

## Govt. should not remain as silent spectator to Brig. Sushilkumar Sharma thesis – Haomee

IT News  
Imphal, June 19:

Brig. Sushilkumar Sharma's thesis – "Socio-Economic roots of Insurgency in North East India, 2015", which was reportedly supervised by Dr. Sadananda Sahoo and Professor Amar Yumnam has become a matter of great concern to almost all concern organizations of the state.

The controversial thesis, which stated that only 700 km of the valley area of Manipur was merged to the Indian Union has sparked anguish and relentless to many.

Federation of Haomee, taking the matter with extreme seriousness has appealed the government not to remain as a silent spectator to this issue. In connection with the clarification made by Professor Amar Yumnam, at which he stated that he had no knowledge of the content of – Manipur's 700 sq. mile merged to Indian Union in the thesis has also been strongly reacted.

"If the thesis submitted by Dr. Sushilkumar Sharma did not content the part about 700 sq. mile of Manipur being merged to the Indian Union, as stated by prof. Amar

Yumnam, then he should write to the Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary studies IGNOU, New Delhi – 110098 for cancellation of the thesis", a statement signed by Yazing Viciy, Secretary General of the Federation of Haomee said.

The state added that, failure to do so befitting punishment will be taken up against Prof. Amar Yumnam for trying to distort the History of Manipur.

In the Thesis by Brig. Sushilkumar Sharma, it is stated that 700 sq. mile of Manipur had been merged to the Indian Union on October 15, 1949 (Chapter 3, page no

58). The Federation of Haomee asked, if it is true then when the remaining portion of the Manipur merged to the Indian Union. The Haomee also question if the election conducted on June 11, 1948 which elected 52 representatives on adult franchise for 700 sq. mile only? Was the map by Captain Pemberton defining the boundary of Manipur during 1500 to 1834 AD just for 700 sq. mile? The Haomee also question about the various treaty signed internationally and also the compensation paid by the Myanmar asking that are those just the 700 sq. miles.

## Chief Minister N. Biren flags off E-Rickshaw roadshow



IT News  
Imphal, June 19:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today flagged off a roadshow organised by E-Rickshaw Worker's Union Manipur, from Kangle, Western Gate. The roadshow aims to make Imphal City free from hazardous emission, particulate matter and all forms of pollutants and mitigate climate change and global warming.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh expressed the importance of the programme as mitigating climate change and global warming is the need of the hour. He stressed the need for voluntary involvement of everyone in conserving the environment by planting trees and using e-vehicles among others. He continued that many people in the State had started using e-vehicles to control air and noise pollution.

As such, in support of the use of pollution free vehicles, the Government is trying to set up charging points for the same at different places across the State, he added.

Stating that Mother Nature doesn't need us, rather we need nature for our survival, the Chief Minister continued that the State Government had been taking mass campaigns against deforestation and pollution of various rivers. The Government had carried out eviction of only those structures which are illegally built at Reserve Forest areas and along the riverside. The Government has no enmity with anyone, he added.

He maintained that the Government would provide every possible support to e-rickshaw workers and would also request banks to provide loans to those who want to start e-rickshaw service. He

also appealed to the public to responsibly take their parts in conserving the environment.

Further, he expressed his solidarity to the uncertainties faced by the people of Assam and Meghalaya due to widespread flood and landslides.

Municipal Administration, Housing & Urban Development Minister Y. Khemchand stated that though the economic condition of the State has improved, the youths are still facing unemployment problems. Starting of e-rickshaws service would not only help in controlling pollution but also provides employment for living. He assured that the State Government would provide every possible support to the e-rickshaw workers.

Advisor, E-Rickshaw Worker's Union, Manipur A. Premkumar Singh and members of the union also attended the programme among others.

## Rongmei bodies – RNSO & RNYOM react to CM remark; urges authority to apply Hill Area Land Ownership Law

IT News  
Imphal, June 19:

Rongmei Naga Students' Organisation (RNSO) and the Rongmei Youth Organisation, Manipur (RNYOM) took serious note to the statement of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh where he reportedly stated that – Hill or plain belong to mother nature and not to any particular communities. The statement of the Chief Minister was perhaps to encourage mass tree plantation across the state particularly at those forest areas where mass deforestation has been taken place.

The remark of the Chief Minister however irked the RNSO and RNYOM saying that – If the Chief Minister is serious, his statement is bereft of logic and venomous as for our part, we acknowledge the land ownership rights of the valley people on Imphal/Manipur Valley as they inherit from "Mother Nature" created by God.

The two Rongmei bodies while urging the authority to apply Hill area land ownership Law, had provoked the Hill Area Committee (HAC) to raise the issue with the President of India through the governor of the state.

"The law enshrines in Article 371(C) of Indian Constitution providing special provision for the legislation and administration of the hill areas of Manipur in the form of HAC has become vulnerable to be sabotaged even from the side of the Head of the State Government if not taken care of in time", a statement signed jointly by the two organization said.

On June 20, 1972, the then President of India V.V. Giri signed the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) Order, 1972 and 14th Chairman (HAC) assumed Office.

"The sacred and clear law as envisaged in the Presidential Order to safeguard the interest of the hill areas of Manipur including the land

ownership drawn from ancient time remains mostly on papers only for reasons best known to the hill MLAs and the Government of Manipur. The Governor of Manipur is the link to safeguard the law enshrined under Article 371C and to report to the President of India if the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) was proactive and to appraise regarding the administration of the hill areas of Manipur," the joint statement said.

It added that the shrinking state of HAC and servitude countenance of the hill MLAs have brought the hill areas into such unfortunate situation where their very survival and identity are being threatened. The Chairman of HAC during the last half century time were silent on every issue affecting the hill peoples. The 20 members of HAC both ruling and opposition together opted to stand aloof when the people, the CSOs cried out from time to time for justice. The hill people need not send up representatives anymore to the Assembly if subservient elements remained unchecked.

