

Counter bandh begins in Assam to blunt ban on Manipur vehicles; AAMSU supports

IT News
Imphal, March 28:

Incensed over the imposition of indefinite bandh on Manipur vehicles in Nagaland part of National Highway 39 by Southern Angami Public Organisation (SAPO), the All Assam Manipur Youth's Association (AAMYA) has declared an indefinite bandh on Assam-Nagaland highway from today's midnight. All Assam Manipuri Student's Union (AAMSU) also warns of counter agitations if the blockade called by the SAPO is not withdrawn. The students' group said that the Nagaland Government and the SAPO should be held

responsibility for any unwanted consequences.

SAPO imposed the indefinite bandh within southern Angami jurisdiction with effect from March 24 demanding removal of the police outpost from Dzuko valley in Senapati district.

A press release issued by AAMYA stated that the counter bandh will continue until SAPO withdraws their indefinite bandh on the Nagaland portion of NH-39 and asked the truck and transport associations to cooperate.

The strong step was taken up as SAPO has failed to respond to the humble appeal to withdraw the bandh which has caused physical and mental

torture on a number of people, especially those bound for Imphal and has created a socio-economic crisis, the association reasoned.

Saying that the 'non intervention' of the Nagaland Government to resolve the crisis is very unfortunate, it asserted that AAMYA cannot remain a mere spectator when people are being harassed for no reason.

"Blocking the highway is a serious insult to humanity and so we have no intention to do the same," it clarified and maintained that they, however, called the counter bandh out of compulsion to remove the SAPO bandh and as a distress call to the Nagaland Government.

Students, ambulance, police, paramilitary forces, media and rituals are exempted from the purview of the counter bandh, it informed.

On the other hand, with no indication that the indefinite bandh on Manipur vehicles will be lifted anytime soon, a total of 338 empty oil tankers and LPG bullet tankers left Imphal for Assam on Imphal-Jiribam Highway (NH-37) with security escorts today to ferry petroleum products.

The convoy which left Imphal at 6 am included 125 oil tankers of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), 16 oil tankers of BPCL and 97 LPG bullet tankers. They would head to different

loading points in Assam after reaching Jiribam.

The security personnel who are escorting the empty oil tankers and LPG bullet tanks would stay at Jiribam till tomorrow before escorting back loaded oil tankers and LPG bullet tankers which were earlier stranded at Khatkhatti on Tuesday.

Altogether 130 loaded oil tankers of IOCL, 15 loaded oil tankers of BPCL and HPCL and 76 loaded LPG bullet tankers were stranded at Khatkhatti.

The loaded tankers numbering 221 left Khatkhatti towards Jiribam day before yesterday. They are expected to reach Jiribam by evening of the same day.

Two Days National General Strike begins ; Left party in Manipur stage protest rally

IT News
Imphal, March 28:

Two days nationwide general strike which begins today under the aegis of the Central Trade Unions (CTUs) has affected truck movement along the national high ways in NE region with Nagaland government advising Nagaland bound travellers to avoid travelling to Assam. In support of the general strike, the Assam Motor Workers association has called "Chakka band" in Assam.

The Two Days National General Strike called the general strike demanding to Save The People and to Save The Nation. In Manipur, mass rally was staged in response to the general strike called by the Central Trade Unions (CTUs) by the Co-ordinating Body of Trade Unions Manipur, a conglomerate of Central and State level trade unions including AITUC, CITU, INTUC, TUCC, UTUC, Independent trade unions of BSNL, Bank, LIC, Post, AG and state government employees.

The Day one of the strike witnessed total general strike in banks, BSNL, LIC, Post Offices, where Sit in Demonstrations and Protest Meetings were held in their respective office premises. The AIBEA, BEFI, AIBOA jointly organised the Sit in

Demonstrations in banks and other unions in their respective office campuses. The state government offices witnessed thin attendance as the strongest state government employees federation Manipur Government Employees Federation, an affiliated body to the AISGEF.

A press communiqué by the Convenor of Co-ordinating Body of Trade Unions, Manipur said that the general strike was also joined by the Scheme workers viz. ASHA, Anganwadi, Midday Meal Workers, NRM and other scheme workers also participated in. The unorganised sector workers including construction workers and rural workers with local peasants participated in the general strike.

The leadership of the AITUC, CITU, HMS, INTUC, TUCC, UTUC and independent trade unions jointly organised a protest rally in the heart of Imphal, the capital city of Manipur. The protest rally was led by AITUC General Secretary and Co-ordinating Body of Trade Unions Manipur L. Sotinkumar, Convenor of Co-ordinating Body and CITU Leader Kshetrimayum Santa and Manipur Loumi Lup President N Singhajit, the press statement said.

AIMS demands appointment of qualified regular Director of JNMDA; submits memorandum to the Governor

IT News
Imphal, March 28:

Apunba Imagi Machashing (AIMS), a non government organisation based in Imphal has submitted a memorandum to the governor of Manipur La. Ganeshan urging him for appointment of a qualified regular director of the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA), Imphal.

Apunba Imagi Machashing (AIMS) is an NGO working for the promotion of the interest of students, culture (including performing arts) and tradition in this country. The organisation in its memorandum stated that due to absence of a qualified regular director at JNMDA Imphal the

esteemed autonomous institution has deteriorated beyond imagination.

