

## May 2022 records highest rainfall since 2013 in Manipur

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

The month of May this year recorded the highest rainfall in Manipur state since 2013 with 257.93 mm rain, according to Directorate of environment & climate change weather daily reports. The highest rainfall for May during the last 10 years was last recorded in 2018 at 225.31mm.

Interestingly Tamenglong district recorded the highest rainfall among all the 16

districts with 540 mm in May this year and it was followed by Kangpokpi and Noney districts with 382mm and 375mm rain, the official reports said.

The Kakching district recorded the minimum rainfall with just 159mm rain, it added. The high rainfall in Tamenglong and Kangpokpi districts in the state during May month had even caused flash flood in low lying areas of Tamenglong, Imphal West, Imphal East and Jiribam districts due to sudden rise of

water level of barak and Imphal rivers. There are also reports of landslides in Kangpokpi district during the said period.

On May 12, Imphal-Jiribam sector of National Highway 37 which is considered as Manipur's second supply route, has been cut off after a bailey bridge over Irang River was collapsed after torrential rain washed away the foundation of the bridge, people familiar with the development said on Thursday.

It may be mentioned that the

National Highway 102B which connects Mizoram had also been cut off after the torrential rain washed away the newly constructed road diversion in Churachandpur district on May 11.

Earlier an official of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Manipur Centre had informed that this year monsoon has advanced in the northeastern state. The rainfall since January this year was in excess of normal rain except March, he added.

In 2017, Manipur capital



Imphal had received the highest rainfall since 1956, recording 2,439.4mm till December 13 or 68.71% above

the state's annual precipitation of 1446.3mm, the ICAR Imphal centre had said.

In that particular year, highest rainfall was recorded on March 31 (103.4mm) and highest monthly record in December with 116.3mm of rain

### Naphai Village Chief shot dead

Imphal, June 7:

A village chief in Saikul block died of gunshot after he was called out of house late last night. The deceased is said to be one Zilhem Khongsai (57 years). He is said to be the chief of Naphai village, Saikul.

Sources said that he was called out from home around 11:50pm of June 6 after which a sound of gunshot was heard.

Later, the chief was found sustaining serious bullet injury. He was rushed to Saikul CHC where he succumbed to his injury.

### Skin Prick Test at RIMS and Allergen Immunotherapy

Imphal, June 7:

RIMS Imphal is conducting Skin Prick Test and Allergen Immunotherapy on every working Wednesday during OPD hours with effect from June 8, 2022 at ENT OPD RIMS Hospital. The procedure will be looked after by Dr. Rajlakshmi Khundrakpam, Deptt. of ENT, RIMS Imphal. An order in the connection has been issued by the MS RIMS yesterday.

## Protest Rally staged against bomb blast at LFS; Suspects arrested

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

A mass rally protesting bomb blast on the morning of June 5 at Little Flower School, Tiddim road was staged today. Students of the school, parents, guardians, well wishers, teachers and ex-students of the school joined the rally. Members of the Red Cross also joined the Rally.

Speaking to media persons, superior of the Little Flower School Maria Dilibung thanks the parents and well wishers of the school for showing solidarity to the school at time of needs. She said that the school authority felt proud to the support that they received from the people of the state. While appealing any authority or individuals not to repeat such act, Sister Dilibung said that the main mission of the LFS is to ensure quality education to the youths of the state so that the state prosper.

Meanwhile, a team of Imphal West police has arrested a person who was allegedly involved in exploding bombs including the one at Little Flower School on Monday.

Imphal West SP, Shivakanta addressing the media here on Tuesday said the person was picked up after getting specific information.

Police also displayed ammunition and bombs which were recovered from him. Wires detonators, 58 PEK sticks weighing about 7.358 kg, and batteries, were recovered.

Police identified the person as Thounaojam Rishi of Imphal East and was a cadre of the National Revolutionary Front of Manipur (NRFM).

According to police, he was involved in a bomb blast near Little Flower School on June 5. Two other blasts were also linked to him, police said.

The Lamai PS has taken up a case and investigated the matter.



## NSF condemn blast at LFS

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

The Naga Students' Federation expressed shock at the bomb blast that took place on June 5, 2022, at the gate of Little Flower School, Sangaipor, Imphal, Manipur. The Federation condemn

the blasting of bomb within the premise of an educational institution. It said that such act caused immense trauma in the young minds of the students. While the entire region is collectively striving towards peace and stability, such dastardly act negates the very aspiration of the general

populace and ought to be out rightly condemned by all right thinking citizens.

The NSF appeals for peace in the region and urges upon the competent authority to leave no stones unturned in bringing the culprits to book while also sparing no efforts in uprooting those elements

and practices which are against the social stability and progress of the region.

"We stand in solidarity and extend our fullest support to the Little Flower School in our pursuit towards a secure future where the entire region will thrive together in harmony", the NSF said.

## Award of PMG for bravery and DG's Disc for Manipur Assembly Election 2022

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

In an investiture ceremony organized by Group Centre, CRPF Imphal, Sh. Deepak Kumar, Second in Command, presently posted in 86 Bn, CRPF was felicitated with President's Medal for Gallantry (PMG) and 17 Officers of CRPF were also decorated with DG's Disc and Certificate of Manipur Police DG for Manipur Assembly Election 2022 by Sh. Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, IG, Manipur & Nagaland Sector, CRPF, Imphal at Group Centre Langling.

In the year 2018, Deepak Kumar, Deputy Commandant, CRPF While on deputation to Jharkhand Police in Giridih district launched a massive search operation against Maoists at Akbakitand village on 05-06 March, 2018.