"It is to state that only the "Autonomous Districts" status with Sixth Schedule or any other

mode of genuine autonomous separate hill administration with specific hill land law can safeguard the land and resources of hill people. The land ownership as birth right can only sustain the hill tribes", the statement said.

It said that the dishonest policy of the State leaders facilitated by vulnerable hills MLAs as seen in Manipur Hill Areas District Council Act, 1971 (amended from time to time), clearly reflected the discrimination despite the just law provided by Article 371(C) of the Indian Constitution. The name given outside the actual Act as "Autonomous District Council" was a mockery. And yet again the Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Councils Act, 2000 was abruptly repealed in 2006 and the 3rd Amendment Act, 2008 omitted the term "Autonomous" and made it sure that the power and functions of the sham ADCs are even degraded further than the Act of 1971. The HAC and the right thinking leaders were helpless spectators to these hill tribals' rights taken away systematically.

The Manipur Legislative Assembly in 1989 passed a

Resolution in the disguised Bill named, "Money Bill" which incorporated the hill areas under the ambit of MLR & LR Act, 1960 (Patta System). Only 2 MLAs (J.F. Rothangliana - KNA and Ngulkocho - MRP) walked out to the well of the house in protest. The then, HAC Chairman, I.D. Djuanang, (HAC: 15/11/1988-24/02/1995) wrote to the Governor (Burney) who did not sign that and thus, the bill failed through from becoming an Act. Only those three HAC members stood up for the hill people but the remaining members later allowed the introduction of Patta System in the hill areas through the back door (against the Act meant for Valley alone).

RNSO and RNYOM expressed strong opposition to the State policy of violating the just laws and the sinister designs to disrobe the land ownership rights of the hill people. The Rongmei bodies urged the authority to apply the laws connected to land ownership of the hill people of Manipur and to re-introduce the Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

## FEGOCTA appeals to conduct free and fair Graduate examination

IT News  
Imphal, June 19:

Federation of Government College Teachers' Association, Manipur (FEGOCTA) while wishing to the students appearing in B.A/B.Sc/B.Com, has appealed to all the Principals and teachers to ensure examinations are conducted in fair manner.

Semester Examinations

starting from June 20, 2022 onwards. The students are requested to follow the rules of the examinations.

A statement of the FEGOCTA said that the good and sincere performance in the examinations by the students is necessary for quality collegiate education in Manipur.

FEGOCTA requested the concerned authorities of the

State Government, Universities and colleges including the Principals and admission committees to ensure timely and effective admissions in the academic session 2022-2023. The intake capacity may be decided according to the available infrastructure including classrooms and number of the teachers in each college.

contd. on page 4

## Haobam Paban Kumar's *Nine Hills One Valley* wins special mention in Ottawa Indian Film Festival Awards 2022



IT News  
Imphal, June 19:

Haobam Paban Kumar's second feature *Nine Hills One Valley* (2020) which evokes the futility and barbarism of ethnic conflict through the journey of a Tangkhul man travelling to

Imphal City bagged the Special Mention in the Ottawa Indian Film Festival Awards 2022 held from June 14 to 18 in Ottawa, the capital of Canada. In this 5th edition of Ottawa Festival, *Nine Hills One Valley* was selected in the competition section with other 11 films.

Tara Ramanujan's debut *Forbidden (Nishiddho)* which recounts the unlikely kinship between an ex-idol maker from Kolkata and a tough Tamil midwife bagged the Best Film in the Festival. The award for Best Direction went to Bharat Mirle for *The Road to Kuthriyar*; Best Actress to Gargi Roy Chowdhury for



*Mahananda*; Best Actor to Prabhakar Kunder for *The Chicken Curry* (Koli Taal). and Best Screenplay to Deepankar Prakash for *Naneera*. The award for Best Short Film went to *Together* by Azad Alam.

The three-member jury namely Mariam Hamdy (Egypt), Premendra Mazumder (India) and Carlos Coelho Costa (Portugal) selected the awards from the Festival's official competition. Mariam Hamdy is a Film Professor at the American University in Cairo and a Film programmer at Aswan International Women Film Festival.

contd. on page 4

# The Truth about Yoga

## Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

By: Dr. Romeo Meetei

Yoga is that which gives you pleasure and comfort. The definition for 'asana' is a posture that is stable and pleasant. You should feel comfortable when doing yoga asanas. What is the definition of comfort? When you don't feel the body. If you are sitting in some odd positions then you feel those parts of the body, painfully. Your focus is more on the discomfort there. When you do any asana, what you feel first is discomfort. But if you take your mind through it, you will find that in just a few minutes the discomfort has disappeared and you don't feel the body. You feel an expansion or infinity in the postures.

How should a posture be done? Get into a position and let go of the effort. What happens then? Infinity abides in you. So each asana should be done keeping in mind that the goal of this is not just the correctness of the posture, but to feel an expansion within. This is the most important thing in yoga asanas. The purpose of yoga is not only to keep a good physical shape but also to experience infinity and timeless expansion within. And that starts happening to you with some practice.

The other definition for yoga is to get back from the scenery to the seer. Slowly take your attention from outside to inside. First, from the environment, bring your attention to the physical body. Then go one step further because even the body is the scenery and take your attention to the mind. Now when you witness the thoughts that are coming in the mind, even that becomes the scenery. Go deeper. So movement from the scenery to the seer, to the one who is seeing everything is another definition of yoga.

Whenever you experience joy, ecstasy, bliss and happiness in life, knowingly or unknowingly you are abiding in the nature of the seer. Otherwise, at other times, you are with different activities of the mind, you are lost in them.