That JNMDA, Imphal, was formally established in 1954 as a constituent unit of Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, particularly to preserve the arts and culture of Manipur based on the traditional Guru-Shishya Parampara.

In the memorandum the AIMS said that the esteemed institution has stood the test of time and along the way has produced several eminent artists by the great Gurus then and now as envisioned by the founders of the institute.

It added that renowned national and international artists like Guru Amubi (*Raas Lila*), Guru Leichombam Koireng (*Sankritan*, Meitei

Pung), Guru Sanakhya Punjabi (*Sankritan*, Meitei *Pung*), Guru Thambal Angou (*Sankritansinger*), Guru Yumnam Lakshman (*Sankritan*, *Duhar*), Guru Elangbam Gulapi (*Sankritansinger*), Guru Thingbajam Babu (*Raas Lila*), Guru Tondon Devi (*Raas Lila*, *Shutradhari*), Guru RK Priyogopalsana Singha, Guru Nongmaithem Surjamukhi Devi (Ballad artist) etc.

The JNMDA could function and pursue its creative endeavours when there was an efficient Director duly appointed following established procedures and norms.

"The AIMS said that the in-charge director is not a qualified person to hold the post. It stated that appointment

of the Director i/c did not follow established norms and procedures.

JNMDA being an autonomous institution of the Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi, should have constituted a 60-plus committee representing different states of India headed by a chairperson duly selected by the Indian Parliament, which should have been instrumental in the appointment of the incumbent Director".

It further said, "even in the instance of appointment of a Director i/c required qualifications such as minimum educational qualification, age, expertise, artistic or administrative experience were not taken into account.

The AIMS said that there has

been a systemic crisis in JNMDA since 2020 in terms of administration, arbitrariness of functioning, procurement and implementation of new projects, regular employment of artists and timely promotion of Gurus, and finally, gradual erosion of traditional values within the institution.

The AIMS demands to follow proper procedures for the recruitment and promotion of teaching and non-teaching staffs. It also demand to cancel all forms of arbitrary decisions, contracts, and part-time appointments heading the institution. The AIMS further demanded to appoint a regular director or if in case an in-charge director to be appointed from among the experts in the field of culture and education.

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Tender age beggars need education & care

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced plans to open a state-of-the-art boarding school for the child beggars, which will be a one of its kind initiative. The

kids will be provided with proper emotional and psychological care apart from their formal education. This is a good initiative of Delhi Govt. Begging is a social problem associated with poverty and unemployment. India's begging laws are based on centuries-old European laws that criminally held the poor responsible for their condition, instead of providing a solution. The definition of a beggar as per the law says - one who appears poor. The purpose of the anti-beggar legislation is aimed at removing the poor from the city. In India, according to the 2011 census, there are more than four lakh beggars. According to a recent Delhi government survey, there are 20,719 beggars in the city, of which 24% are below 18 years of age. People are willing to give money to children. But begging violates the fundamental rights of children. Children who beg are unable to study, due to which their future becomes uncertain and they get trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty and exploitation. Many kids are forced by their parents to beg.

One fine morning, a group of blind sadhus passed through the street singing melodious hymns. I curiously looked outside and thought that since they were blind and few of them looked old too, hence they should be given something, as a reward for singing. First I thought of giving them Rs 10, then changed my mind and decided to give Rs 50 instead. I offered them the money, but they refused to accept it, saying that they are "not begging and would not take money from anybody". I got impressed. After a few minutes, they returned and knocked at the door. They said that they were from Vrindavan and wanted to visit the Vaishno Devi temple. They said their train journey is free, but they need another set of clothes. They wanted me to pay for their clothes. They were nine and it would cost Rs 3,600 for their dress. That was too much. I felt cheated and asked them to leave.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has started a pilot project for rehabilitation of beggars in Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Indore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad. Begging in India is a multi-million industry, a highly organised business that employs children. Since children with disabilities get more money, there is greater demand for such children. For this often normal kids are forcibly disabled. A study by World Vision states that around the world 8 million children have been forced into begging. The report mentions that 110 million children are facing hunger. According to section 76 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, whoever compels a child to beg, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and a fine of one lakh rupees. Governments must offer rehabilitation care appropriate to each child's needs, including education, healthcare, help with de-addiction and helping their families return. India as a nation needs to think about the begging population.

Signals emanating from Chinese foreign minister's visit indicate India's confidence Delhi is better placed now to play meaningful role in endings war in Ukraine

By Anjan Roy

If you go into the details of the way the unannounced visit of the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, was handled in New Delhi on Friday, India was clearly "cold shouldering" the initiative. It is important to remember the visit was from the foreign minister of a P-5 nation and China is a heavyweight in the global order.

Yet, the visiting dignitary was not given the opportunity of seeing the prime minister before he flew back. The ostensible reason was that the prime minister was due to attend the government formation ceremony in Lucknow. Prime Minister Modi has been meeting foreign dignitaries and ministers from significant countries and China would have been on same footing, if not a clear message was being conveyed.

Atmospherics apart, even the most substantive objective of the Chinese visit—decoupling overall relations between the two countries from the border situation—was not acceded by India.