During a tight siege Sh. Deepak Kumar caught Maoist Sunil Manjhi alive on whom a prize money of 25 lakhs was declared alongwith 01 AK-47 and 26 rounds. He was granted with PMG for his gallant act on the occasion of Independence Day 2021.

Similarly, the Director General of Manipur Police had awarded the Disc and



Certificate to Sh. Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, IGP, Manipur & Nagaland Sector, CRPF along with 16 other officers of CRPF of different Units/Battalions in Manipur for the crucial role played by these officers in the peaceful conduct of Assembly Election 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS appreciated the daredevil acts of Sh. Deepak Kumar, Second in Command and CRPF officers for their role during Assembly Election 2022 and expressed that CRPF will continue to do such good work for maximum good for people of Manipur and the nation. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, DIG(Administration) and P.K. Nayak, DIG(Operation), M&N sector were also present there on this occasion.

## Caste census has now emerged as a major issue for political parties Narendra Modi Government is facing it tough to take a final decision

By Kalyani Shankar

Will a caste census trigger a disaster or settle the demand of many political parties? While it plays such a dominant role in our social, economic, and political life, it is strange that no credible Caste data has existed since 1931. Also, the prominent four main castes, Brahmin, Kshatriyas, Vaishya, and Shudra, have produced hundreds of subcastes and continue to create more sub-sections.

The demand to count castes is not new: Every Census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes. Decennial Census until 1931 had data on Caste, but due to World War II, the 1941 census was skipped. After independence, the Nehru government rejected the demand for a caste census. Indira Gandhi's government turned the Mandal commission recommendation in the 1981 census. In 2001, the Vajpayee government rejected a similar proposal by the then Registrar General of Census. In 2010 the Manmohan Singh government too dismissed the inclusion of castes in the Census but surveyed on an economic basis instead. The Modi government released only its financial

component (in 2015) and withheld the caste component. Unfortunately, the decennial population census of 2021 has been postponed due to the Covid pandemic.

Political Parties have already taken sides and sought votes in the name of castes and won. Caste-based parties have also sprung up like the BSP, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, etc. Parties such as JD(U), RJD, SP, BSP, YSRCP, and the DMK depend on certain caste groups for their political strength. They were leading a heavy campaign for the next caste census in 2021. Other leaders, including Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar,

Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin, Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav, and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, remain in favour.

A caste count might result in a demand for inclusion for reservation. It comes up before almost every Census. It became the electoral plank in states like Tamil Nadu, just as many Bihar and Uttar Pradesh political parties made a strong plea for a caste census. Several communities such as Jats in Haryana, Patels in Gujarat and Marathas in Maharashtra have demanded inclusion under the OBC category.

There are arguments for and against the caste census. As for

the SC and STs, the quotas are based on the census report. But the OBC reservation was fixed at 27 percent to keep the reservation cap at 50 percent.

If the support for the caste census is political, so is the opposition demerger from multiple factors. A caste-based census will only expose the upper castes who have been the primary beneficiaries. Secondly, the BJP and the RSS apprehend that a caste count might dent their carefully built caste alliances.

Supporters claim there could be no proper estimate for the OBCs and others without the caste data. The Mandal Commission estimated the OBC

population at 52%, and some other calculations are based on National Sample Survey data.

Still, political parties make their estimates in states and Lok Sabha and Assembly seats during elections. Incidentally, the National Commission on Backward Classes, the parliamentary committee on the welfare of OBCs, and in the past, the Registrar General of Census have endorsed the demand for a backward classes census.

Secondly, the caste census was the only way to breach the current 50 percent cap on reservations. The Apex court, too, has recommended caste count was essential to rule on

the 50 percent cap. Thirdly, caste data is vital as a factor in public policy.

Opponents argue that such a headcount will harden caste identities and lead to social fragmentation and caste enmities. It would be not only divisive but also counterproductive. There could be political and social repercussions. BJP leaders argue that several leaders from Mahatma Gandhi downwards to Rammonohar Lohia have expressed that caste discrimination has weakened society. They also feel they should not now touch on a complex and challenging issue.

Contd. on Page 4

## Class XII result- A blow to Govt. Schools

Much has been heard about promises made to improve the condition of the Government Schools by State Government Authority. Ministers after Ministers kept promising to improve the government schools or colleges. The first term of the BJP led government under the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had even introduced School Fagathansi Mission. In his second term too the N. Biren Singh government is continuing with the mission to improve the condition of the government schools. Much publicity has been done in the last 5 years but till today nothing seems to be improved in the education sectors. The clear evidence of failure on the part of government schools is the result of the class XII exam conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur. Except for a student of TG Higher Secondary School who shared 4th position in the Arts stream of Class XI along with two other students from a Private School called the EK Higher Secondary School, none of the students from the government schools could make it in the top ten in all the three stream - Arts, Commerce and Science.

Well the pass percentage this time is somewhat okay (90%+). But in today's competitive world just passed is not enough. Performance in the examination counted to join the academic world of today. And the result declared yesterday showed that there is no room for students studying in government schools. They also mean that there is no room for getting good education for the poor students in the state of Manipur. This is being said so as poor students who can't afford tuition fees, or transportation fees depend on government schools.