### The Modulations of the Mind

What are these different activities of the mind? The modulations of the mind are of five forms; some are problematic and some are not. These are: Pramana: when the mind is engaged in wanting proof

Viparyaya: means wrong understanding

Vikalpa: means an imaginary notion, not conforming to reality

Nidra: which means sleep

Smruti: living in memory

These five vrittis or modulations of the mind drain the potential of a human being. Having control over these modulations of the mind is what yoga is all about. They are like horses. If the reins of the horses are in your hands, then you can give them direction, but if you are at the mercy of the horse then it takes you wherever it goes. So it is said, 'Yogah chitta vritti nirodaha' - Yoga is that which arrests the modulations of the mind.

When you practice an asana, the goal is to feel comfortable and then feel the expansion; not by wanting to feel, but by letting go; by not 'doing' something. So the first step in yoga is to let go, to relax and the last step in yoga is also to let go and relax.

(The writer is Media coordinator, The Art of Living Manipur)

# A Message of Love for Humanity!

## "Being humane is not the best quality; it is a basic quality"



By: Thangminlun Haokip

I was dumb-struck on hearing the above quotation from a movie I had watched lately, "All The Bright Places" recommended to me by a friend the other day on Netflix which costs me an hour and a half and just a cup of coffee.

From learning to say "Papa! Mama!" to learning how to crawl; from crawling to learning how to walk by ourselves; from learning ABC's to flying kites; from flying kites to playing hide and seek within the bushes; from playing hide and seek to seeking education and what not? A career? A job? A life partner or called it a soul-mate? Then from seeking education and career and soulmates and life partners to seeking attention? To seeking acceptance and point of view of someone's perspective on us that does not matter and do better to us from the society? And the list could go on forever or at least up to the end of this article you are reading now when what you thought was that it might actually help you or for the slightest note - enlightened you, when it is all but a piece of paper

from a newspaper that would be put in the bin or use for serving your favorite locally made roadside 'Singju' or perhaps for serving you a hot, spicy and freshly made 'Samosa' on a cold and rainy day or from a page you found in your social sites which you happened to stop by while scrolling surreptitiously through your phone or laptop and have a glance of it while on your bed when you should be sitting on your study chair chasing after your dreams or for some reasons you never realized the clock is ticking and you are on the verge of running out of time.

This generation is a total chaos and futile! From a spoilt one month old baby to an energetic and innovative yet technology-addicted, procrastinative and statusphobic (meaning: a person who love to update and view status or stories repetitiously) youth; from the never-ending changing 'grades and marks are the basic and primary necessities to be successful' education system to the corrupted 'elect me in this election and I will do this for you' government to the ignorant 'We want justice' placard holding citizens.

The problem with this generation is them having with them a small piece of technological non-living rectangular object which they called as 'smartphone' which keeps beeping, vibrating and ringing all day long stealing away all their times and moments right in front of their eyes and doing nothing about it. And the sole problem is them not being smart in the first place when what they

are addicted to is already way too smart for them to handle or even far from their dream or imagination. And we end up procrastinating and keeping things off for the next day while we are busy with our phones - I do not want to call or add the prefix 'smart' anymore because we are starting to get smarter in ways that have no future and hope for us because of this technology.

We have come way too far already I guess? Shall we get back to where we were or I prefer saying it to the side of 'half-full glass of water' rather than that of the 'half-empty glass of water'? You must have heard or seen somewhere that 'Being human is given but keeping our humanity is a choice'. As we move on in life, day by day, with each sunrise and sunset and from experiences to mistakes, we only then began to realize that days and dates do not matter much to us, but moments and memories really do. Being humane and doing something out of humanity do. And what is a life not lived? Many people have died only dying while they were living. And what is worst is an un-lived life. A life destined and filled with purpose and meaning turn into ashes overnight - so many untold stories and un-lived lives lost in a matter of time. At the end of the day all we need is only 'six feet of land' for our graves, as Leo Tolstoy beautifully wrote in one story of his about a greedy man whose greed for owning a land had known no bound. And what is the price he got and the size of land he really needed for his selfishness to

wards the end of the story - death and a six feet of land was only all he needed. This story give us a powerful message that no matter how wealthy, wise and powerful one may be, everything we do is vanity at the end: empty, futile and short-lived, as we can clearly see from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. So take a moment today to begin living for you and for humanity. And to be a good Samaritan for the people who need us from all walks of life. And most importantly to live with love and harmony.

And today being a father's day, I would like to remind you - dear unknown reader reading this message of love for having the love, support and guidance of your father and for having someone whom you can called out 'Papa or Dad' to today on this special day and to never take his existence for granted. For the day will come for you to be in my shoe as I am today; when you will be envious of those who are still with their father that day - only waiting for their turn to be like you and me. I vividly remember spending good times with my dad as a child and having all those dad-son moments with him. And it is also an irony and saddening to not have a single photo with my (your) dad ever in your life. Yet I am grateful and happy for having a father-son. Moreover, life always give us showers of unseen blessings and bright side to see and live as we cherished our moments.

Wishing you a HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

# 8 years of the Modi Government – Transformation of the power sector

By: R.K. Singh

In the past 8 years, this Government, under Prime Minister Modi, has brought about a total transformation of the power sector.

It will be useful to look at how this ongoing transformation is being brought about.

In 2014 the total installed power generation capacity was 2,48,554 MW and load shedding was a regular feature across the country. In the past 8 years, we have added 1,69,110 MW of generation capacity. We now have a total installed power generation capacity of 400 GWs, whereas the maximum demand till date has been 215 GWs.

### One Nation One Grid

Over the past 8 years, we have added 1,66,080 Circuit Kilometers of transmission lines connect and integrate the whole country into one single electric grid running on one frequency. The Indian grid has now emerged as the largest integrated grid in the world.

