

## PREPAK (Pro) observes Progressive day

IT News  
Imphal, June 1:

Proscribe group the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (Progressive) observed its 12<sup>th</sup> progressive day to mark its foundation day at its central Head Quarter, General Head Quarter and other Units of the armed group.

A statement by media coordinator of PREPAK (Pro), Lanchenba, said that a two minutes silent was observed by the cadres of the armed group showing honours to the departed souls who had sacrifice for the cause of the revolutionary movement as well as those fallen in trap of the enemies. On the occasion the message of the Chairman of the revolutionary group which elaborated, on the impact of the Indian, rule was read out.

## 14 cadres of UTLA (J) lay down arms before Chief Minister N. Biren Singh

IT News  
Imphal, June, 1:

Fourteen cadres of the United Tribal Liberation Army (UTLA) (James), including its chairman Tonhang Singit, laid down their arms and ammunition before the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh today at a Homecoming Ceremony held at the Banquet Hall of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Manipur Rifles, Imphal.

The surrendered weapons include two KH-33 rifles, one AK rifle, one A1 rifle, one A2 rifle, three single barrel rifles and three small arms along with one Chinese hand grenade, 18 gelatin sticks, 18 detonators, and assorted ammunition.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the function, N. Biren Singh stated that violence will not bring any solution and urged all youth who had taken up arms to return to the national mainstream.

He also recalled Union Home Minister Amit Shah's words, in his recent visit to the State, that not a single bullet would be fired on those militants who want to return to their normal lives and join the national mainstream and no FIR would be lodged against them unless they are



involved in a heinous crime.

Stating that there will be development only when there is peace, the Chief Minister said that in the last five years, the State had witnessed a rapid growth in development in various fields due to improvement in law and order. Manipur would be able to cope with other States only when there is inclusive development irrespective of geographical differences, he added.

He also highlighted that under the revised scheme for Surrender cum Rehabilitation of Militants in the North East State, 2018 of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, rehabilitation benefits to be

given to the surrendered cadres include a one-time financial grant of Rs. 4 lakhs to each surrendered, which is to be kept in their respective bank accounts as a fixed deposit for a period of three years; monthly stipends of Rs 6000/- per person and incentives for surrendered weapons. Surrendered cadres will stay in a rehabilitation camp for a period of three years where they would be given various vocational training.

Regarding this, the Chief Minister stated that a Screening Committee is working out the identification and rehabilitation of cadres, with ADG/IG Special Branch as Chairman and comprising

various security agencies like Army, Assam Rifles, Central Paramilitary Forces, SIB, State Police, State Administration, etc. Expressing happiness over the steps taken up by the Committee, N. Biren Singh also stated that since 2005, 681 militants were approved for rehabilitation and out of these, 638 persons completed rehabilitation and returned to their normal lives. As of now, 43 persons are undergoing rehabilitation and vocational training, he added.

Ministers of Government of Manipur, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, and various top civil, police and military officials attended the Homecoming Ceremony.

## Congress will come back to power at the center in 2024 - Ex-MP Dr. Meinya

IT News  
Imphal, June 1:

Former MP of Lok Sabha Dr. Thokchom Meinya today said that the Congress party will come back to power at the center in 2024. The Congress leader was speaking to media at Congress Bhavan here in Imphal today.

He said, "Nav Sankalp Meeting of ChitanShivir at Udaipur in Rajasthan has become a turning point for the country to re-strengthen the Congress party throughout the country to bring back the party to power in 2024".

"India will have a Congress government in 2024. Manipur, too, will have a Congress government in 2024", the confident Ex MP told media persons.

Thokchom Meinya added that it is the Congress party that can fight against divisiveness and communalism.

"Congress stands for the inclusive India, India that believes in unity in diversities, India that ensures security and dignity for all the citizens, India that honours institutions and rule of law, and India that lives with democracy with secular values" Dr. Meinya added.

He said that today, the people of our country and our state, Manipur, are badly hit by unprecedented price rise, consistent hike on petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices, price rise on essential commodities and medicines, price rise on vegetables and highest level of unemployment in the history of independent India. The leadership of Indian National Congress since freedom struggle till today has been fighting for 'Justice for All'. Because of the sacrifices of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, the birth of modern and technological inclusive India was possible.

Dr. Thokchom Meinya said that the period of 2004 to 2014 was the hallmark of inclusive India under the then Prime

Ministership of Dr. Manmohan Singh. That was the time when Congress and its allies were in power at the center as well as at many states of India including Manipur.

"The hard reality, today, is the country has been passing through a phase of darkness since 2014, and the same is happening in our state, Manipur, too, since 2017 till today. The Congress will bring back the country from darkness to light, and for which the two days' state level Nav Sankalp Meeting are being held in all the states and Union Territories of the country for our better future", Thokchom Meinya said.

MPPC Senior Spokesperson Ningombam Bupenda Meitei while speaking to media said that as discussed at Nav Sankalp Meeting of ChitanShivir at Udaipur in Rajasthan, Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee will have two days of state level meeting on new resolutions in the state contemplation camp on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022 at Congress Bhavan in Imphal.

The two days' brainstorming session on how to strengthen the Congress party and to chart out strategies to bring back Congress to power in 2024 in parliamentary elections, will have in-depth closed-door discussion on agenda provided by AICC (All India Congress Committee). The two days' Nav Sankalp (New Resolution) (AnoubaWarep) at state level ChitanShivir (Contemplation Camp) will be attended by selected delegates as per the guidelines of AICC.

Bupenda said that there will also be district level meeting to propagate the resolutions which are going to be passed in the two days' state level meeting. In two days' New Resolutions Meeting at state level, there will be deliberations on 6 different major affairs by 6 Congress leaders.