The statement issued by the Chinese after the visit has emphatically pointed out that as "mature and rational major developing countries, China and India should place the boundary issue in a proper position in the bilateral relationship, and should not use the definition of the boundary issue or even affect the overall development of the bilateral relationship".

In sharp contrast, foreign minister Dr S. Jaishankar said: "I was very honest in my discussions with the Chinese Foreign Minister, especially in conveying our national sentiments on this issue. The

frictions and tensions that arise from China's deployments since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours".

Despite 15 rounds of commanders' feel talks on disengagement at the Himalayan borders, not much progress has been achieved in pulling troops back from the front lines. India has clearly conveyed its unhappiness over China transgressing several agreed norms and understandings on handling of the LAC.

Why then China made this unusual diplomatic move at this point of time, when it is fairly widely recognised in the diplomatic circles that China moves by signals and nuances. There are clearly some deeper strategic thinking on the part of Chinese diplomatic establishment or there would be some critical broader compulsions before the Chinese leadership.

Let us take a look at the possible direct or indirect considerations for such a visit. Two sets of factors could have weighed in on the Chinese, first strategic-diplomatic; and secondly, and possibly more immediate, economic compulsions.

China's principal effort at unbundling the LAC with overall normalcy in relations could not have been unrelated to opening up of "normal" trading and economic ties with India. Since the border frictions, economic relations have rather been at a deadlock. Many of the Chinese technology firms remains blacked out of the Indian market and the prospects of a bursting market has been cut off. These economic considerations are a prime focus for China.

The Chinese economy has been slowing down, despite the best efforts to bolster it up with stimulants. The growth prospect is set at around 5% and that also could be a far cry. The Chinese banking sector is saddled with large loans burdens which might turn sour.

The massive housing and property boom of yesteryears is a behind and the biggest of them has been staring at loan repayments defaults. Several other real estate companies are equally facing prospects of liquidation. An economy which was running on the steam of its real estate boom could falter once that entire segment is under cloud.

The Chinese financial sector is equally hobbled as a collateral damage from the tanking of the housing sector. They are even otherwise stretched far too much on credit expansion at break neck speed.

Lastly, as if it could not have done anything else, the Communist Party and its supreme leader have damaged the swinging technology heavyweights of the country. These firms were working overtime with their financial valuations as well as critical investments in future segments. All that has become a memory of the past now.

In a situation of this overall deceleration, the Ukraine war could not have come at a worse time. When a stable global situation and comfortable growth prospects could have driven the Chinese industries with recovering exports, the world economy looks set for a similar slackening. How could a large outward bound economy look forward to comfortable sailing in an

uncertain overall situation.

In this kind of a sudden turn, Chinese could be extremely careful about getting sucked up in the rouble over Ukraine. China's "limitless friendship" with Russia at this point of time could become a source for limitless woe. How come?

If China offers to help Russia tide over the crisis and in the process gets entangled in the global sanctions regime that could spell virtual doom for its economy. Chinese companies, which are global in operations and ambitions, could become seriously restricted by the sanctions regime and could find themselves town out in the cold.

So, China would be extremely happy to get the wink of India's positions on sanctions regime. How would India handle the sanctions and could it get embroiled in these disputes. China would have discussed these issues and Wang Yi could be carrying back his impressions about India's stand on such matters.

The indisputable fact is that the Ukraine war has changed the geostrategic balance. Geo-economics would play a critical part too. In this changed world, China is feeling rather upended. Its limitless friendship had come at a bad time. China is alienated with the United States. It is now suspect in the eyes of EU.

India on the other, is far closer now to the West and Europe. Its association with the QUAD countries also is an asset now. Hence, diplomatically India is in a comfortable seat and could be a messenger for sobering exercises. A possible line of communication could be handy.

(IPA Service)

India's IPv6 progress and benefits

PIB Feature

India is progressing towards enabling a comprehensive indigenous technology ecosystem and making strides towards digital growth path, with key pillars of robust digital infrastructure and quality service availability at affordable cost. Through various initiatives, simplification and reforms, digital access has been expanded to the remotest part of the country. In this growth journey, Internet has been recognized world-over in enabling the socio-economic growth of a country. It has also played an active and crucial role in enabling a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It acts as a catalyst for phenomenal growth and modernisation of various sectors of the economy and serves as an effective medium for efficient delivery of various citizen-centric services. It has enriched lives of citizens of the country by making them digitally empowered and helping in achieving India's vision of trillion-dollar digital economy.

A World Bank study suggests that every 10% increase in broadband penetration boosts the country's GDP growth by 1.38% in developing countries. The Government of India (GoI) has made stupendous efforts to ensure affordable, equitable and inclusive broadband access to its citizens across the country. The massive proliferation of new emerging technologies such as 5G, Machine to Machine Communication, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud computing etc. and thrust on

digital initiatives by the GoI along with the penetration of broadband and internet services, has necessitated a large number of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, beyond the currently available pool of IPv4 (IP version 4) addresses. As the telecom networks are evolving rapidly and becoming more dynamic in nature due to the introduction of many innovative applications every day, the requirement of more and more IP addresses has grown manifold.