The inter-regional transfer capacity in 2014 was 37,950 MW which has been increased to 1,12,250 MWs after the Modi Government came to office. Our transmission lines deploy some of the most cutting edge technology in the world such as the 800 KV HVDC and are located at some of the challenging altitudes in the world. The Srinagar-Leh line for instance passes across height of 15,000/16,000 feet above sea level.

### Universal access

Before our Government came into office, more than 18,000 villages and hundreds of thousands of hamlets were not connected with electricity. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort the target of electrifying every village in 1000 days. This was a challenge as hundreds of villages were located in the high hills of the Himalayan Belt, where even poles, conductors, transformers etc. had to be carried across on ponies and by

Helicopters; and hundreds of village / hamlets in the desert areas of Rajasthan. We achieved the target in 987 days – 13 days ahead of the target date. The International Energy Agency called this the biggest news of the energy sector in 2018 in the world.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister set us a target of connecting every home in the country with electricity. We did this in 18 months. A total of 2.86 crores homes were connected with electricity. This was equal to the population of Germany and France combined. This was the largest expansion of access in such a short time frame in the history of the energy sector of the world as stated by the International Energy Agency. All States certified that every village household had been connected with the electricity. Subsequently, some States reported that some households, which were unwilling earlier, were now desirous of getting connected with the electricity. We connected these homes as well and we have asked the States to ensure that if any other home, which was in existence on the day of the launching of "Saubhagaya – the scheme for universal access" had been missed out, they should be connected. The policy of the Modi Government is to ensure that no one is left behind.

### Strengthening Distribution Systems

We have strengthened the distribution systems on a scale which is unprecedented. We implemented schemes for strengthening the distribution systems in all States at a cost of Rs.2,01,722 crores. We added 2,921 new Sub-Stations, upgraded 3,926 existing Sub-Stations added/ replaced 6,04,465 circuit kms of LT Lines and 2,68,838 kms of 11 KVA HT Lines; constructed separate agriculture feeders of 1,22,123 circuit kms; and installed 7,31,961 Transformers to strengthen the distribu-

tion system of the States. The result of these steps has been stupendous. The average availability of power in rural areas was 12 hours in 2015 – today it is 22 ½ hours. In urban areas, the average is 23 ½ hours. The market for DG sets is now dead.

### Energy Transition

Our Government cares about the environment. In 2015, Prime Minister Modi announced a target of installing 175 GWs of Renewable Energy capacity by 2022. Despite two years of Covid/lockdown, today we have established Renewable Energy capacity of 158 GWs – with another 54 GW under installation.

We have emerged as a country with the fastest-growing Renewable Energy capacity in the world. We have also been rated as the most attractive destination for investment in Renewable Energy in the world. Every major fund in the world is invested in our green energy programme. In COP-21, we had pledged that by 2030, 40% of our power generation capacity will come from Renewables. We achieved this target in November 2021 – a full 9 years ahead of our target date.

Now we have a target of putting a Roof Top on every home and solarising every irrigation pump.

Similarly we are on a mission for emissions reduction. We had pledged in COP-21 in Paris that by 2030 we shall reduce the emissions intensity of our economy by 33%-35% as compared to 2005 levels. We are nearing a reduction of 30% already. Our Ujala Programme is the largest LED programme in the world and it has resulted in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 106 million tonnes per annum.

We have programs for enhancing energy efficiency and reducing emissions in our industry – the programme is called Perform, Achieve and Trade, which means increased energy efficiency lead-

ing to a reduction in the emissions. This has resulted in a reduction of 103 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per annum. We have an energy efficiency programme for appliances like Air Conditioners, Refrigerators etc. - called the Stars Rating Programme in which we rate appliances from One Star to Five Star depending upon their energy efficiency. This has resulted in a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 53 million tonnes per annum. We have put in place a programme for energy efficiency for commercial buildings called the Energy Conservation Building Code and for residential buildings called Eco Niwas Samhita.

As a result of the aforementioned steps, we have emerged as the only G-20 nation and only major economy whose energy transition actions are consistent with a sub 2° rise in global temperature.

The scale of the transformation in unparalleled in the history of the world. As we achieved our NDC targets well in advance, we have increased our targets in COP-26 taking the pledge to install 500 GWs of Non-Fossil Fuel capacity by 2030. We have also pledged to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1 billion tonnes by 2030 additionally. We shall achieve these targets.

The Government have brought the comprehensive reforms covering the entire gamut of the power sector.

The Government has made the provision of a Letter of Credit compulsory for the flow of power and brought down the late payment surcharge from 18% to 12%. For the first time in the history of the Power Sector, we have laid down Rules spelling out the Rights for Consumers which include timelines for the grant of connection, for replacement of defective meters, correction of bills etc.

contd. on page 3

# Increasing interest of youth in computer, internet quintet



By: Vijay Garg

Books are giving important information along with spending time in lockdown

World Book Day is celebrated every year on 23 April. It is also called World Book Day. The education which started from the school from the childhood of the human being continues till the end of life. But now due to the increasing interest in computers and the Internet, the distance of people from books is increasing. In today's era people are getting trapped in the net. UNESCO decided to celebrate 23 April as World Book Day. After the decision of UNESCO, World Book Day is celebrated on this day all over the world. Books peep through the mirrors of closed cupboards, they wait with great enthusiasm, there are no meetings for months now, the evenings that used to be spent in their relationship, now often pass on the computer curtains.. This poem of Gulzar Sahib was in that era of books. Reminds me of a time when books were an integral part of life. World Book Day is organized annually on 23 April by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote reading, publishing and copyright. Books are as important in a teacher's life as light in Deepak's life. In this period of lockdown, books are the only source of right information, entertainment and positive thinking. In such a situation, parents should teach good books to their children, lockdown will be used properly only when you develop the culture of reading books in your children during this time. Parents can now give knowledge about the books of good authors to the children in their free time. You can tell about them, so that the interest of reading them is instilled in the children.