(Contd. on Page 4)

## CRYOSTAT (Frozen Section) and Automatic Immunohistochemistry Stainer (VENTANA) inaugurated at RIMS

IT News  
Imphal, June 1:

RIMS Director Prof A Santa inaugurated CRYOSTAT (Frozen Section) and Automatic Immunohistochemistry Stainer (VENTANA) at the Department of Pathology.

Speaking on the occasion Prof A Santa expressed that it has achieved a milestone for Cancer Treatment at RIMS. The CRYOSTAT machine will immensely help Surgeons during oncosurgery (Cancer Surgery). This machine will liable us to give an intraoperative report for clearance of cancer margin

within a few minutes. Also it will help the Nephrology and Dermatology Department for immunofluorescence study during full work up of the patients. He further expressed that the VENTANA Automatic Immunohistochemistry Stainer is a state of art instrument at par with the highest oncology centres of our country for molecular diagnosis of cancer. This instrument has standardised immunohistochemistry as compared to manual methods being used at present. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) will help in diagnosis and subtyping of many malignancies. This instrument

was procured under DIAMONDS project (under NCDIR-ICMR) and we are providing free molecular tests for Breast and Lung Cancer. The test will immensely help in cancer care for targeted therapy. The project will also be expanded by adding molecular testing of two more cancers namely Colorectal Cancer and Endometrial Carcinoma very shortly. He also shared the noble book of the pathology dept for treatment.

During the inauguration function Prof N Sanjib medical superintendent, head of Departments, students, staffs attend.



## CM gives away NCDC regional awards for Cooperative Excellence and Merit 2021

DIPR  
Imphal, June 1:

Chief Minister. Biren Singh today distributed the NCDC Regional Awards for Cooperative Excellence and Merit 2021 to two cooperative societies of the State. The programme was organised by the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC), Guwahati at the Durbar Hall of the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Imphal.

Certificate of Excellence Award, comprising of a citation and a cash award of Rs. 25,000/-, was received by

Karam Awang Leikai Handloom & Handicrafts Cooperative Society, Imphal West while Khabam Maning Leikai Weavers Cooperative Society received the Certificate of Merit Awards which included a citation and a cash award of Rs. 20,000/- from the Chief Minister.

Speaking as the chief guest, N. Biren Singh stated that there is a need for sincerity and honesty on the part of the cooperative societies for development in the State as they are the ones who are working at the grassroots level. He also stated that a



screening committee has been formed to identify the defunct and inactive registered societies of the State.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the underutilisation of funds given by the National Cooperative Development

Cooperation (NCDC), he said that lack of genuineness among the societies was the main cause.

Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, P. Vaiphei said that the State could have won more awards this year but due to a very small number of applicants, only two eligible societies were selected. He also highlighted that a cooperative society being recognised by the NCDC is a great achievement and urged all cooperative societies to come out and increase the number of awards next year.

Minister for Cooperation, Nemecha Kigpen, while delivering her speech, said that cooperative societies take

a great role in the economic development of the State and expressed gratitude to NCDC for encouraging the cooperative societies of Manipur. She also appreciated the award winners and urged them to continue working hard to increase the wave of cooperative societies in the State.

Regional Director NCDC, Sabastian Joseph, Registrar for Cooperative Societies, Manipur Valentina Arambam, officials of NCDC and Cooperation Department, Govt. of Manipur also attended the function.

## Girls Thrive in civil service exam results; (Women's Success)



By-Vijay Garg

Girls have secured top three positions in the results of Union Public Service Commission's 2021 Civil Service Examination. Women have achieved the first position after seven years. The results are encouraging because the privileged elite as well as the youth belonging to ordinary backgrounds have been successful. This increases the likelihood of understanding the diversity of society in the civil service. Personal understanding of the problems of candidates from different backgrounds contributes to the collective thinking of the civil service.

Delhi resident Shruti Sharma, who topped the exam, focused on education, health and women's empowerment. Similarly, Kolkata's Anika Aggarwal, who ranks second, aims at the betterment of women and the children of an underprivileged society. Gamni Singla, a resident of Anandpur Sahib, who is currently the third largest city in Punjab, expressed her intention to work for the advancement of these social issues. Jaspinder Singh Bhullar, son of a farmer from Muktsar Sahib in Punjab has secured 33rd position. He says he will try to change the lives of people living in remote areas. Similarly, the success of Ravi Kumar Sihag of Ganganagar (Rajasthan) who came first in the civil service examination in Hindi medium is a testament to his connection with the land.

Young boys and girls who pass the civil service exams become part of the highest and most powerful administrative system in the country. They all pass the tough competition and are counted among the fastest select people in the country intellectually. After passing the civil service examination, where the needs of private life are guaranteed, they are expected to adopt a sensitive and accountable administrative approach to the problems of the country. In these days of growing corruption and declining work culture, the distance between the administration and the people is widening. It is the right of the society to expect the new officers entering the civil service with a kind of idealism to strengthen the rule of law and constitution and provide a corruption free administration.

## Yasin's sentence

Sauro Dasgupta  
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The life sentence of Yasin Malik is a turning moment in Indian Political and judicial history. Here is a man who has blood of innocent Kashmiris and several persons on his hands, including 7 Air Force officers. This is a man who till 2014 called the shots in Kashmir and even shook hands with the former Prime Minister.

Malik had been patronized by the left-liberals, the 'progressives'. They kept on shielding him to the last. He was invited to media conferences, seminars as Speaker or Guest of Honour. Any question to him from the audience was rebuffed.