What is ironic is that teachers of the government schools are paid almost triple or multiple times the salary that a teacher in the private school. And of course they are more qualified than those teaching in the government schools. Then why are the students of government schools lack much behind than those studying in the private schools. Is it because the students of the private schools goes for private tuition or is it because those students from the rich family are always superior from those studying in government school. Perhaps there are many reasons need to learnt on why the govt. school cannot compete the private schools in Manipur. One reason that almost every citizens including those teachers of the government schools agreed is that government's negligence to the education department is one reason for the failure of government schools. Or else why the govt. schools in Delhi are improving. A matter need to ponder.

## “As we celebrate Environment Day, let's plant new Visionary Leaders”

By - Dr. Aniruddha Babar,  
Dept of Political Science, Tetso College, Nagaland

WHILE I was struggling to read “Fennegans Wake”, written by James Joyce my hand grabbed mobile, opened Instagram, started checking stories and out of nowhere an Insta story appeared which caught my attention. There was a dark background against which something was written, I started reading- it was a beautiful quote- “As we celebrate Environment Day, let's plant new visionary leaders”. This story was reeled by my disciple and friend Holonto S Zhimomi, who is currently serving as a President of National Student's Union of India (Zunheboto).

IMMEDIATELY my mind went back into early days at Tetso College. I met Holonto for the first time. I was his Professor. We spent some good time together discussing practical realities of the politics of Nagaland. We then had a small group consist of Holonto, Ghukha, Hito and myself in our Political Science Honours Class. The bonding was possible because of our common interest in Nagaland Politics and Constitutional Law. The best thing about these three guys was they all were super progressive in thoughts and very much critical and opinionated about everything that happens in state of Nagaland and India. Ghukha had a

contemplative, thoughtful nature (he would write in local newspapers) whereas Holonto was thoughtful but bit aggressive and action oriented whereas Hito was silent, soft spoken, sophisticated guy. The general Canteen discussion would always revolve around Indo-Naga Political Talks, Tribalism, Constitutional Rights, Human Rights, Criminal Justice System, Art 32, Art 226, Art 371(A), Constitutional Remedies so on and so forth. However, the focal point of our discussion was always the ‘Leadership Crisis’ in Nagaland.

Holonto was at the forefront articulating his theories about an ideal leader and governance. I recall, we collectively formed a consensual understanding about the solution to bring out Nagaland from the socio-economic-political crisis that has been haunting every strata of society. The solution that we envisioned conceptualized a model of ‘Leadership’ which gave us answers to help solve the current leadership crisis that visibly evident marred by corruption, tribalism, nepotism, short sightedness, self-interests, petty politics etc. We then collectively understood and agreed upon a fact that Nagaland has no dearth of leaders. We have leaders everywhere. We have leaders in Family, we have leaders in Clan, We have leaders in Tribes, We have leaders in Church; ALSO we have student union leaders- leaders have been flooding and mushrooming in every corner of Nagaland. Hence, having leaders is never a problem in our society and the state. The Leadership crisis exist in Nagaland because our state produced herds of leaders after leaders, however it absolutely FAILED to produce even a single ‘STATESMAN’.

Moreover, to quote Mosa Sangtam who would often say, “The Nagas Needs a Statesman like DrAmbedkar”. He often used to make this statement probably not just because of his natural attraction to the Scholarship of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar but because of an organic ‘Global Appeal’ in his Leadership. Despite born in Untouchable Caste, Ambedkar was never a leader of his community alone but sacrificed life to construct the nation of the people. Ambedkar never played a petty, revenge politics nor did he ever played selfish tactics to give benefit to his own community. DrAmbedkar was a global leader with a global vision, so the Nagas need someone like him- a Statesman-free from Tribal identity, with an open minded approach, progressive thought process, unconditional & absolute commitment to the principles of Democracy & Rule of Law, desire to construct new, modern Nagaland and strong ability to contribute to the growth and success story of India. Mosa would teach us.

All these thoughts gathered in my mind as I kept focusing on the quote of Holonto- “As we celebrate Environment Day, let's plant new visionary leaders”. At the outset, we have to understand one thing very clearly that leaders are not born independent of societal influence- the leaders will be nothing but the extension and reflection of the conscience of society in which they are born. However, the state of nature of the mind of such organic leadership is something that needs to be focused upon. Here I really want to put forth the example of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. As a leader of the nation he remained steadfast to the final goals of his mission that was to construct a new India, to establish the Rule of Law in Indian society, to stitch an unbreakable socio-political fabric of liberal democratic principles,

and achieve Justice-Social, Economic and Political for ALL. As what Mosa would often emphasized, even me, I fail to see any other model of leadership except that of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, suitable and applicable for the state of Nagaland.

However, there is a rider to the arguments. A leader, however visionary, will not be able to bring transformation in the society unless and until society is willing to facilitate and channelize his vision. The PEOPLE is the soul of any democracy. It is not just the leaders and the statesmen, but also the PEOPLE that bring transformation in the society. For Dr. Ambedkar, “the people” was not a homogeneous category that glowed with the rosy hue of righteousness but a large complex of sets and sub-sets of groups and societies that gradually evolved over the period of time with a strange sense of ‘social binaries’ and ego of ‘superiority over others’.

As a statesman and Architect of modern India Dr. Ambedkar's main concern was to legalize “Constitutional Morality” over the traditional, social/cultural morality of the caste system as he feared if the traditional structure of Indian society is not put under strict legal scrutiny there is a high possibility that its undercurrents would imprison depressed classes for eternity in the ages to come in Independent India. Speaking in the Constituent Assembly on 4 November 1948, he said, “Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realize that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic.”