The Internet Protocol (IP) Version 4 was developed about four decades ago around the beginning of the Internet. Although IPv4 has proven to be robust, easily implementable and interoperable, the initial design did not anticipate the exponential growth of the Internet, network supported devices and the impending exhaustion of the IPv4 address pool.

To steer the efforts for the proliferation of IPv6 transition and deployment in India, the Department of Telecom (DoT) released the National IPv6 Deployment Roadmap in July 2010 which has helped to develop IPv6 Eco-system in the country. Extensive sensitization of various stakeholders including Central Government, State Governments, PSUs and other Government Organizations, Telecom Service Providers, Internet Service Providers, Equipment Manufacturers, Cloud computing/Data Centre Providers, Academic Institutions, Content and Application providers etc. was undertaken which led to many of them becoming IPv6 ready. To

consolidate the gains and build further from the achievements of the first roadmap, the second version of the National IPv6 Deployment Roadmap (Version-II) was released by DoT in March 2013. DoT's focussed efforts across various sectors has led to the timely adoption of IPv6 and provided the potential for innovative application in different sectors. Further, to provide technical assistance in deployment of IPv6 solutions, DoT had also published compendium on IPv6 based solutions/Architecture/case studies practices for different industry verticals.

IPv6, which was developed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) in the mid-nineties, is the Next Generation (version 6) of the Internet Protocol (IP). IPv6 provides enhanced addressing capabilities by using 128 bits for addressing instead of 32 bits as used in IPv4, resulting in the availability of a very large pool of IP addresses (10²⁸ times larger than IPv4) which seems enough for the foreseeable future. Apart from a large number of address availability, IPv6 also provides many other advantages such as it offers enhanced security due to the Built-in Security framework of IPSec protocol. It supports end-to-end security, authentication thereby simplifying end to end security in applications. It also provides a Simplified Header format with better Quality of Service (QoS) which helps in faster routing and switching. There is also a traffic class and flow label field defined in IPv6, improving streaming for several applications such as VoIP, interactive gaming, e-commerce, videos etc.

The other IPv6 advantages include Auto configuration which

is a plug and play feature that simplifies network configuration especially when the number of devices is very large. This will be beneficial in the implementation of Smart Cities and M2M/IoT networks where it is anticipated that a large number of smart sensors/devices will be deployed. Also, it shall help networks to quickly respond to crisis situations and facilitate ad-hoc network reorganisations. IPv6 has been designed with many new features which make it possible to develop innovative applications which are not easily possible in the current IPv4 protocol e.g. Centralized Building Management System, Rural Emergency Health Care, Tele-education / Distance Education, Smart Grids, Intelligent Transport Systems etc. IPv6 will also boost the scalability and speed of the websites apart from supporting the M2M/IoT infrastructure. The adoption of IPv6 based innovative applications in areas like smart metering, smart grid, smart building, smart cities etc. will keep improving the quality of life of common citizens.

With a vision to take a global leadership position in the technology field, India has achieved around 77% IPv6 capability as against the World average of 28.18%, and leads ahead of the developed countries such as USA (47.58%), Japan (32.38%) United Kingdom (32.61%) and China (19.58%). Globally, India is maintaining the leading position for the last 2 years in this endeavour. Since 2014 till date, outstanding progress in IPv6 adoption has been achieved by India which is evident from the fact that as per the report of APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre), which

distributes and manages Internet number resources (IP addresses and AS numbers) in the Asia Pacific region, the percentage of IPv6 users (i.e., IPv6/total ratio) has grown from 3.22% in January 2015 to 24.33% in January 2020, at a 67.9% CAGR. At the same time, India's CAGR growth for IPv6 Users has been at 413.70% which is phenomenal as compared to even developed countries such as USA (CAGR-33.90%) and Japan (CAGR-31.20%). Also, the total number of users (IPv6 + IPv4) has grown at a 12% CAGR. Thus, it can be concluded that the worldwide number of IPv6 users is growing much faster than the number of IPv4 users and due to India's consistent efforts for IPv6 transition, India is leading globally.

Further, the NIC (National Informatics Centre) which hosts most of the Government websites and applications, Core infrastructure of NICNET is now fully IPv6 compliant and its infrastructure at various Ministries and state centres has also become IPv6 ready. Also, many organizations are now provisioning new IP based services (like cloud computing, data centres etc.) on IPv6. Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), ETSI and 3GPP through their protocols, standards are also contributing consistently for achieving tremendous progress by various countries which is evident from the fact that IETF no more requires IPv4 compatibility in the new or extended protocols. Also, 3GPP is considering mandating IPv6 in 5G Standalone (SA).

As a result of the concerted efforts of GoI and all stakeholders, the majority of the service providers

in India have become ready to handle IPv6 traffic & offer IPv6 services. A large number of cloud service providers and equipment manufacturers have successfully deployed and used IPv6 for various innovative applications. A significant number of companies have also transitioned to IPv6-only service delivery. The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP-2018) also envisages the transition to IPv6 for all the remaining communications systems, equipment, networks and devices.

There is a need to consolidate the gains and build further on the milestones achieved. To take this forward, the service providers, content and application providers, cloud service providers and equipment manufacturers must provision the costs of phase-wise replacement/up-gradation of their existing systems and Customer premise equipments with dual-stack and native IPv6, in their annual Capex. All new customer connections should be provided on IPv6 and all new procurement of various types of equipment should have a mandatory compliance clause of IPv6 readiness.