Everybody knew how powerful Malik was. He got away with terrible acts. He held the Indian State at gunpoint and was extremely pro-Pakistan, much like his Hurriyat companions like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Every year, Yasin ensured that no discussion with Pakistan took place in the absence of the Hurriyat. He dictated peace terms to India, while having the gall to portray himself as an avatar of Gandhi, something which he reiterated in the court a few days ago.

After the trial of Yasin and his life imprisonment at Tihar Jail, several Kashmiri civilians were killed by Jihadist groups and allies of Yasin. That he was tried in New Delhi, the capital of India instead of his territory at Lal Chowk, Srinagar, where his writ prevailed, apparently could not be digested by such groups.

No sooner was Yasin's punishment announced than the usual suspects, Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistani Ministers and several Pakistani influencers like Shahid Afridi sent messages of 'solidarity' to Yasin on Twitter. However, to their shock, their blue eyed boy could not be saved!

Ever since 2014, Modi government had given a free hand to the Military to tackle the terrorists. Operation All Out was also very successful. After the abrogation of Article 370, several terrorists were eliminated from Kashmir. The Kashmiri political elites, in cahoots with the likes of Yasin, could no longer hold the Indian State hostage. Their arm-twisting tactics could no longer work.

Many victims of Yasin's atrocities have demanded the death sentence for him. The Kashmiri political parties have also tried to protect him from such punishment. But just as they failed to prevent the abrogation of Article 370, they will fail in this case also.

## Why should world need to ensure required 'humanitarian assistance' for the Rohingya refugees?

By-Parvej Siddique Bhuiyan  
Security and Strategic Affairs Analyst  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

While the Covid-19 epidemic, Myanmar's military coup in February, the Afghan refugee crisis, and now the Ukraine situation have all cast a pall over Bangladesh's Rohingya minority, the community remains in limbo. The funding for the Rohingya is running out, Bangladesh is being made to bear the burden of the Rohingyas alone. The amount of international aid for the 1.1 million Rohingyas who have taken refuge in Bangladesh has been greatly reduced. If this situation continues, the international organizations are fearing that a terrible catastrophe will come down in the future.

According to UNHCR, only 13% of the \$881 million annual response plan for the Rohingya has been funded as of this month (May 2022)

According to the source, 921 million USD was expected in the outgoing year, but 635 million USD was received, which is only 69 percent of the demand in 2019. The amount of international aid was further reduced in the next year. That year (2020) the demand has been reported to be 877 million dollars, but required fund was not ensured than that of demanded fund. The international community has been warned that the situation could worsen if demand is not met.

The cost of supporting the Rohingyas is expected to be \$1.21 billion per year, and the cost may rise as their number grows, inflation rises, and international financing declines. The refugees are providing cheap labor and are active in small enterprises in Cox's Bazar, which is driving wages down and reducing job prospects for locals. They also said that the cost of living has gone up for locals.

According to the report, housing the Rohingyas for the first five years without repatriation would cost more than \$7 billion. Foreign money for the Rohingyas appears to be dwindling, according to analysts, as only 38% of the \$920 million budget for that year was committed. (2021)

By-Fumiko Yamada

The US is getting closer with Bangladesh day by day. The US wants more engagement with Bangladesh now in the region. Although the two countries' diplomatic ties began on April 4, 1972, when the United States recognized the newly formed Bangladesh. However, the United States' current focus on Bangladesh reminds us that it desires a strategic partnership with Bangladesh. Both countries have had cordial relations for the past 50 years, strengthening collaboration in areas such as development, climate change, counter-terrorism, democracy, and human rights.

Over the last decade, cooperation in trade, investment, and security, particularly in counter-terrorism, has strengthened. After 2016, this collaboration grew even further. Bangladesh items have a large market in the United States. The trade balance between the two countries favors Bangladesh, and the United States is the largest single market for garments produced in Bangladesh. By 2019, bilateral commerce had reached USD 9 billion, with US exports to Bangladesh totaling USD 2.3 billion, up 12 percent from 2018. Meanwhile, Bangladesh exported USD 6.7 billion to the United States, up 9.5 percent from 2018. The US has made a significant contribution to the vaccine. Bangladesh

"Bangladesh's economy is modest. Despite this, it provided refuge to the Rohingyas. The question is how much longer.

Only \$366 million of the anticipated \$1 billion humanitarian assistance fund for the Rohingyas have been disbursed as of July 2021. The payout has dropped to 34%, down from 72 to 75% of the total required funds in the first three years of the Rohingya influx in 2017. This drop in international donations begs the question, "Has the world forgotten about the Rohingyas? "We can bear the strain."

Funding for Rohingyas from the international community is decreasing day by day. Afghan refugee crisis and now Ukraine crisis has worsened the situation. But international community must remember that Rohingyas are also refugees and they are in Bangladesh yet. This problem is also an international humanitarian problem as Afghan and Ukraine crisis.

Any long-term solution must take the local and national context into account. However, until then, the flow of humanitarian aid must be ensured since they must meet their fundamental necessities.

Any long-term solution must take the local and national context into account. However, until then, the flow of humanitarian aid must be ensured since they must meet their fundamental necessities.

While focusing on the "catastrophic disaster" in Ukraine, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, recently stated even during a visit to Bangladesh that they must not forget about other challenging situations around the world, such as the Rohingya crisis, which require attention and resources.

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), a coordinating body of international organizations, is working for the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. According to their data, international aid to the Rohingyas was rapidly declining. Promised funds are not available. In 2019, only 69 percent of the demand was met. As a result, the Rohingyas who have taken refuge in Bangladesh have had to cut back on many

planned expenses. Many projects taken to improve the living standards of the locals could not be implemented.