### Books show us the way in the dark

World Book Day is being celebrated across the world. This day is dedicated to the name of books. You can understand the importance of this day from the fact that books are our best friends. They are not only our friends but also guides and always with us when we need them the most. Especially in today's time when the whole world is locked in their respective homes due to Coronavirus, then it is these books which are helping people to get through this difficult time.

### An unbreakable relationship between teacher and books

A teacher and a book both have an inseparable relationship, books always attract and inspire to do something good and new. The book is indeed a friend who shows us the right path.

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# India reports 12,899 new Covid cases, States asked to submit more samples for genome sequencing

Agency  
New Delhi, June 19:

India added 12,899 fresh Covid-19 cases to its total number of infections on Sunday. In view of a spurt in Covid-19 cases, the states and Union territories have been asked to submit a "larger number" of samples for whole genome sequencing from the districts and areas that have seen a surge in COVID-19 cases over a period of seven days, official sources said on Saturday.

The direction was issued on Friday during a meeting of the INSACOG, which reviewed the Covid data to check the possibility of any new emerging variant or sub-variant and ascertain the reasons behind the breakthrough infections.

According to the Indian

SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) experts, Omicron and its sub-lineages — primarily BA.2 and BA.2.38 as of now — seem to be behind the current rise in the number of Covid cases in the country, according to a source.

BA.2 and its sub-lineages account for over 85 per cent of the Covid cases in India, with BA.2.38 being found in around 33 per cent of the samples. BA.4 and BA.5 are found in less than 10 per cent samples, the source said. "The idea behind asking the states and Union territories to send a larger number of samples is to keep a closer watch over the current circulating sub-lineages of Omicron and its correlation to the current epidemiological picture," an official told PTI.

"Also, we want to see if we are missing any important clues regarding newer sub-variants during routine sequencing through the sentinel surveillance," the official added. As on date, 10 states and Union territories — Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat — have over 1,000 Covid cases.

"The last review meeting concluded that there is no variant of concern in the country as of now. India now has BA.4 and BA.5 in addition to BA.2, which have slightly higher transmissibility as compared to the other Omicron sub-lineages," the official said. The INSACOG is a joint initiative of the Department of Biotech-

nology under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Health to carry out genome sequencing of the virus to understand how it spreads and evolves.

Thirty-two districts in India, including 11 in Kerala and five in Maharashtra, are reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of more than 10 per cent, while in 35 districts, including nine in Delhi, the weekly positivity is between five and 10 per cent, the sources said. With 13,216 fresh cases, India's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 4,32,83,793, while the number of active cases has increased to 68,108, according to the health ministry's data updated on Saturday morning.

The death toll due to the viral disease has gone up to 5,24,840 with 23 more fatalities.

According to health experts, although there is a rise in the number of Covid cases, there is no associated increase in hospitalisation or deaths. Also, the increase is limited to a few districts.

The reluctance among people towards following Covid-appropriate behaviour, in addition to many not being enthusiastic about taking the precaution dose of the vaccines, has possibly increased the pool of susceptible population. In addition, there is an increased mobility due to summer holidays, easing of travel restrictions — both nationally and internationally — and the full-fledged opening up of economic activities, because of which the infection has spread among vulnerable individuals.

# Assam floods: Death toll rises to 62, more than 1.5 lakh take shelter in relief camps



Agency  
Guwahati, June 19:

Assam Floods have turned more severe as on Saturday, the death toll increased to 62 with eight new deaths being reported on Saturday.

As per the latest damage report by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), a total of 32 districts in the state including 118 revenue circles have been affected by the ongoing flood.

Along with these, 4291 villages are also affected while the total number of population to be impacted is 30,99,762.

Crops area affected stands at 64,655.82 hectares.

The ASDMA stated that 8 human lives were lost in the last 24 hours and the total number of human lives lost stand at 62 human lives (51 in Flood & 11 in Landslide).

As of Saturday, 514 relief camps and 302 relief distribution centres have been opened in all affected areas.

A total of 1,56,365 inmates are now staying in these relief camps.

The situation has emerged due to incessant rains and is under close watch.

Around 16 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel with all necessary equipment along with State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), Police Forces, AAPDA MITRA Volunteers of ASDMA has been helping the District Administrations in the safe evacuation of marooned people from flood-affected areas.

Troopers of the Indian Army have rescued over 3000 flood affected people in Assam thus far as part of its flood relief operations.

The army troopers have been carrying out flood relief operations in Hojai, Baksa, Nalbari, Barpeta, Darrang, Tamulpur and Kamrup of Assam.

The army has deployed as many as eleven composite columns at various locations of Assam for flood relief operations.

"As heavy rains continued to lash the various parts of Assam, rivers rising above dangerous levels causing floods and inundation across rural and urban areas, the men in uniform provide helping hand," the Indian Army said in a statement.

The statement added: "Indian Army, always in the service for the Nation and its people, is wholeheartedly involved in the rescue and relief operations... in Assam."

"In the intense and difficult rescue operations in extreme conditions around 3000 stranded locals have been brought to safety," the Indian Army further informed.

"During the flood rescue operations in Hojai, when rescue columns arrived at the site, they found entire habitation completely submerged," Army stated.

"Since then, they are continuously carrying out rescue tasks on a war footing in worst affected areas of Radha Nagar, Komarkata, Doboka and Hojai Circle of Hojai district, Assam, thereby saving thousands of lives including children, women and elderly people," the statement added.

It stated: "Kamrup Rural district had a different story to tell where the Indian Army swiftly responded to a distress call and rescued 136 locals from Kalajal village. Simultaneously operations continued in the village of Katalmora of Nalbari district where 36 locals were rescued."