With digital connectivity becoming pervasive and the Internet as a key resource for socio-economic development, it is the need of the hour that all stakeholders i.e. Government, Service Providers, Academia, R&D institutions, Equipment Manufacturers, Cloud Computing and Data Centres, Content and Application Providers etc. should come together and make synergized efforts for IPv6 transition completion. Its usage across various sectors like Health,

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Pursuing for a media complex in Guwahati

By Nava Thakuria

Virtual capital city of the north-eastern part India, Guwahati today nurtures nearly one thousand working journalists who are associated with various newspapers, news channels, radio outlets, digital platforms, etc and with no doubt they need a space for wide interactions with no prejudice and trepidations. For decades, the city-based journalists have been crying for a permanent place with necessary infrastructure and minimum facilities, where they can assemble, discuss and resolve issues related to the medium and finally the great nation. One can expect that the government would take a positive stand over the matter and go for a press complex/conclave/centre in a prime location of the prehistoric city. Primary need of the complex will be an auditorium with 500-1000 capacities with the modern sound system and other new technology-oriented equipment. The multi-story auditorium should be ready for use in a video conference meets as well, which can host important personalities (including foreign country heads, acclaimed authors, illustrious journalists, etc) anytime. For the physical presence of an individual with utmost socio-political importance, the auditorium should fulfil the security needs (like separate entry/exit, lift, lobby with refreshing room, etc). Along

with the press conferences, the auditorium may be used for regular training and orientation programs for the journalists (precisely the novice scribes) to understand new trend of the media world and its sustainability with credibility. The complex should also include some deluxe as well as economically viable lodging arrangements for the visiting journalists from different parts of Assam/Northeast/India and also outside the country. A common restaurant will be an essential addition, where the journalists and their well-wishers can hang out in a dignified ambience and pass quality time. The complex may give space to all north-eastern States to showcase their tourism destinations (or any attractions they prefer) in separate chambers. DoNER ministry (responsible for development of north-eastern region)/North Eastern Council may also be approached for using the space for pragmatic media communications. The entire complex should be designed with the concept of energy efficiency, where the sunlight, natural air-flow and open space would get due privileges. Adequate solar power generation and rain water harvesting arrangements should exhibit the entire complex as a new model of buildings/apartment/campus in the country. Finally and most importantly the complex should give space to the city-based press

clubs, recognised journalist associations, media house owner-editors' forum, etc to run their offices independently. The beneficiary organisations may be levied with a nominal amount of money for overall maintenance of the complex. Even though the government may support the complex managing committee from time to time, it should generate funds for its own survival. Its management board should incorporate representatives from the information & public relations department, civil administration, police authority, medical-engineering-environment sectors along with the mainstream media outlet owners, editors, reporters, news-desk employees, photo-visual journalists, media columnists, etc. Any organisation, which runs its office from the complex, may opt for a bigger campus as and when it feels necessary, and there should be no bar for members of the particular organisation to generate resources for their expected project. While the proposed complex will nurture the long pending expectations for hundreds of honest, dedicated and committed journalists to have an autonomous institution with the mandate to promote professionalism and excellence in journalism, it will also help Gauhati Press Club to have a permanent address. The said press club, which is

functioning from the Ambari archaeological site, needs to be shifted so that the richest archaeological site can be accommodated for necessary preservation and research works. Situated in the heart of Guwahati (under Kamrup metro district), the site has been excavated several times since 1968 to find more archaeological remains. Discovered in the course of constructions for the Reserve Bank of India's office in the locality, the site attracts visitors from different parts of the country. The archaeology department claims that the ruins of Ambari reflect the period of Sunga-Kushana dynasty. It continues sending letters to the press club committee to leave the site as well as the district administration to take necessary actions, but in vain. Gauhati Press Club, which does not enjoy the privilege of representing all professional journalists based in the city today, rather the present committee faced serious allegations of extending media space to a hardliner militant leader, and hence it should be a priority of the State government in Dispur to adopt a roadmap, where the important site can be made encroachment-free urgently and all the media persons also own a modern centre meaning for uplifting their professional spirit. (****The author is an Assam-based journalist and media activist)

Star Water honoured Rain Water harvesting discussed

IT News
New Delhi, March 27:

Water Star honoured as the keynote speaker in Mathura Last day the Water Warriors Award and Water Discussion organized by Life Line Foundation in association with Somnath Nakshatra Vatika. The program was organized in Sheetal Regency Mathura (U.P.) in which National Famous Water Star Ramesh Goyal was the keynote speaker. Gau Sadhi Shri Nandani Saraswat Chief Guest, Founder of Nakshatra Vatika Smt. Renuka Wadhwa and Colombia Pacific Virtual The Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Rashmi Sharma was the special guest.

