think we have great potential and if we actually play to our potential we are a tough team to beat," the 45-year-old said.

England's best result in the World Cup is a bronze medal in the 2010 edition in Rosario, Argentina. Besides, they also finished fourth in 1990 in Sydney.

There is hardly anything to differentiate between the two sides. England are placed fourth in world rankings while India are at sixth.

After England, India will face China on July 5, followed by their last pool match against New Zealand on July 7.

## Centenary celebration of Assam sports journalism begins



IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, July 03:

A year long celebration of 100 years of sports journalism in Assam begins coinciding the day while the first ever news related to a football competition was published in Asomiyā (a weekly news magazine mentored by Chandra Kumar Agarwala) on 1 July 1923. Assam Sports Journalists Association (ASJA), which is affiliated to Sports Journalists Federation of India (a national affiliate of International Sports Press Association) has taken the lead in celebrating the occasion that will culminate on 1 July next year.

On Saturday, flags of ASJA and the centenary celebration were hoisted by ASJA's founder president Balendra Mohan Chakraborty and his successor Pabitra Gogoi in presence of

senior sports organiser Rajib Prakash Baruah with other dignitaries in the ASJA office premises under RG Baruah Sports Complex in the city. It was followed by a felicitation program to the family members of some pioneer sports journalists.

Organised at the conference hall of Assam Olympic Association (AOA), the program also witnessed the felicitation of many close relatives of deceased sports journalists for their invaluable contributions to the profession. The program was graced by a number of prominent journalists namely Dharendra Nath Chakraborty, Premadhar Sarma, Pranay Bordoloi, PJ Baruah, Nava Thakuria, Rahul Karmakar, Sanjiv Phukan with others.

Addressing the gathering, AOA general secretary Lakshya Konwar disclosed that the sports journalists have played

a major role in the sustained growth of sports in Assam over the decades. He expressed gratitude to the organisers for giving the State's apex sports body an opportunity to walk hand in hand for the growth of sports. ASJA general secretary Intiaz Ahmed informed that the yearlong celebrations have been supported by ONGC, NRL, OIL, Topcon, ACA, AOA and other well wishers.

"The celebration also coincides with World Sports Journalists' Day that falls on 2 July. We will hold a mega inaugural ceremony on 9 July where some prominent sportspersons of India will be present," said ASJA president Subodh Malla Baruah, adding that publishing a book on the history of sports & related journalism and building a memorial to mark the occasion are also on the card. ASJA

vice-president Bidyut Kalita informed that State chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his predecessor Sarbananda Sonowal, presently a Union minister and AOA president, have assured all possible support.

The felicitated family members including Dr Indira Choudhury (wife of acclaimed author-editor Nirod Choudhury), Kalyan Das (son of pioneer sports journalist Pulin Das), Bipul Barman (son of photojournalist Tarani Barman), Junti Bora (wife of Purbajyoti Chutia), Smriti Sarma (wife of Sanjay Sarma Thakur), Sima Das (wife of Kapil Das), Urbashi Devi (wife of Dwijen Sarma), Anita Goswami (sister of Kulen Kalita), relatives of Murali Choudhury, Rahman Ali, Gautam Bora, Kingshuk Ghatak, Nanda Kishore Gupta, Gopal Mishra, Debi Ram Das, Ashish Dey, etc offered heartfelt thanks to the organisers.