# Rahul Gandhi has turned 52 : He is still young as a politician but what next?

## The Congress scion has to show his mettle as a 24x7 leader of GOP

By: Sushil Kuttu  
New Delhi, June 19:

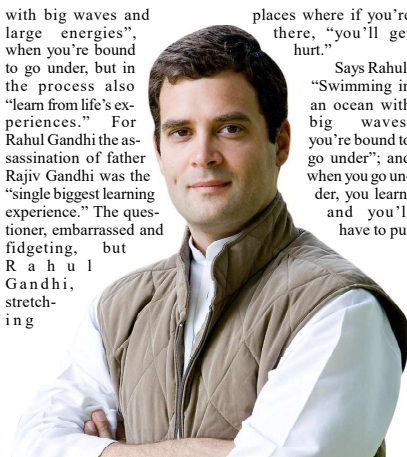
June 19 Rahul Gandhi turns 52. And it called for a perspective on the life and times of Rahul Gandhi. Not everybody's cup of tea, because Rahul Gandhi doesn't leave much to the imagination. He is in a class all his own. First and foremost, Rahul Gandhi is not a 'chaiwala', his arrogance beats the best cup of tea. And he's been accused of feeding biscuits to 'Pidi' from the same plate Himanta Biswa Sarma ate from, and 'Pidi' happens to be Rahul's pet K9!

Himanta Biswa Sarma left the Congress and now is the BJP's Assam Chief Minister. Not three months ago, Sarma asked Rahul to prove who his father was? And Rahul Gandhi in Cambridge University said he was used to such nasty attacks from the Prime Minister down. In fact, the more vicious the attack the more "I learned from the attacks."

The thing that characterizes RG is his unflappability. Asked a question at Cambridge, he went into an uncomfortable silence, uncomfortable for the questioner. After a pregnant 30 seconds, the interviewer said she was sorry she had "stumped him" with the question, and Rahul Gandhi told her, "not at all, I was thinking of going deeper into the question."

And "deeper" happened to be "swimming in an ocean

with big waves and large energies", when you're bound to go under, but in the process also "learn from life's experiences." For Rahul Gandhi the assassination of father Rajiv Gandhi was the "single biggest learning experience." The questioner, embarrassed and fidgeting, but R a h u l G a n d h i, stretching



places where if you're there, "you'll get hurt."

Says Rahul, "Swimming in an ocean with big waves, you're bound to go under"; and when you go under, you learn, and you'll have to put

in the Congress, too. But if Rahul Gandhi hasn't yet gone under, it's because the Congress rank and file hasn't yet given up on him, and the Gandhi family. Unlike the G-23, the group that cannot do without the Congress, but can do without Rahul Gandhi.

As for the ruling BJP, Rahul continues to be the butt of ridicule and nasty remarks. The "bhakts" can be vicious teasers. For them, "Pappu" is a "51-year-old adolescent" — henceforth "52-year-old adolescent". BJP spokespersons lead the vicious pack.

For Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a "dictator", and India under Modi, a "dysfunctional democracy". But without Rahul, the Modi government will go under! The BJP never fails to keep alive the conjecture that "Rahul Gandhi is our greatest asset". Of course, Subramanian Swamy frequently distorts the show for the BJP by foisting cases against the Gandhis.

The National Herald case for instance. And the cases against Robert Vadra. That the Modi Government uses the Gandhis to win elections is old hat, period. The thing to note is that among all the Nehru-Gandhis, starting from Motilal Nehru down, Rahul Gandhi truly fits the tragic prince imagery! There's something lonely about Rahul Gandhi, occasionally forlorn, too, and reluctant.

That he goes off on frequent sojourns abroad tell a

and stretching the pregnant pause, till there was nothing left but the Universe!

Rahul Gandhi at 52 will not be left alone, and at 52 he's still not there where he should be. Rahul Gandhi hasn't had it easy despite the Gandhi scion status. Says he, "As long as you are ready to learn, it doesn't matter how evil people are."

With RG one tends to get the impression he does not think he's keeping people waiting! They wait irrespective of whether he expects them to, or wants them to. The Congress waits on Rahul Gandhi, agreeing with him that he's been in

up a fight. RG says he has been learning from Modi's "vicious attacks on me".

Not that Rahul Gandhi's attacks on Modi have been any less vicious. RG has called Modi robber and coward and what have you, leaving it to Mani Shankar Aiyer to rub it in with further "neech" references. And Modi has won elections on the back of Rahul's attacks. The opposite is yet to come true for Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress under Rahul Gandhi has mostly tasted defeats. This has affected Rahul Gandhi's standing within the Congress. There are "big waves" and "large energies"

Contd. from Page 2

# 8 years of the Modi Government....

The process of recovery of costs due to a 'Change in the Law' has been simplified under the Modi Government. We have put in place Rules to provide for flexibility in scheduling, providing for the most efficient generating stations to be scheduled first. This has reduced the cost of power for consumers. We have separated the CTU from POWERGRID to bring in transparency. The Rules for connectivity to the transmission network have been simplified by putting in place General Network Access

Rules. We have expanded the market — bringing in the Real-Time Market; and putting in place separate Term Ahead and Day-Ahead Market for Renewable Energy. We have provided for the bundling of Renewable Energy with Thermal Energy and Bio-Mass cofirings in thermal power plants. We also provided for GENCOs to be able to sell power in the Exchange in case it is not scheduled by the PPA holder.

In order to ensure the viability of the system and bring in financial discipline, the Gov-

ernment has made fund flows under all schemes and grant loans from PFC and REC conditional on their undertaking reforms. As a result of this 36 DISCOMs have agreed to timelines for the reduction of AT&C losses and ACS-ARR gap as well as clearance of subsidy and government dues. Corporate Reforms are being put in place in DISCOMs. We have put in place a new Rating System for Distribution Companies which puts reforms in governance of DISCOMs at the forefront.