As a student of Law, Political Science and Sociology I find relevance of DrAmbedkar's observations to the present day situation in Nagaland where tribes evolved independently in watertight compartments in the form of Village Republics as unique political, social and economic units. Their social evolution characterized by gradual and systematic development of their own unique set of customs and traditions. One tribe does not understand the spoken language of other tribe. In such a social endosmosis generations of the Nagas grew and experienced various cultural, political, economic and social upheavals at various crossroads in the historical timeline of their journey as distinct people. As time passes, with the embrace of Christianity modern values entered our society, however, the change did not remain confined with the transformation of the moral fabric of the Naga society but further extended to the political matrix as well.

The whole idea of political leadership as we can see in Nagaland have evolved from the root of organic power dynamics in former Village Republics. This is the reason that the politics in Nagaland, even today is characterized by clanism and tribalism with strong patrilineal influences. With the arrival of Christianity, Naga society have made great progress. We have become modern. With the pace of globalization, the direction of our life also changed. International brands arrived in Nagaland. With the arrival of Internet, Korean culture arrived too. The ‘K’ Pop, ‘K’ Fashion and ‘Oppa&Unnie’ sentiments have now become an integral part of our life here. Everything that is modern, cosmopolitan and international in nature has been well appreciated, accepted, adopted and made integral part of the modern Naga society.

However, at the outset it may well have to be observed that the idea of modern liberal democracy and political governance through public participation seems yet to achieve its full potential in our “materially modern but politically ignorant” society. The simple meaning of my observation is- people in our Naga society are yet to learn to become serious about their active participation in the political life. It is not just the leaders who have narrow vision limited to their clan or tribe or individual selfish interests, but it is the people too who have equally narrow vision and selfish interests, who are concerned more about social roots and the ‘material strength’ of the candidate they are supporting and voting for.

When people do not understand the meaning of “One Man, One Vote and One Value”, they do not understand the meaning of government and the governance. The Right to Vote is the greatest right that exist in the liberal democratic system, however, to understand the value and importance of it proper political education becomes necessary for the common masses. Naga society have to come out of the sentiments and out rightly condemn the petty nepotistic ideas of ‘Father, Mother, Uncle, Aunty, Brother, Sister, Moilaga relative Minister aseto’ etc in political context. As Ambedkar says, “Political Power is the Master Key” which I believe can change the destiny of a common man, the people and the nation at one go. Supporting a so called “OUR OWN” candidate with an intention to get Government job, a Bike or a Car, or few hundred/ thousands/lacs of Rupees, Bottles of Liquor or some petty, foolish favor is a sign of ignorance and political illiteracy. This is how wrong candidates are getting elected and the right one are being kicked off even before they start their political journey.

Leadership Crisis in Nagaland is painful reality of today. Even though we can theorize number of models of leadership and imitate great leaders and statesmen, ultimately it is the people who have to support and elect the right candidate. My Father often used to say, “Not to get discouraged by evil people and unfavorable circumstances, remember, the world has always been run by handful of right people/ right places- strive to be one of them”. I refuse to believe that our state has dearth of good people, right people, but we need to make them sit at the right places so that they can serve us with all their might, potential, integrity and vision. Nagaland need statesmen with vision and free spirit. A prisoner of Past and Future can never be a Leader and Statesman. One who ‘Rule’ over the present can only become a leader. A leader must learn to ride over the tides of time of the present and come out victorious to build the future.

Is there a hope for Nagaland? The people will have to see to it. If they want to dwell in the asylum of ‘suffering’ they can continue to do what they have been doing. Cars, Bikes, backdoor appointments, Money, Liquor, petty favors- everything is available- people can choose to grab them and go back happily to their home. However, if we have some self-respect, concern for the present and vision for the future we must participate in political life with open eyes and active conscience.

MY PEOPLE AND STATESMEN LET US UNITE TO BUILD “NEW NAGALAND” TOGETHER. KUKNALIM!

## Save soil to save life on the planet

### Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Have you ever noticed that there are very few species of birds are seen now around us? The number of avian species that we used to witness three-four decades ago has decreased to an alarming level. Many species of birds have disappeared from the urban surroundings completely. One of the major reasons behind this change is the declining number of insects and moths, as a heavy amount of chemical fertilizers and insecticides are used in farming. This trend is seen as a global phenomenon. It is estimated that 75 percent of insect species have been wiped out from the agriculture fields. These insects and moths used to be the basic food of most birds. Obviously, the birds that survive by feeding on insects have also decreased. This has happened due to the excessive use of pesticides in agriculture fields. This practice not only killed the pests but also deteriorated the quality of agricultural soil.

Sadhguru Jaggi, the founder of Isha Foundation, has recently traveled to many countries to create awareness around the deteriorating condition of the soil. His ‘save soil’ movement has gained wide acceptance globally. The greedy tendency of humans has played a big role in spoiling the state of the environment. In the name of development, more than 1.3 million square miles of forest were cut in the last 25 years. The World Bank estimates that humans have destroyed 10 million square miles of forest since the beginning of the 20th century, which has also destroyed biodiversity and is the reason behind the increase in the temperature on Earth. During the Covid pandemic period, nature in many ways attracted the attention of humans to the point that if the earth is harmed, then nature has to balance in its own way.