635 million was received last year, which was about Tk 540 crore in Bangladeshi currency. The lion's share of this money was spent on food for the Rohingyas. They were able to meet 75 per cent of the demand for food, 66 per cent for education, 36 per cent for health and only 35 per cent for nutrition.

We are concerned as human beings about the declining international aid to the Rohingya. Thus, if the promised funds are reduced every year, there will be a catastrophe in the future. This could lead to clashes between the Rohingyas and the locals. Bangladesh has already warned the international community about this. The Rohingyas who have taken refuge in Bangladesh will be repatriated as soon as possible.

Long-term uncertainty about repatriation may encourage Rohingyas refugees to engage in criminal activity. They (Rohingyas) are becoming disgruntled as a result of the prolonged ambiguity surrounding their repatriation, which poses a risk because it tempts many of them to engage in criminal activities.

When Rohingyas discover that there is little support for them, they immediately will devise a plan to make money through human trafficking, prostitution, illegal drug dealing (Yaba), confrontations between host communities and refugees, extortion and theft are all possibilities. The entire region might be thrown off balance. It is true that region may face further destabilization. 'Necessity knows no law,' that is true.

Although international organizations are concerned about the funding of the Rohingyas, they have no concern for the locals. Although 25 per cent of the Rohingyas fund has been promised for the locals, very little has been spent on them. Last year, LPG was provided as an alternative fuel for 165,000 Rohingyas families. Only five thousand local families have been given that facility. Despite the

massive environmental catastrophe caused by the Rohingya, there is no international assistance to compensate for this loss.

According to the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a Bangladeshi think tank, Bangladesh must spend roughly \$1.21 billion each year on Rohingyas refugees, a figure that will rise as the population grows, inflation rises, and foreign aid declines. According to the CPD, if repatriation begins, it will take 12 years if 300 Rohingyas are returned daily, assuming current population growth remains unchanged. The CPD estimates that it will cost \$7 billion to house and support Rohingyas refugees for the first five years without repatriation. A country like Bangladesh, which relies significantly on external debt to finance its budget deficit, will be unable to afford such a massive outlay.

According to the Cox's Bazar Forest Department, six and a half thousand acres of forest have been occupied for the Rohingyas. The damage to the environment and biodiversity is unimaginable. The nature of the land has changed by cutting down the hills.

Divisional Forest Officer Humayun Kabir said that trees are being cut down every day to collect firewood for Rohingyas. The green nature of the area is lost. More than 1 million Rohingyas have been living in the area and all activities have been affected. Agricultural land is being destroyed. If it continues like this, this area will be unsuitable for human habitation at some point.

Rohingyas were taking relief materials in the camp. On the other hand, going out of the camp is taking away the labor of the locals. Many Rohingyas are scattered in different places. They are engaged in various professions. If they are not repatriated quickly, the situation will be dire. The locals were unemployed because of the Rohingyas. Although the damage in the area is terrible, there is no international cooperation for the locals. Some organizations are crying out for the host community with nominal help. It is not acceptable in any way.

## Why is the US getting closer to Bangladesh?

By-Fumiko Yamada

is the third-largest recipient of US aid in South Asia. The US praised Bangladesh for providing sanctuary to Rohingya refugees, noting that it had not only met its obligation but also continued to provide support and collaboration. The implementation of sanctions by the US has fallen numerous times in the context of such a relationship.

The year 2021 was a trying one for relations between the US and Bangladesh. On December 10, 2021, the United States sanctioned Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and numerous current and former officers for a long history of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings. Bangladesh was not invited to the virtual Summit for Democracy that same month by the Biden administration.

In 2022, the United States produced a report on the situation of human rights in 198 countries. Bangladesh's state department has accused the country of human rights violations.

The US decision to apply sanctions on Bangladesh, which include ideals like democracy and human rights, is considered as a strategic move by the Biden administration in shifting geopolitical objectives and US foreign policy. For different causes, there are ongoing discussions, criticisms, and analyses of US-Bangladesh ties.

Bangladesh held the 8th US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue on March 20, 2022, after a one-year hiatus due to the Corona pandemic. The US undersecretary for political affairs, Victoria Nuland, the third highest ranking person in the US State Department, visited Dhaka on March 19 and participated in the dialogue as the US delegate.

The Bangladesh team, on the other hand, was led by Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen. Those two delegates came together primarily to strengthen the US Bangladesh 50 years bilateral connection and establish a "robust relationship." It is surprising that the United States is more interested about Bangladesh and has included it in its strategic calculations today. Though, in the past, the US did not do so, instead classifying Bangladesh as an underdeveloped country similar to Niger and calculating Bangladesh on humanitarian grounds.

However, the dialogue took place in two stages at the same location: first, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland met with Foreign Secretary Masud Momen; Bangladesh raised US sanctions against Bangladesh's elite force Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), calling them "unjustified," and the US sought Bangladesh's

support in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The primary debate of the dialogue was then commenced in the second stage in order to close the gaps in bilateral ties.

Joe Biden, the US President, stated earlier this year that he believes the Dhaka-Washington relationship will endure for the next 50 years and beyond.

'Our defense cooperation is stronger than ever,' the US president wrote to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, adding that the Bangladesh Coast Guard and Navy are vital allies in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region, as well as contributing to the regional fight against human and illicit drug trafficking.

On the heels of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, the third-ranking official at the State Department, said the US wanted to work together with Bangladesh on global security.

"Bangladesh and the US will work together to protect democracy and human rights at a time when Russia is invading Ukraine in the changed world situation and international law and human rights are under threat," Victoria Nuland said at the start of the eighth Partnership Dialogue, which began in 2022 to discuss all aspects of bilateral relations.