The Principal Advocate Munish Sharma of the organization greeted everyone. Water Star Ramesh Goyal has blamed the water wastage by mankind for the scarcity of water. Discussed the reasons and gave water conservation measures with small examples. Minister's announcement that "Rain water Wherever it falls, store it whenever it falls", he talked about installing rainwater harvesting systems, roofing rainwater in homes. In addition to collecting it by making drums or underground tank, it is also possible to collect rainwater by keeping open mouth vessels in an open place was suggested. He said that water cannot be made in any mill or factory and its only source is

rain water. If we collect as much rain water, then we have created that much water, otherwise it will go into the flowing drains or If there is more rain, it will take the form of a flood and move ahead, destroying it. He gave water chalisa to the people present and Distributed copies of water beads. Program coordinator and founding secretary of the organization Priyadat Anand expressed gratitude to all. Goyal told that on this pretext, he went to the four dhams of Mathura district and got the benefit of having darshan of the major temples of Lord Krishna. It happened due to which one cult and two things became meaningful. He was also honored with the Water Warrior Award by the organization.

Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, Kshetrimayum Sajina Devi, do hereby declare that I have completed PGDCA from NIELIT bearing Roll No. 14075 of 2015. And that I have lost my Registration certificate issued by the Manipur University bearing Registration No. 0908101063 / 2009 on the way between Keishamthong to Babupara Imphal on March 15, 2022. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Kshetrimayum Sajina Devi
Contact No. 9089891092

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India's IPv6 progress

Education, Banking, Insurance, Transport, Telecom, Railways, Smart Cities etc. shall provide a boost to the implementation of updated technological solutions. Over time, many technical methods have been adopted by stakeholders to extend the usable life time of IPv4, but the same has resulted into added complexity to network infrastructure and

enhanced cost. It is high time that full transition to IPv6 may be adopted by all stakeholders to ensure future growth and innovation in Internet technology and services. Timely transitioning to IPv6 will make India ready to cater to the needs for the Big Tech revolution led by emerging digital technologies apart from providing impetus to the Digital India ecosystem.

****Note- This article is co-authored by Sh. A. K. Tiwari, Member(Technology), Digital Communication Commission and Sh. Sachin Rathore, ADG(NT-I), DoT. The views expressed are personal.

India's medical education system needs a holistic review



By -Vijay Garg

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has drawn unexpected attention to the Indian medical education system. The visuals of Indian students stranded in several cities of war-torn Ukraine are disturbing. He found himself in the grip of a fierce battle in his efforts to reach the border of neighboring countries from the struggling area. The evacuation brought back memories of the evacuation of Indian students stranded in the Chinese city of Wuhan, almost two years ago, at the start of the Covid pandemic. It is well known that a large number of Indian students go to foreign universities to get medical education, but such a large number in Ukraine has surprised them. In the light of this scenario, it becomes necessary to undertake a holistic review of India's medical education system.

One of the main reasons behind Indian students pursuing medical studies in foreign universities is the very high fees in India and not enough seats in indigenous medical colleges. But this is partly true, the real problem is much deeper and is related to the state of our health system. The only way to rectify the problem would be through structural changes in the health system and medical education is a part of it. The first survey on the health system including medical education was conducted by the Health Survey and Development Committee headed by Sir Joseph Bhowe in the year 1940. Many of the recommendations of this panel

were implemented after independence and new institutions were created to meet the health needs of the people and medical education curriculum was improved according to the situation. Such a comprehensive and comprehensive survey of the health system was not done again, although expert committees were definitely formed from time to time on specific subjects

In the 1980s, when the health system allowed corporate private hospitals to run, their influx of people's real needs and tailored medical education fell apart. Prior to this time, private sector participation in healthcare and medical education was limited to the opening of charitable hospitals, charitable and minority health centres. The policy decision allowing for-profit or corporate players opened the door for private medical colleges and hospitals in place. Legally, the subject of medical education is the responsibility of the government, but some state governments put more emphasis on promoting private medical colleges. As a regulator, the Medical Council of India (MCI), which should have been a self-control body, did the opposite, helping private players. The surplus from the agriculture sector has gone towards investing in medical and engineering education, with many private colleges either owned by politicians or running in the name of their pawns. On the other hand, the court also in its decision gave the right to private vocational education colleges to charge more fees than government institutions. Categories like Non-Resident Indian (NRI) and Promoter quota were added to ease recruitment. Medical seats were sold to the highest bidder.

The result of all this was that like a business, medical colleges grew like a mushroom here and

there. In addition, the increase in the number of private medical colleges has occurred mostly in the western and southern provinces, making medical colleges more concentrated in the region than in the rest of the country. There are also more government-run medical colleges in the southern states. Such a large number of colleges were sanctioned for dental education that some institutions are finding it difficult to even reach students. The salary that a dental doctor who passed out from here gets is less than that of a driver and a plumber. The standard of medical and dental education declined. Many private medical colleges have neither qualified staff nor attached training hospitals. The only thing is that the demand for medical and dental college seats kept increasing. Since high salaries or private practice in corporate private hospitals in urban areas generate good income, parents of children who simply did not have the capacity to pay high in private colleges, gave their children an 'open' education abroad. Started sending to 'shops'.