Meanwhile, notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who runs ransom, murder, and narcotics networks in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, and Delhi region, is understood to have been running his criminal network from Tihar Jail, which is considered the safest in the country. He operates his gang like a company, that too from a jail. The rest of the gangsters working at his behest are sitting in countries like Canada, Austria, and Dubai; and from there they carry out crimes in North India through their henchmen and sharpshooters. Lawrence is doing the business of murder and extortion while sitting in jail, so the question arises that how is he able to do all this from jail. Obviously, he uses his mobile in jail, because there can be no other way to communicate with the outside world. It is a very dangerous trend to have mobile phones with gangsters and notorious criminals in jails. The Jail Minister of Punjab has admitted that mobile phones are used in the jails of the state. He has announced that the jails of the state will be made mobile-free within 6 months. By the way, there is jammer technology to thwart the mobile. By installing jammers in jails, no unauthorized person will be able to use mobile phones.

These days Chardham Yatra is setting new records every day. Last month alone, 1.4 million people reached Kedarnath Dham. In the last 7 months, 3.4 million pilgrims have visited Kedarnath. This is happening for the first time in the history of Chardham Yatra that such a huge crowd has reached the Shiva temple. It has been learned that pedestrians are causing road jams. It seems that people who were confined to homes for two years during Covid are now running towards the hills. In the past, many horses and mules died on the Kedarnath road. In the greed of money, many rounds were being made by the mules. The horses were not allowed to take rest and they were not given proper food and

water. Dead animals were thrown into the Mandakini river. When the issue got highlighted on social media, the Uttarakhand government came into action taking action against unauthorized horse owners. Now the state government has allowed only one round of horses and mules, and on reaching the top they will be allowed to rest for at least 3 hours. This is a good change, which has been made possible due to the awareness created by animal lovers. Pilgrims should not become a reason for atrocities on innocent animals. They should walk on their own feet, otherwise what is the point of such a pilgrimage?

The temperature is breaking all the previous records as the sun is shining bright. Heat is caused by sun rays, so if the sun rays are prevented from reaching the earth, the heat can be reduced. This is a hypothesis confirmed by a Harvard University researcher, Dr. Ye Tou. The expert says that if mirrors are installed on the roofs of the houses and in the fields, harmful radiation and heat can be avoided. The mirrors will reflect the sun's rays, allowing them to return to the sky and save the earth from heating up. The idea is good if it actually works.

With the help of social media, we stay in constant touch with people sitting far away and can spread our thoughts across the world in a blink of an eye. But this has reduced our contact with the people and relatives around us, and as a result, the problem of loneliness is raising its head. This problem became even grimmer during the time of the pandemic when due to the lockdown, the face-to-face interaction had almost stopped. Loneliness not only causes boredom but has also led to an increase in the incidence of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and premature death. Middle-age people still know how to deal with such situations, but loneliness is a big challenge for youngsters. Loneliness disrupts sleep, leading to high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart diseases. If good relations with neighbors are maintained and at least one relationship is strengthened to start with, then the problem of loneliness can be reduced.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to ‘Imphal Times’

can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com).

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



# Defence Acquisition Council clears proposals Worth Rs 76,390 crore

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, June 07:

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in a meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Armed Forces amounting to Rs 76,390 crore on Monday.

The proposals call under 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy & Make (Indian)' and 'Buy (Indian-IDD)' categories and will provide a substantial boost to the Indian Defence Industry and will significantly reduce foreign spending. The initiative is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-dependence), Defence Ministry statement said.

The DAC accorded fresh AoNs for procurement of Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks (RTFLT), Bridge Laying Tanks (BLTs), Wheeled Armoured Fighting



A Wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicle (A representative image)

Vehicles (Wh AFVs) with Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs), and Weapon Locating Radars (WLRs) through domestic sources with emphasis on indigenous design and development, for the Indian Army.

Besides, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of Next Generation Corvettes (NGC) at an estimated cost of approx. Rs 36,000 crore for the Indian Navy. These NGCs will be versatile platforms for a variety of roles viz. surveillance missions, escort operations, deterrence,

Surface Action Group (SAG) operations, Search & Attack, and Coastal Defence. These NGCs would be constructed based on the new in-house design of the Indian Navy using the latest technology of shipbuilding and would contribute to further the Government's initiative of SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region).

The DAC accorded AoNs for the manufacture of Dornier Aircrafts and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by the Navratna CPSE M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with a focus on

enhancing indigenization, particularly in indigenizing aero-engine material.

In pursuance of the Government's vision for digital transformation in Defence, the 'Digital Coast Guard' project under the 'Buy (Indian)' Category was also approved by the DAC. Under this project, a pan India secure network for digitizing various surface and aviation operations, logistics, finance, and HR processes in Coast Guard will be established.

## Air commodore

In another development Air commodore, Vivek Singh Blouria took over the command of the air force station, Kanheri Hills in Thane near Mumbai on Monday. He succeeds air commodore Rakshale Sanjeev Kumar. Air commodore Vivek Singh Blouria, is an alumnus of the National Defence College, New Delhi, and has vast operational experience in various fields of the Indian Air Force.

# Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile Agni-4 Successfully Test-Fired



Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile Agni-4 Successfully Test-Fired from Odisha on Monday

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, June 07:

A successful training launch of an intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni-IV was carried out from complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island (earlier wheeler island) in Odisha,

on Monday morning, Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The test-fire was conducted at approximately 1930 hours and it was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. The launch validated all operational parameters as also the reliability of the system. The successful test reaffirms India's policy of having a Credible Minimum Deterrence Capability, the statement added.

During the test fire, the radar and electro-optical systems were positioned along the coast of Odisha for monitoring all parameters of the missile, and two Indian Navy ships were anchored near the target area to witness the event, official sources said.

The test was described as a complete success and the mission objectives were met during the test fire. All radars monitored the flight performance of the missile, launched with the support of a mobile launcher.