The scale of comprehensive reforms undertaken across the entire plethora of the power system is unparalleled by any other period of the previous governments. Before this no other government had ever touched Distribution Sector Reforms. In line with the vision of the PM Narendra Modi, we are working towards a brighter India, with the mission of "power to the future of the nation".

(The writer is Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy)

# TWO DAYS CRAFT AWARENESS PROGRAMME HELD

Two Days Crafts Awareness Programme was held on 6th June and 7th June of 2022 at Thayong Village, Imphal West, Manipur. That Awareness Programme was organized by Alliance For Integrated Management (AIM) of Uripok Takhellambam Leikai of Imphal West of Manipur and sponsored by Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

That Awareness Programme was held on Under AHVY Scheme for Handicrafts Artisans Sensitization of Scheme of DC(H) in Cluster activities under AHVY, benefits of E-commerce/GeM



portal, Murda Loan and Welfare activities.

President of that Awareness Programme, Yumnam Jagyashwori Devi, Assistant Director (Handicrafts) O/o the D.C. (HC), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India said that we need to preserve our Handicrafts products because it is our indigenous product and need to work with dedication and hard

working. W. Birenjit, Retd. Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Handloom and Govt. of Manipur joined that Awareness Programme as Chief Guest, Shantibala Devi, State Awardee and Shaikhom Munika Devi, Designer were joined that Awareness Programme as Guest of Honours.

# Agnipath protests: Priyanka Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav reacts to Centre's defence scheme

Agency  
New Delhi, June 19:

Protests against the Agnipath scheme, which the Central government announced on Tuesday, continued throughout the week and have elicited varied reactions from political leaders across the spectrum.

Meanwhile, Congress MPs and top leaders, including general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, sat on a "Satyagraha" at the Jantar Mantar in solidarity with the youths protesting against the Agnipath scheme.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, speaking at the Congress "Satyagraha" in support of Agnipath protests, accused the government of not working for poor and youth but for big industrialists.

"Recognise 'fake nationalists', the entire country is with you in your struggle," she told the protesting youths. Gandhi appealed to them to protest peacefully and assured her party's full support for the cause.

The youth protesting against the Agnipath scheme are those who are unaware of its benefits to them as well as the Indian armed forces, Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said on Sunday and urged them to withdraw from their agitation.

Speaking to reporters here, Muraleedharan said the youth need not be apprehensive about the scheme for the recruitment of youths aged between 17 and a half and 21 in the Army, Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contract.



tual basis. He said youngsters were protesting against it without knowing about it.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said by repeatedly giving false hope of jobs, he has forced the youth to walk on 'Agnipath' of unemployment.

He also said 16 crore jobs were to be given in eight years, but the youth only got knowledge on "frying pakoras". "By repeatedly giving false hope of jobs, the prime minister has forced the youth of the country to walk on the 'Agnipath' of unemployment," Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"In 8 years, 16 crore jobs were to be given but the youth only got knowledge on frying pakoras," the former Congress chief said. Only the prime minister is responsible for this condition of the country, he added.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Sunday urged the gov-

ernment not to be "stubborn" and immediately withdraw the new military recruitment scheme Agnipath for wider consultations to avoid a repeat of the farm laws episode.

"This has nothing to do with the Opposition. It is a genuine grievance of young people. They (government) must listen to their voice and not be stubborn in their decision-making, review and revise, but for now they must withdraw it (scheme)," Pilot, who is himself a Captain in the Territorial Army, said. "They (government) took one year and a lot of political compulsions for farm laws to be withdrawn. This is even more serious, involving the future of the youth, and they must put a stop on this policy immediately," the former Union minister said.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday said there were many doubts about the scheme in the minds of the youth and demanded that it be with-

drawn.

Addressing a press conference here, he asked whether this was a MGNREGA-like initiative for the educated youth or there was a "hidden agenda" of the RSS in it. Yadav also appealed to the youth to protest peacefully against the scheme.

Why is Prime Minister Narendra Modi silent on the whole issue, he asked. He said the government talked about "one rank, one pension", but has come up with a scheme of "no rank, no pension".

In the last four days, protesters have burnt coaches of 60 trains, along with 11 engines in Bihar. In these many days alone, the protesters have burnt property worth approximately Rs 700 crore. Apart from this, they have also burnt stalls at the railway stations and vandalised other property belonging to the railways.

Vandalism has been reported in over 15 districts in the state.

Contd. from Page 1

# Haobam Paban Kumar's 'Nine Hills One Valley' wins...

She has also given several independent directing and screenwriting workshops and, above all, she is an independent filmmaker. Premendra Mazumder has been writing about cinema for over four decades and he has been active within the Film Society since 1977. He is currently Vice President of the Federation of Film Societies of India and Asia Pacific Secretary of the International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS). He holds the office of the Secretary for the India chapter of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI). Carlos Coelho Costa is a professor at the Universidade da Maia, Portugal and is also an acclaimed film and television director and producer, founder of Produtora Megalito Media, having so far won over 300 international film awards. He is also the Artistic Director for the Festival International de Cinéma et de Mémoire Commune (Nador, Morocco).

Anam Ahum is the main protagonist of the 75-minute long film 'Nine Hills One Valley' produced by Warepam Jhansirani and Haobam Paban Kumar for Oli Pictures. National Film Awardee Irom Maipak and Ranjan Palit are



cameramen. Sound is done by Sukanta Majumdar and Editing by Sankha and Story, Screenplay and Direction by Haobam Paban Kumar.

An accomplished documentarian, a director of two non-fiction features and six shorts since 2005, Haobam Paban Kumar is a prominent voice coming out of the restive northeastern Indian state of Manipur, on the border of Burma (Myanmar). He also dabbles in the art of fiction storytelling. His debut fiction feature, 'Lady of the Lake' (Loktak Lairembee), was featured at the 67th Berlin Film Festival in 2017. 'Nine Hills One Valley' is his second narrative feature. Winner of the Special Jury Award at the 14th Manipur State Film Awards, the film was selected for the Jogja NETPAC Asian Film Festival, the International Film Festival Trissur,

the Kolkata International Film Festival and as part of the India Gold section of the Mumbai Film Festival.