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## Sixth Anniversary of the Ammunition Fire Mishap at CAD Pulgaon Observed

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, June 01:

The sixth anniversary of the accidental fire at the Indian Army's Central Ammunition Depot (CAD) located at Pulgaon in Wardha district of Maharashtra, in which 19 people were killed in May 2016, was observed by the CAD administration on Tuesday.

The massive explosions and fire that broke out at shed number 193, which stored 19,325 defective anti-tank mines, led to the deaths of 19 people, in the wee hours of May 31, 2016. The deceased included officers, Defence Security Corps (DSC) jawans, and some contract workers. An equal number of jawans were injured in the mishap.

In a function organized at Military station on Tuesday, a homage was paid to the nineteen Bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. On the occasion, the next of kin were honoured and provided with financial assistance.

In an outreach program free medical camp for the senior



(Left): A police officer paying homage at martyrs memorial at CAD.

(Right): An army officer handing over a gift to a child.

citizens of three old age homes of Pulgaon in association with Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha, was organized, Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said.

The CAD, Pulgaon is the second-largest ammunition depot in Asia. It was a place of minimal security risk till 2000.

After the attack on the Parliament in 2001, the security of the area was increased, and all types of leisure activities surrounding the area were stopped.

There are two schools inside the military station - Kendriya Vidyalaya and Army Primary School, Pulgaon.

Mostly children of military personnel study in these schools. After May 2016 fire, a memorial was set up within the complex spread over a 7000-acre area. Every year, the service personnel, as well as the civilians, visit the military station to pay homage to those killed in May 2016 fire.

## Mumbai International Film Festival to pay homage to Manipur's ace Cinematographer, Irom Maipak

By - Sunzu  
Bachaspatimayum  
Mumbai, June 1:

17th Mumbai International Film Festival which opens with 'Meiram', a Manipuri documentary film called by James Khangembam on 29th May at Nehru Centre Auditorium, Worli, Mumbai will pay homage to Manipur's ace Cinematographer, Irom Maipak who passed away during the Covid pandemic in 2021. National award winning Manipuri cinematographer, Irom Maipak is amongst those filmmakers from documentary and animation genre, to be remembered with special screenings under 'Homage' section. Besides Maipak, legendary Pin screen Animator from Canada, Jacques Drouin; first female documentary filmmaker of Italy, Cecilia Mangini; Indian veteran Buddhadeb Dasgupta and multi-faceted Sumitra Bhavne may be mentioned.

Also known as MIFF, the 7-day festival pegged as the

largest documentary film festival of the world, presenting a kaleidoscope of World Cinema promises to induce qualitative as well as diverse content in the current edition, featuring 808 film-entries from 30 countries. Apart from the 120 Films in 'Competition' and 'MIFF Prism' category, an array of special film packages, masterclasses and workshops has been curated for the film lovers. Another interesting feature is Netflix original series 'Mighty Little Bheem: I love Taj Mahal' episode will make its World Premiere at MIFF 2022. The first animation film co-produced by India and Japan 'Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama', will also have its special screening at MIFF.

Even though MIF, organized by Films Division of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, felt short to announcing Manipur as a focus State of the festival, the State which began its cinematic journey from 1972 with Matamgee Manipur

places a prominent space in the international film festival, featuring altogether 8 documentary films.

Besides the much deserved homage to Irom Maipak, the state's only national award winning cinematographer, the tales of the 50 years of Manipuri Cinema finds a space in the festival with a 15-minute production by Manipuri State Film Development Society (MSFDS), named 'Glimpses of 50 years of Manipuri Cinema', scripted by Rajesh Salam and directed by Haobam Paban Kumar.

While 'The Monpas of Arunachal Pradesh', directed by Aribam Syam Sharma (for which Maipak won the national award) 'Thang-Ta', directed by Ronel Haobam and 'Phumshang', directed by Haobam Paban Kumar, to be screened in the Homage section, James Khangembam's 'Meiram' (which opened the festival), Borun Thokchom's 'I Rise' and 'Pabang Syam' by Haobam Paban Kumar are in Competition.

## Reinstating friendship bond between India & Bangladesh; Mitali Express flagged off

PIB  
New Delhi, June 1:

To further strengthen people to people connectivity through Rail between India and Bangladesh, Government of India and Bangladesh, after several meetings, decided to start a new passenger train service Mitali Express via recently-restored Haldibari-Chilahati rail link. This third passenger train service between New Jalpaiguri (India) - Dhaka (Bangladesh)-Mitali Express which was virtually inaugurated by both the Prime Ministers on 27th March, 2021, was flagged-off virtually by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways of India and Md. Nurul Islam Sujon, Railway

Minister of Bangladesh, from Rail Bhavan, New Delhi today (i.e. 1st June, 2022). Earlier, this train could not be started due to Covid Pandemic restrictions.

Speaking on this occasion, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Mitali Express, will be yet another milestone in increasing this friendship, in strengthening this bond, in improving this relationship. The development is accelerated in a very big way by the warm friendship between the two nations at all the levels. Lots of collaborative efforts have been made between the two railways. It is a very opportune moment; a moment when we should take bigger steps to cement our relationship

between the two nations.

Mitali Express train will run biweekly (ex. New Jalpaiguri at 11:45 hours on Sunday and Wednesday and reach Dhaka at 22:30 hours and ex. Dhaka at 21:50 hours on Monday & Thursday and reach New Jalpaiguri at 07:15 hours) and cover a distance of 595 kms from New Jalpaiguri to Dhaka (out of which 61 kms is Indian portion). Indian Railways LHB coach (like used in Maitree Express and Bandhan Express) will be used comprising 4 First AC, 4 AC Chair Car and 2 Power cars. There will have three classes - AC First (Cabin) Sleeper, AC First (Cabin) seat and AC Chair car, and the fare will be USD 44, USD 33 and USD 22 respectively.