The indigenously developed sophisticated Agni-IV having a 4,000 km strike range is a two-stage

missile. It is lighter in weight and uses a two-stage rocket engine powered by solid propellant. It is 20 meters long with a weight of 17 tonnes. The test was part of a user trial by the Army.

Agni-IV missile is equipped with advanced Avionics, 5th generation onboard computer, and distributed architecture. It is equipped with a feature to correct itself for in-flight disturbances.

Agni-IV is the fourth in the Agni series of missiles which was earlier known as Agni II prime. It has been developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It displays significant improvement in missile technology. It is lightweight and has two stages of solid propulsion and a payload with a re-entry heat shield. It is capable of striking targets in nearly all of mainland China if launched from the northeastern part of India. It is one of a kind, proving many new technologies for the first time, and represents a significant leap in India's missile technology, DRDO sources said.

# Govt has made unprecedented investments in infrastructure in last eight years to take India to new heights

AIR  
New Delhi, June 7:

The Union Government has made unprecedented investments in infrastructure in the last eight years to take India to new heights.

Infrastructure is the basis of development of any nation. As soon as Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, he emphasized on strengthening the infrastructure. The Modi Government laid special focus on construction of roads, airways, waterways, ports and improvement in rail infrastructure.

AIR correspondent reports that this will not only boost the economic development of the country, but also facilitate the seamless transportation and passenger service which will in turn reduce the logistic costs and save fuel.

In order to accelerate the pace of development through ports in the country, the Modi Government launched the Sagarmala programme in 2015. Transportation of heavy goods through rivers is cheaper than by road or rail and keeping this in mind, for the first time, special importance is being given to the development of inland

water transport. Prime Minister Modi has stressed that the use of waterways will save both time and money.

Modi Government laid a lot of emphasis on the construction of roads, as Roads and development are interlinked. Earlier in 2014, only 12 kilometres of National Highway was constructed per day. The pace of construction has now touched 37 kilometres per day. Along with the construction of National Highways, special emphasis was laid on rural connectivity through roads. Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi



Niranjan Jyoti said that the construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the villages has brought ease of doing business.

With the strengthening of infrastructure, not only movement will be easier, but inclusive and holistic development of the country will also be possible.

# RSS and its unburdening of the communal trap



By-MRLALU

Mohan Bhagwat, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief has always been viewed as a media-savvy person, a perspective that I personally disagree with. The RSS chiefs, according to my understanding and study, meet the media rarely and when they do, their views capture headlines. This is because not only Mohan Bhagwat, but also his predecessors maintained the norm of not making media-centric remarks for popularity, which I think; the outfit has been strictly following. Bhagwat is known for his highly influential and intellectual deliberations. In the RSS, what I understand is its cadre swallows the ideology without questioning that its hierarchy pedals. There are genuine reasons to put the

philosophy that the Sangh propagates to critical examination. The Sangh's pursuit to identify India as one cultural entity with diversity sprouting from across the span of its existence is mutually accepted by many in the country. Probably, nobody contradicts that view but when it calls that diversity, the basic structure, on which the idea of India exists as Hindutva, disagreements pour in from all directions. But its outreach for dialogues with its ideological opponents needs to be seen as a remarkable faculty that the RSS holds. The interpretations that Mohan Bhagwat made on the Gyanvapi row must have, to some extent, doused the temperature that the BJP and some units in the Sangh Parivar have been gearing up with. The BJP must have had a plan to keep the heat building up until the state and national elections are over-a well calibrated move before 2024. But now, the siblings in the 'parivar' under the umbrella of the Sangh need to hold their tongue before they step out with aggressive bad-mouthing on issues that are under dispute.

The Muslim community in India should have welcomed the statement of Bhagwat at Nagpur. While addressing the delegates of the third year officers training camp (OTC), the Sangh chief made the opinion of the RSS public, on the disputes that the media and the courts are extensively exploring. He said it was futile and unnecessary to look for shivling in every mosque. This indeed has come as an acceptance by the Sangh on the volatility that such disputes could push this country into, especially, when it realises that radical changes with long standing effect can happen only if it manages to grab power at the centre again. Its political tool the BJP, that the RSS devised to capture the country politically, has been prospering successfully breaking the brittle bones of major parties including that of the Congress. We need to understand the success the Sangh was capable of making through the BJP in India. Everybody at the power centres including the President and the Prime Minister of the country, walk along with the Sangh ideology. The RSS, for

that matter, stays behind with a steady silence when controversies erupt, while its ideological arms such as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Viswa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and many more organisations under its umbrella are planted to speak for its cause. While the RSS presents its views amicably without damaging its stature, it keeps the radical and most inflexible and aggressive Bajrang Dal or VHP in the front row to respond to issues that can rake up outrage in the country for its cause and also to frame counter narratives. This needs to be seen as a diplomatic somersault of the Sangh.

The RSS, in a way, is happy and complacent to have made a larger section of the country accept the Hindutva ideology that it was vocal about. Leaders in the opposition parties were also forced to publicly admit their Hindu identity despite their efforts to woo the minorities. Rahul Gandhi's temple visits and Mamata Banerjee's proclamation on her Hindu identity in public

was an ideological victory for the RSS that it kept on hammering since 1925. It was also capable of expanding its presence in the civil society and the state institutions tremendously. Eight years of Modi Raj in India has intensified the ecosystem that the RSS was struggling to build. The ambience that the Modi rule could generate for the Sangh's growth in India was remarkable. The Sangh could not have achieved the stature and status that it did, had the BJP under the persona of Modi been not in power. The common mistake that every critique of RSS is prone to make is his ignorance on the depth into which the RSS has managed to send its roots. To fathom the space into which it has stretched its reach can be a subject of academic research. Whatever, the RSS has always managed to distance itself from maximum controversial issues, intelligently playing from behind the curtain-a strategy it has been playing out for years. Most of the controversial issues that the RSS is blamed for were not directly fuelled by the outfit.