Experience shows that the experiment to improve the system by making participation of private medical colleges in education has proved unsuccessful. There is a shortage of properly qualified medical personnel in rural areas even today. The concentration of doctors is much higher in the urban-suburban area. There is a high demand for certain types of pathologist courses, while other disciplines such as preventive medicine, public health and communicable diseases are less inclined to specialize. Some states are given more priority in allotment and expansion of medical colleges. Access to medical education has become out of reach of the poor. Above

all, the cost of getting treatment in the private sector has skyrocketed. In such a scenario, it is futile to expect that all the gaps in the health infrastructure can be addressed through the private sector, including the process of students moving to countries like Ukraine.

Government agencies that are pushing for more privatization must heed some of the solutions given by experts who have suggested solutions in the past few years. Some of these ideas have been suggested by the Panel on Universal Health Care over the years. In these it was said that the governments should open medical colleges and attached hospitals in the deprived districts. Local students should be given preference for recruitment in these. In this way, the deprived areas will get medical colleges and those doctors who have studied there will be able to serve in their rural areas because they themselves are from this area. Also, gaining experience in treating local health problems during training will enhance their competencies and clinical experience. Some special rural needs related to treatment such as snake-bite, reduction in maternal and child mortality, leprosy, contaminated water-borne diseases, etc. will get special expertise. In addition, training of doctors should be made part of the overall health workforce plan rather than in isolated institutions. Many innovative ideas can be implemented according to the local specific needs of different regions and states. Adopting such schemes is very important if India is to achieve the goal of getting public health care enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals. The tragedy of young Indians trapped in the battlefield can be an eye-opener to this need.

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Congress high command has to allow its regional leaders to come UP

Sonia Gandhi's recent meetings with the G-23 leaders of her party for whom she did not have much time earlier underlines her realization that Rahul Gandhi has failed to live up to her expectations for him to be an unchallenged, front-ranking leader of the Congress. She has to look for other options, therefore, even if reluctantly.

It is no secret that for years, Sonia Gandhi had nurtured the hope that her eldest son will one day become the prime minister. It is this expectation which made her give primacy to Rahul although Priyanka Gandhi seemingly had wider acceptability among the people and the party members. Because of Priyanka's charming ways, she was way ahead in the popularity charts than her less amenable brother who was uneasy and standoffish in his public interactions.

Perhaps as a result of these character flaws, Rahul has

now clearly fallen behind others like Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee. Rahul's diminishing stature in the public domain can be said to have started when he was seen holidaying in Shimla while the RJD's Tejashvi Yadav put his heart and soul into the Bihar election campaign in the winter of 2020, ultimately ensuring that his party would emerge as the No. 1 in Bihar although it could not win the contest. If Rahul had campaigned equally energetically and not confirmed his reputation as a part-timer by his absenteeism, it is just possible that the RJD-Congress combine would have pipped the BJP-JD(U) duo at the post if not run it close. Following that spell of truancy in Bihar, Rahul also mostly kept away from the U.P. polls in contrast to the considerable effort which Priyanka put into the campaign. Like Tejashvi Yadav in Bihar, it was Akhilesh Yadav who led to the charge against the BJP in U.P.,

By Amulya Ganguli

emphasizing the emergence of regional leaders in the key states while the "national" parties took a back seat. It is Uttar Pradesh, and, more specifically Punjab, which appear to have sealed Rahul's fate. The Congress's loss in Punjab was the handiwork of the brother-and-sister duo of Rahul and Priyanka, who placed a surprising amount of faith in Navjot Singh Sidhu, a maverick known for his manic laughter at a comedy show. How anyone could have rooted for Sidhu in order to sideline the veteran Amarinder Singh who led the Congress to victory in the last assembly election is an indecipherable mystery. One explanation is that Singh, who belongs to the Patiala "royal" family, was not obsequious enough for the potentates of the Congress's first family. Whatever the reason, the Congress, or rather the two siblings, can be said to have shot the party in the foot in Punjab, squandering a winning hand.

That defeat along with those in Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, where the Congress could have won with a little bit of effort, meant that Rahul may be staring at a bleak political future. If he fails again in Gujarat with the Congress falling behind the BJP and the Aam Admi Party (AAP), which fancies its chances after its excellent showing in Punjab, then Rahul can say goodbye to his political career in any meaningful form. Such a setback will also mean the end of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty although it may hold on to its leadership position with the help of the "base" of sycophants who owe their allegiance to the family. The Congress has been splintering over the years with influential local leaders like Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee and Jagan Mohan Reddy breaking away. What nevertheless held it together was the aura of a national party which could always hark

to Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi for inspiration. But the party began to fall apart as the quality of the leaders in the first family began to deteriorate. Neither Sonia nor her children had the intellectual calibre to fend off the BJP's cultural-religious-communal challenge. The party could not even match the oratorical skills of the saffron group, let alone its organizational clout. Only the infusion of fresh faces – Sachin Pilot (?) – at the top level and the rehabilitation of veterans – along with the elevation of successful chief ministers like Bhupesh Baghel – may be able save the party. The Congress will also have to get down from its high horse and work in close collaboration with the likes of Mamata Banerjee (ignoring Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury) and Sharad Pawar, as it is already doing in Maharashtra. Otherwise, it seems destined to become extinct.

(IPA Service)

ZUF reshuffles office bearer

IT News
Imphal, March 28:

Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) has made a major reshuffling and downsizing of its official on March 21, 2022. Aihong Riamroi has been appointed as the full-fledged General Secretary of the front. The post of chief Secretary has been removed with effect from the date of this joint council meeting.