The additional new

passenger service, Mitali Express, will give a boost to tourism of both the countries since it connects Bangladesh with North Bengal as well as North Eastern region of India. This will also provide an access of Nepal to Bangladeshi citizens via India by rail.

This new train is in addition to two existing passenger train services, namely Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (five days in a week) and Kolkata-Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (two days in a week) between India and Bangladesh. The services of above two trains, which were suspended due to Covid Pandemic restrictions, have now been resumed w.e.f. 29th May, 2022.

IT News  
Kohima, June 1:

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has congratulated the two Naga youths who successfully cleared the combined Civil services examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the result for which was declared recently.

The Federation has extended gratitude to Eno. Viku L. Achumi and Eli. Imennaro walling for making the Naga youth and Students' community proud through their success and wishes them the very best as they embark upon their new

journey as administrative officers.

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) also extends our congratulations to all the students who have successfully cleared the HSLC & HSSLC examinations 2022 conducted by the Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE).

The Federation further expressed special congratulation to all who have done excellently well by securing their respective places in the merit list.

"We take great pride in your achievements brought about by your hard work, dedication and sincerity", a statement of

the Federation said.

It said, "As each one of you steps into another new chapter of your life, the Federation implores upon each one of you to continue cultivating the virtues which have brought you all this far. It is our prayer that you will continue to be an asset to the Naga people in general and your family in particular even in the days to come and that you will do every one of us proud".

To all those students who have stumbled at the hurdle, the Federation places confidence in your abilities and that they will manage to emerge triumphant in your next attempt.

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## Why is the US getting closer .....

To enhance US investment in Bangladesh, Dhaka will have to work more.

Newly appointed US Ambassador to Dhaka Peter Haas praised Bangladesh's contribution in promoting peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region recently, saying the US wishes to work with Bangladesh to achieve their common goals.

"Bangladesh and the US have opposing but remarkably similar views for the Indo-Pacific area. 'We can - and do - collaborate to enhance areas where our visions intersect,' he remarked.

Bangladesh and the United States can "move faster together" in expanding trade and investment connections, according to US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas at an event titled 'US-Bangladesh Business Forum: Building on 50 Years of Friendship' held in

Dhaka on May 08, hosted by HSBC Bangladesh, in partnership with the US-Bangladesh Business Council (USBBC).

During Nuland's visit to Dhaka, she signed a draft defense cooperation agreement, which represents that endeavor. However, Washington may continue to view Dhaka as a regional security partner. The United States now seeks to establish a strategic engagement and relationship with Bangladesh.

The United States' recent increasing attention on democracy and human rights in Bangladesh raises the question of why the US is taking this action now. There are several options. One possibility is that United States has a larger role for the country in its Indo-Pacific strategy.

Bangladesh favors regional peace. Bangladesh still believes in the Non-Aligned

Movement's "importance" (NAM). The United States must recognize that Bangladesh is allied with the United States.

Bangladesh believes the US sanctions are motivated by geopolitics, while the US claims the Rapid Action Battalion is harming the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and economic prosperity of the Bangladesh people. Finally, the US sanctions against Bangladesh are nothing more than a South Asian geopolitical plan. Because of China's overwhelming domination in South Asia, the US will have no friendly states (without India) in the region. Of certainly, Bangladesh will be able to overcome this diplomatic dilemma and obstacle.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the United States to consider

Bangladesh as a prospective partner for increased trade and investment, claiming that the two nations' trade volume will double. The prime minister made the remarks during a meeting with the US-Bangladesh Business Council's inaugural executive business delegation in Dhaka on May 10, 2022.

While Bangladesh's top concerns are sanctions and investment, the United States wants to ensure its security in the region. The US must maintain its security in the Indo-Pacific area amid the current great power rivalry. In order to accomplish so, the United States plans to sign two defense agreements with Bangladesh: GSOMIA and ACSA. Through these accords, the US hopes to strengthen military ties by enhancing intelligence sharing and exchanging logistical and

technological support.

Bangladesh should pursue its policies and maintain its soft demands in order to enhance its 'Mutual Understanding' with America and become a trustworthy ally of the United States. Because the United States is Bangladesh's single largest export market for ready-made garments (RMG), accounting for 83 percent of total exports. The United States was also Bangladesh's top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (\$3.5 billion in total investments as of 2019). Bangladesh should retain "strong connections" with the United States for two reasons: 1) investment and 2) the Rohingya Crisis. In the 8th US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue, we noticed that Bangladesh had followed the strategy. According to the most recent data, there are 213,372 Bangladeshis living in

the United States, contributing to the country's economy. Last but not least, through numerous scholarship and study programs, the United States has made important contributions to Bangladesh's knowledge space.

Both countries have been showing signs of progress for some time, with Bangladesh establishing human rights cells and sending out human rights reports. At the same time, the US has reaffirmed its commitment to working with Bangladesh to improve the country's human rights situation.

Bangladeshi garments are primarily exported to the United States. Bangladesh supports the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy of freedom and openness. Bangladesh requires the United States for its develop-

ment. It's worth noting that Bangladesh aspires to be a South Asian economic miracle. Its financial success is now commendable. As a result, it is dependent on the United States and the European Union to maintain the current rate of rapid economic growth. Bangladesh is not a threat to the United States. Bangladesh is a firm believer in international friendship. Bangladesh may be one of the trusted allies with USA in the region.

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# Health Minister launches Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) Scheme for PHC Wangoi

**DIPR  
Imphal, June 1:**

Health & family Welfare and IPR minister Shri Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) Scheme at CHC Wangoi, today. Minister also launched Operationalization of operation theatre.