Haobam Paban Kumar said, "Nine Hills One Valley is my personal journey about my intrinsic dilemma of being born in a place like Manipur, which is absorbed into the tapestry of the diversity of indigenous people. Here, people aspire to reach out for an elusive harmony while standing up each day for their forest and land and culture. This film was made during the distressing solitude of the Covid pandemic."

Haobam Paban Kumar is one of the leading independent filmmakers of India who was honoured with the title- **Legend of Indian Cinema** by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in the 50th International film festival of India 2019.

# FEGOCTA appeals to conduct free...

This will help in the effective teaching-learning and enforcing 75% attendance of the students to appear in the examinations will be possible. It can bring proper evaluation including in the internal assessments in the colleges. All

the stakeholders are requested to support such activities of the colleges in the examinations and admission process. Effective teaching learning and evaluation which has 350 points out of 1000 points in NAAC assessment

is key to quality collegiate education.

FEGOCTA also requested the Government to fill up the vacant teaching posts in the government colleges on regular basis as per UGC Regulations and through MPSC.

## Sports

# Indian women's team registers famous win over Olympic silver medalist Argentina in FIH Pro League

Agency  
Rotterdam, June 19:

Gurjit Kaur scored a brace as the Indian women's hockey team dished out a spirited performance to stun Olympic silver medalist Argentina 2-1 in the shoot-out after a 3-3 stalemate in regulation time in the first match of the double-leg FIH Pro League tie here on Saturday.

Gurjit's (37th, 61st minutes) two penalty corner conversions and Lalremsemi's (4th) field strike cancelled out Agustina Gorzelany's (22, 37th, 45th) hat-trick to take the match into the shoot-out.

In the shoot-out, Neha Goyal and Sonika scored for India, while Victoria Granatto was the lone scorer for reigning Pro League champions Argentina as the Savita Punia-led side registered a famous win and avenged their 1-2 defeat against the same opponents in the Tokyo Olympic semifinals.

The Indians started strongly in the match, dominating the early exchanges.

India put pressure on the Argentina defence early on and secured a penalty corner in the third minute but



Monika's flick was saved by the opposition goalkeeper Belen Succi.

A minute later, India surged ahead through a brilliant field goal by Lalremsemi.

It was Deep Grace Ekka who created the chance with her defence splitting pass from outside the circle and Lalremsemi dodged her marker to get a brilliant touch which completely foxed the Argentine goalie.

Stunned by the goal, the Argentines came out attacking and secured two penalty corners in succession soon but the Indian defence stood firm.

Seconds before the end of

first quarter, Sharmila Devi's effort from close range from a Navneet Kaur pass was kept out by Succi. The Indians started on the same note in the second quarter but Argentina slowly and steadily got their acts together.

Six minutes into the second quarter, Argentina earned two quick penalty corners and Agustina Gorzelany scored after her flick went in after getting deflection of Sushila Chanu's stick.

Argentina secured another penalty corner soon but Chanu made a goal-line save to deny Valentina Costa.

Seconds from half-time, India too got a penalty corner but the opportunity,

It was end-to-end hockey from both the sides but Argentina surged ahead this time when Gorzelany scored from a penalty stroke in the 37th minute.

Argentina's joy was short-lived as India drew parity seconds later through a perfect penalty corner conversion by Gurjit Kaur.

The Argentines continued to press hard and won two more penalty corners in the third quarter but the Indians defended stoutly.

Argentina secured their eighth penalty corner in the 45th minute and Gorzelany was bang on target to register her hat-trick and hand her side the lead again.

The Indians, however, did not give up and fought tooth and nail. Gurjit again came to her side's rescue with a brilliant penalty corner execution in the 51st minute to level the scores 3-3.

Thereafter, both the sides tried hard to score the winner but the defensive units stood tall to take the match to shoot-out.

India and Argentina will again play against each other in the second match of the tie here on Sunday.

# India to play Italy and Netherlands ahead of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022



Agency  
Jamshedpur, June 19:

After camping in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, the India U-17 Women's National Team will travel to Italy and Norway, from June 20 till July 8, 2022, to participate in two tournaments as part of its preparation for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup that is set to be held in India later this year.

The young tigresses will play two tournaments during their exposure tour - the 6th Torneo Female Football Tournament in Italy from June 22, 2022 - June 26, 2022, and Open Nordic Tournament WU16 in Norway from July 1, 2022 - July

7, 2022. This will be the first time, the team is participating in the NORDIC Tournament.

India will face Italy on June 22, 2022, at the Gradisca d'Isonzo stadium in the 6th Torneo Female Football Tournament. Apart from India, Chile, Italy and Mexico will also be participating in the tournament.

On the other hand, in the Open Nordic Tournament WU16 in Norway, eight teams will compete against each other - Netherlands, India, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland and Sweden.

India will face The Netherlands on July 1, 2022, at the Strommen Arena.

Head coach Thomas Dennerby who took charge of the team earlier this year has selected 23 players who will be playing the international game.

**Goalkeepers:** Monalisa Devi, Hempriya Seram, Keisham Melody Chanu.

**Defenders:** Astam Oraon, Kajal, Bhumika Mane, Naketa, Purnima Kumari, Shubhangi Singh, Sudha Ankita Turkey, Varshika

**Midfielders:** Babina Devi, Gladys Zonunsang, Misha Bhandari, Pinku Devi, Nitu Linda, Shailja

**Forwards:** Anita Kumari, Kajol Dzouza, Neha, Rejiya Devi Laishram, Shelia Devi, Lynda Kom Serto.