Now, the difficulty is with the BJP. After Bhagwat's views on the Gyanvapi controversy, the party needs to cautiously inch in the direction of moulding the issues that it identified as political game-changers. Issues similar to Gyanvapi have been set to boil in the poll bound states of Karnataka and Gujarat and the RSS chief has probably sprayed water on the prospects that the party has been dreaming for.

The BJP leadership is fully aware of the potentiality of the RSS on the ground to toil the party to victory. That was the reason the top leaders of the party were cautious before they expressed their views on Mohan Bhagwat's statements and also urged its rank and file to refrain from making comments in public. The Sangh had been vocal on its stance on three important spiritual places Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi. It always maintained its stand on the spiritual importance of these places to the Hindus. Though the Sangh chief was critical about the frequent sweltering of controversies on every worship place under dispute, Bhagwat was firm on the faith

that was attached to Gyanvapi by the Hindus. Essentially, his remarks on the fresh controversy on Gyanvapi should be seen as an attempt to nullify the damage, the blot, that it strongly believes certain sections of the media in India and abroad have been trying to cause to its image.

Its outreach to the Muslims by incorporating a new wing to the Parivar, the Muslim Rashtriya Manch has been an endeavour to entice the Muslims to recognise the cultural ancestry that the RSS believes both the Hindus and the Muslims share in common. The Sangh first passed a resolution on Kashi in its Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), its highest decision making body, in 1959 and its resolution on Ayodhya came much later in 1987. Kashi was on its cards from the beginning itself, Mathura and Ayodhya were subsequent attachments. Many resolutions on disputed sites were passed in its meetings again and again but the organisation abstained from taking any controversial issue except Ayodhya into the streets. Mohan Bhagwat's

# Meritorious students honoured

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

Social Activist Seram Neken, who is also the Zilla Parishad Member of Imphal East district has felicitated higher secondary examination position holders of Thongju Assembly Constituency today at his residence at Singjamei Wangma Kshetri Leikai.

Meritorious students who were honoured are, Kshetrimayum Rajshree (2nd position) daughter of Ksh Brojen Singh & Tourangbam Shantibala Romila Devi of Singjamei wangma kshetri leikai; Pintu Thokchom (12th Position) daughter of Thokchom Ratan & Janeshori Devi of Ningomthong Kitna Panung, Chaltan Yumnam



(16th Position) son of Yumnam Shantikumar & Tourangbam Romila Devi of Singjamei

wangma kshetri leikai and Reshmi Nandeibam (18th Position) daughter of

Nandeibam Risinanda & RK Sanahambi Devi of Khongnam zone-V.

## Sports

# Chennaiyin FC sign Manipuri midfielder Jiteshwor Singh

IT News  
Chennai, June 7:

Two-time Indian Super League champions Chennaiyin FC have roped in young Manipuri midfielder Yumkhaibam Jiteshwor Singh on a multi-year deal ahead of the upcoming season.

Jiteshwor will be joining Marina Machans following an impressive outing for Neroca FC in the I-League last season in which he was adjudged the Best Emerging Player of the Season.

He had produced one assist and spent over 1500 minutes on the pitch, featuring in 12 league and five championship stage matches.

"We are excited to see Jiteshwor in Chennaiyin FC colours especially after being awarded the Best Emerging Player of the Season in I-League last year. This is a real positive signing for us and our vision this season," Chennaiyin FC co-owner Vita Dani said.

The 20-year-old will look to add youthful energy to Chennaiyin FC's midfield, consisting of last season's skipper Anirudh Thapa, who was retained by the club earlier on a two-year deal.

Talking about his maiden



ISL contract, an elated Jiteshwor said: "I am very excited to join Chennaiyin FC. I can't wait for pre-season and to meet my new teammates. I will work hard to play in the starting eleven."

A defensive midfielder, Jiteshwor has played in three I-League seasons in his career so far since making his

professional debut with Orange Brigade in 2020. He also appeared for Kolkata-based Bhawanipore FC on three occasions in the I-League qualifiers during a short loan spell in 2020.

Jiteshwor has played 40 professional matches in his career which also includes two assists.

# Shreyas Hosur completes 'IRONMAN' Triathlon

Agency  
New Delhi, June 7:

Shreyas Hosur, Dy. FA&CAO © from South Western Railway has made Indian Railways proud by becoming the first ever Railway officer and also the first ever officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to complete the gruelling 'IRONMAN' Triathlon.

The event included 3.8 km Swim, 180km Cycling and 42.2 km Running. Shreyas completed the event in 13 hrs 26 mins on 5th June 2022, in Hamburg, Germany.

The finishers of the event are popularly known as 'IRONMAN' befitting the mental and physical strength the event demands.

# NEC Secretariat looking for suitable officers on deputation basis

IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

The North Eastern Council(NEC) Secretariat is looking for the services of suitable officers for filling up 14(fourteen) posts of Stenographer Grade-II on deputation basis in the pay

scale of Rs. 5000-150-8000/- (5th CPC) PB-2 Rs. 9300-34800/- plus Grade Pay of Rs.4600/- (6th CPC) corresponding to pay scale of Rs.44900-142400/- (Level 7) of the 7th Pay Matrix. Application of eligible and willing candidates can be forwarded to the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of

Development of North Eastern Region, North Eastern Secretariat, Nongrim Hills, Shillong within 60 days.