It may be mentioned that the scheme is a centrally launched aiming to provide quality health care at no cost to every woman and newborn visiting a public health facility.

Speaking as Chief Guest on the launching occasion, Minister Ranjan said that it is a landmark achievement of the department to make the operation theatre operational and launching of the SUMAN scheme. The new activity will now benefit the people residing in and around Wangoi.

Ranjan maintained that

primary health care system needs to be focused since it is the foundation of tertiary health care system. For a better health care delivery system, a better grassroot health care service is necessary. In this regard commitment of the health care professionals is very much required. It is through the sincere and dedicated service of the health staffs that the goal of a global health can be achieved, he added.

Minister Ranjan said that Preventive measures may be acknowledged. Periodical tests and regular health check-up are necessary for keeping a better health. Appropriate policies to achieve the best health care service in the state will be chalked out in consultation with the Chief Minister and other stake holders. Required staffs, machineries and infrastructures of CHC,



Wangoi will be provided on priority basis, he informed.

Minister also visited different departments and inspected the infrastructure and facilities of the of the Health Centre. He also interacted with the doctors and staffs of the centre.

Speaking at the occasion as president MLA, Wangoi A/C Khurajam Loken said that the

dedicated and sincere service of the health staffs of CHC, Wangoi, can set an example of the future. Competition during service period is required to show one's ability in their service.

O. Lukhoh Singh, Ex-Minister, V. Vunlunnam, IAS, ACS, Govt. of Manipur, Yumnam Nilamani, Vice Chairman, Khadi & Village

Industries Board, Dr. K. Rajo Singh, Director Health Services, Manipur and Dr. Somorjit Ningombam, Mission Director, State Health Society, Manipur also shared the dais as special guest of honor and guests of honor respectively. Doctors, Nurses and staffs of CHC, Wangoi and others also attended the launching occasion.

## Pony owners warned; appealed not to let loose them from their respective sheds or compounds

**IT News  
Imphal, June 1:**

Pony or horse owners of the state have been warned by the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services not to let loose them from their respective sheds or compounds so as to avoid any unintended consequences to the public.

"Letting loose of the livestock animals especially horses/ponies colts by the owners and straying on the streets is not only a penal offence liable to be prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code, 1973 but also under the provisions of the Cattle - Trespass Act, 1871", a statement by the Director of the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services, Ng. Ibotombi Singh said.

The statement said that

owners of horses and ponies who have no facilities or no proper facilities to take proper care of their animals are requested to avail the facilities to keep their horses, ponies provided by the Government of Manipur located at Marjing Pony Complex at Pangei, Imphal East, and Campus of Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association, Lamphelpat, Imphal West.

It added that the number of livestock specially horses and ponies along with their colts are letting loose by their owners and thereby loitering and straying on the roads of in and around Imphal City causing not only nuisance, inconveniences to the public, traffic but also causes several motor, vehicle accidents leading to even losses of many human lives including horses, ponies.

## Indian agriculture blooms beyond expectations

**By - Narendra Singh Tomar  
Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

Under the leadership of our popular and visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the nation is reaping a bountiful harvest of all-round efforts made by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the last eight years. Several innovative initiatives taken by the Ministry in the form of schemes and programmes, in order to ensure the commitment and accountability of the government, have resulted in ushering sweeping reforms in the direction and state of farmers and farming across the country. The livelihood standards of the farmers are improving and agricultural finances provided by the Centre are reaching them directly through bank accounts with complete transparency. The income of farmers has risen in various aspects and a new wave is visible as agriculture has emerged as a viable business proposition. Government's schemes, programmes and all other activities have always been focussed towards this effort to empower farmers become agricultural entrepreneurs.

In the last 8 years, the budget allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been continuously hiked and several schemes rolled out with an aim to make agriculture sector farmer-friendly. The allocation of agriculture budget in the current financial year to about Rs 1.32 lakh crore is a reflection of the devotion of the central government towards the welfare of farmers. The budget allocation for agriculture has increased by almost 6 times in the last 8 years. The journey of development in the agriculture sector does not end here. Besides increased allocation, the record production of food grains and horticultural crops is also a proof of the budget allocation being spent in the right direction. According to the Third Advance Estimates for the year 2021-22, the production of food grains is

estimated at about 315 million tonnes, while the production of the horticulture sector is also estimated at 334 million tonnes, which is the highest ever.

Indeed, it is no small matter that in the midst of the challenges of the Covid pandemic, India has supplied food grains to many needy countries and even during the Russia-Ukraine crisis, India has once again emerged as a major source of food grains supply to the world. Not only is the production of food grains showing a steady increase in the country at a record level, but the exports of agriculture produce is also rising continuously, which has reached almost Rs. 4 lakh crore.

Keeping in mind the better remuneration to farmers and their livelihood, the government has continuously increased the Minimum Support Price for Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops. As a result the MSP of paddy rose to Rs. 1940 per quintal from Rs. 1310 per quintal in 2013-14. Similarly, in the year 2013-14, the MSP of wheat was Rs. 1400 per quintal, which is now raised to Rs. 2015 per quintal.

During the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2021-22, 433.44 lakh MT of wheat was procured by the government at MSP, which is the highest ever. Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have seen the highest procurement of wheat so far. The success story does not close here, data also reveals that a sum of Rs 85,604.40 crore was credited to 49.19 lakh wheat producing farmers during the RMS directly into their bank accounts in a transparent manner.

Continuing its commitment towards the farmers, the government has credited around Rs 1.82 lakh crore to about 11.5 crore farmers directly into their bank accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana (Total Rs. 6,000 per annum in three equal instalments). This

scheme is one of the most comprehensive and key schemes of the Central Government and also a symbol of devotion to farmers, in which there is no role for middlemen.