For detail such as eligibility criteria, application form and other details, the candidates are advised to visit and download from the NEC website <http://necouncil.gov.in>.

# Don Bosco School alumni observes World Environment Day



IT News  
Imphal, June 7:

The alumni of Don Bosco School, Imphal 1986 Matric Batch organized a tree plantation drive inside the campus of the school situated at Chingmeirong. Tree saplings of different varieties were planted in co-ordination with the school authorities and hostellers, led by the Vice-Principal Fr. Lawrence, SDB.

The alumni group had

materialized as a Whatsapp group - DB186 - in March this year with batchmates keeping in touch regularly.

The group comprises of 46 members currently who are in diverse professions in different parts of the country and also abroad converging after a gap of more than three decades.

Keeping true to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s slogan for this year Only One Earth, the alumni have also taken up

the pledge to ensure less carbon footprint, fight climate change and prevent pollution and environmental deterioration on this singular home planet called Earth. Some members are already at work toward the UN's sustainable development goals. With the coming together as a team, the alumni aims to take up further proactive roles in this regard also in co-operation with the authorities and other like-minded active bodies.

# Old age is not a Burden

(Nowadays, due to economic challenges, instead of joint families are changing into nuclear families)



By- Vijay Garg

Old-age is the evening-of-life.

This is a phase that everyone has to go through at some point or the other. It is said that in old age a person starts behaving like a child, but in today's context this does not seem to be true. In today's era, children have started growing up prematurely, their understanding gets wings very soon. However, old people seem to be lagging behind due to not keeping pace with the times.

There are many elders, whose struggle not only made them strong, but also made them capable of coping with situations by being well educated. With such self-respecting and active people, when physical problems begin to come in the way of aging due to age-related problems, then dependence breaks. They start going into depression.

Depression is a serious problem of old age. Many physicians accept this. Actually, sociality is an essential aspect, without which life is not possible. Reading, writing, participation in social organizations or

constant communication with peers gives you new energy and vitality. Loneliness disappears. The happiness and sorrow that you cannot share at home, you can lighten your mind by sharing it with your friends.

Today life is surrendering in front of commercial and economic challenges. As a result, no one has time to listen to the elders of the house, understand their plight. They can mobilize facilities, hire assistants, but cannot devote time. In such a situation, the elderly person is deprived of the emotional and mental relief that he needs. Physical disability does not allow him to move anywhere.

He begins to feel that there is a burden on others. A self-respecting person never likes this, he likes the path of struggle. Pray and not run away. The thinking of our society is also not very encouraging about the elderly. We marginalize them for life. Japan is the country of the oldest people, the government there provides facilities for them accordingly.

We don't even have ramps in many places to take them on a wheelchair. It is difficult even for the elderly to get a lower seat in the train. The Railway Department may pat its back by

saving fifteen hundred crores by discontinuing the concession to senior citizens in the fare, but it will not be called sensitive attitude. There are long queues in hospitals and often proper seating arrangements are not available.

Elders who maintain some hobby or hobby in life, their age-related struggles also get reduced. Mental state has a great influence on physical ability. There are many active writers in my city who have been active successfully in their eighth and ninth decade of life. He kept getting new energy among the creators and colleagues, he kept going to seminars and events. Firaq is the lion of Gorakhpuri - For the sake of life, take care of any disease / Life does not go on with the help of only health.

The role of creative hobby in life is important. She not only keeps you away from unnecessary worries and troubles, but also keeps you free from the hassle of spending time in old age. The attitude of the people of the house should also be sympathetic and positive in this stage. Unfortunately, due to economic challenges, our families are changing from joint to nuclear families these days.

There is also a shortage of volunteers and medical personnel to serve the elderly in the country. In such a situation, cutting loneliness becomes a problem. Camouflage thoughts and negativity start to take over. If some time is given to dialogue and any of your hobbies, then you can get rid of this disease. But for this, one has to leave loneliness and increase the scope of sociality. Today the communication revolution has provided many avenues of communication, it is also a ray of hope for such lonely elderly people, from where they will get the touch of fresh air of the world.

The seniors in our household are a treasure trove of experience. Thought and tradition. Let us not neglect them, but bring them out of the darkness of despair. Take advantage of their experiences, light your future path with the power of their vision and thoughts, because the struggle and life experience they have is priceless, it is going to be lost. It is our need and duty to preserve it. After all, any society is known by gratitude, not by ingratitude or professionalism.

Contd. from Page 1

# Caste census has now emerged as a major issue.....

The demand for a caste census goes beyond politics. Opponents and supporters have run their arguments forcefully. It is for the Modi government to take a decision. India runs the world's most extensive affirmative welfare

programme based on caste identity. While the youth want a casteless society, Caste is being perpetuated. India has seen many caste-based agitations and will continue to see them, which will harm the social fabric. It is an emotional

and controversial issue that many governments would rather keep away from such a census. In the 21st century, India should be discussing 'let's do away with caste' rather than further dividing India into those lines. (IPA Service)

# Training Cum Production of Khamba Thoibi Dance Begins



The one month residential training cum production of Khamba Thoibi Dance under Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPGS), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organized by Repose Foundation (RF) of Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai, Imphal West was started on 5th June, 2022 around 9 A.M at Khongnang Pheidiepi Imoinu Community hall, Imphal West District