Fulfilling the government's sincere efforts towards improving soil health, the Soil Health Card has been provided to crores of farmers. Keeping in mind the soil health, this scheme is making farmers aware of effective and better farming techniques to get better yield.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Modi, the Government has made special provision for Organic Farming as well as Natural Farming in this year's general budget. Under this, special attention is paid to soil health with an objective of increasing farmers' income through natural farming and conservation of resources and environment. In Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, works will be undertaken to bring an area of 5 km on both banks of the Ganges river under the Natural Farming through a comprehensive action plan.

The thinking of the government to promote natural farming does not stop here. The government has constituted a committee under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to include syllabus related to natural farming in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching courses, and chemical-free natural farming is being supported by the ministry and ICAR. Keeping in view the contemporary nature of natural farming, ICAR has issued special guidelines to agricultural universities to include research and allied subjects related to natural farming. Natural farming has been able to increase the income of the farmers and is a symbol of the novel thinking of the Central Government towards ensuring better living.

Besides various schemes and programmes, the

dedication of the union government towards the farmers is also reflected in the Rs. 1,00,000 crore allocated for the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund and the government is committed to provide basic facilities like Godowns, Custom Hiring Centres, Primary Processing Units, Sorting and Grading Units and Cold storage. Through these basic facilities, the Government is committed to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.

In this series, the government, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India Campaign) is also giving special promotion to the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission. Similarly, through platforms and schemes like the National Agricultural Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sanchay Yojana, Agricultural Mechanization and Cluster Development Programme under MIDH, the government is committed to provide maximum benefits to the farmers.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers have been provided with insurance cover in the event of a natural calamity. In order to bring more and more farmers under the crop insurance scheme, the "Meri Policy, Mere Haath" campaign has been launched. The importance of PM Crop Insurance Scheme can be gauged from the fact that farmers have deposited about Rs. 21,000 crores of premium, while they have been reimbursed Rs 1.15 lakh crore as claims against crop damage.

Kisan Rail Scheme is another very important concept of PM Shri Modi for faster transportation of agricultural produce, under which special trains are being run for the swift movement of perishable agricultural produce. This is a major illustration of the government's commitment and credibility towards the farmers. The success of Kisan Rail can be gauged from the fact that so far about 2,500 train trips have been conducted on about 175

routes across the country.

This year's budget of the Ministry of Agriculture has given special emphasis on agriculture Startups and agri-entrepreneurship. Work is being done very fast in this direction, and the results are also visible. Through the farmer friendly schemes of the Government of India, it is high time our agriculture sector scales new highs. Many hopes and expectations rest on the agriculture sector, which the government under the leadership of our generous and able Prime Minister Shri Modi understands well and is chugging full steam towards reaching its destination.

At present, the government, along with the public, is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' all over the country. All the ministries and departments of the Centre, state governments and their organizations are mobilized in celebrating this grand festival. In its continuation, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, showing dedication towards farmers, celebrated 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathamika Hamari Abhiyan' with great enthusiasm last April 25-30th. During this campaign, all the Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, organizations and institutions under them including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and about 725 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) spread across the country organized Kisan Melas, Kisan Sammelans, seminars, workshops, webinars, round tables etc., in which a lot of union and state ministers and other public representatives including MPs and MLAs participated enthusiastically. In this way, when the nation celebrates the 100th Year of Independence, then the country will have a bird's eye view of the evergreen agricultural sector of the incomparable India. With this dream, we are all moving towards building an Atma Nirbhar Agriculture - Atma Nirbhar India (Self-Reliant India).

## World Environment Day-2022; to observe for five days at Wangjing

**IT News  
Thoubal, June 1:**

Bibatsu Foundation Manipur in collaboration with the Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Committee (WBCC) Manipur is observing the World Environment Day-2022 for five days. In connection with the inauguration of the observance the two organisations today organized a painting competition for students at Wangjing Canteen Ground. During the observance mass tree plantation will be conducted at various places of Thoubal District.

This year theme for the World Environment Day is "Only

One Earth". The inauguration of the five day long observance was attended by Asst. Conservator of Forest (ACF), Chandel Forest Division, Naorem Munal Meitei-MFS, Range Officer M. Biren, Yangpoukpi Lokchao Wildlife Sanchuri, Beat Officer (BO) Md. Sallaodin, of Pallel Forest Beat Office, President of CADA Manipur, Hijam Priyokumar and IRE Group of Institution gi Principal Narengbam Rajivkumar amang Environment Activist Maibam (o) Memma as Presidium members.

The inauguration function was also attended by various students and other world life activists from Thoubal districts.

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## Congress will come back to power at the center.....

These deliberations are to reflect on what was discussed and approved at Udaipur's Chintan Shivir of all India level, Bupenda added.

He added that CLP Leader O. Ibobi Singh will deliberate on political affairs, Ex-MP Lok Sabha Dr. Thokhom Meinya on economy, AICC National Vice-Chairperson & Senior Spokesperson MPCC Ningombam Bupenda Meitei on youth, AICC CWC Regular Member & former President MPCC Gaikhangam on social justice and empowerment, Ex-Minister & former President MPCC M. Okendro on

organization and Ex-Minister & former Working President MPCC Dr. Kh. Ratankumar on farmers and Khet Mazdoor.

Among the main issues which are going to be discussed as a part of agenda being provided by AICC, some of the points of discussion include finalization of jurisdiction and constitution of Mandal Congress Committees, 75 Km long Padyatra, constitution of Political Affairs Committee, filling up of organizational positions in different levels, agitational programs and organizational elections.