On the other hand the ZUF has introduced new departments such as War Victims, Art & Culture, Minority affairs and a new region of Intangki & sub-Region of Antrimon.

Those newly appointed office bearers are NZ Gonmei appointed as Speaker, Nickson Thoitak as Finance Secretary cum Minority Affairs, Felix Kamei as Home Affairs, John Pame as Information & Publicity, etc.

CADA office bearer appointed

IT News
Imphal, March 28:

A general body meeting of the Coalition Against Drugs & Alcohol has unanimously appointed the office bearers for the upcoming session 2022-2025 on Sunday at 11 am. The meeting held at Konung mamang Pureitromba Khongnang Makhong, Imphal East District, was presided by Hijam Priyokumar (CADA President).

Hijam Priyokumar has been appointed as President while Gitchandra Mangang has been appointed as the Secretary general. 10 other executive members have also been appointed assigning other charges.

Sports Corner

What happened to Nova Iter'22 expedition?

By - Tumchobemo Y Kithan (President, Tetso Mountaineering Club), Vekhropekoza (Vice President, Tetso Mountaineering Club), Moalemlelongchar (Secretary General, Tetso Mountaineering Club).
Vetted by: Kekong T (Rope Commander & Liaisoning Officer, Nova Iter'22 Expedition), Rongseninla Jamir (Navigation Commander Nova Iter'22 Expedition)

"Forty Four climbers were commanded by a Professor-a veteran Mountaineer the highest mountain in Nagaland on 17th of March, 2022. How it happened? What was the motivation? Mt. Saramati has already been climbed for more than thousand times, then why people in Nagaland and outside have been talking about these Forty Four people and their Commander? Why NOVA ITER'22 EXPEDITION should be placed in the history of Mountaineering in India? What is so special about these people and what EXACTLY they did?"

The story of NOVA ITER'22 began while WE-Dr. Aniruddha Babar, Moalemlelongchar, Vekhropekoza, Tumchobemo Kithan, Chandrasingh Limbu and Fulokawere climbing down Mt. Japfu after successful midnight summit. Thought of climbing Mt. Saramati was born somewhere on the steep slopes of Mt. Japfu in the fertile brain of our friend and Commander Dr. Aniruddha Babar. This led us to discuss the possibility of attempting Mt. Saramati during winter with our friend and a guide MrFuloka, a student of Japfu Christian College.

The real discussion on Mt. Saramati Expedition started to take place among the executives and Founder of Tetso Mountaineering Club somewhere around a last week of November, 2021, right after successful summit of Mt. Japfu. We gathered as usual in one of the corners of empty class room and began our discussion which lasted for more than an hour. The topic of discussion was not just about climbing Mt. Saramati but how to climb it. That was a moment when we unanimously decided that we will develop a unique approach to Mt. Saramati Peak by avoiding or completely bypassing the conventional route that goes all the way up from Thanamir village. The decision was not random. The decision was based on an age old saying that "There are multiple routes exists to reach the top of the Mountain". As

Dr. Aniruddha who himself is a veteran Mountaineer and Explorersaid once, "The real glory of Mountaineering Expedition lies NOT in scaling the Peak from regular, conventional route which has been traded by millions of footprints but attempting an assault on the Peak through unconventional, virgin, invisible, unimaginable, non-existent route". His words became the "Expedition Doctrine".

The President of Tetso Mountaineering Club, Tumchobemo Kithan, Vice President, Vekhropekoza and Secretary General, Moalemlelongchar, all experienced climbers decided to bring the vision of climbing Mt. Saramati through an unconventional route into reality. A primary research was initiated with the help of Google Maps and Satellite images of the targeted areas which divided into "sectors". Weather Reports in the region were studied. Bearings of the targeted areas were discovered and recorded. Finally two sectors were zeroed in - that is - Mimi sector and Khongjiri sector and the hypothesis was drawn that the routes to Mt. Saramati likely to be possible through these sectors. Necessary orders were issued to Navigation Platoon Commanded by Rongseninla Jamir to submit detailed report. With this hypothesis we called a meeting of members of Tetso Mountaineering Club and presented our "Hypothesis" in a detailed form. The members also approved our idea and finally we decided to take it up before general public of TetsoCollege that is our student community.

A Brochure was prepared to give a call for selection of members for NOVA ITER'22 Expedition. The care was taken to properly reflect and advise the objectives of Expedition that is to explore, study and document the new route to the top of the highest mountain in Nagaland and attempt to reach to the top through the same and climb down through another (i.e.

Fakim Village) route. Our detailed research has shown us that the attempt that we were trying to make was going to be unique as such attempt has never been made before. We received record response to our advertisement and finally 54 people have been selected for early morning training activities out of which 45 made to the final Expedition Team. The training was scheduled on the lines of a strict Military discipline. The selected team divided into four Ropes that is Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta; each having one Rope Commander. We formed Navigation Platoon headed by a Navigation Commander, Guards Platoon headed by Guards Commander and also formed an office of Quartermaster. All the Platoons and Ropes were put under the supreme command of Expedition Directorate headed by Expedition Commander assisted by an Adjutant. Finally, a TMC station command led by Station Commander was also set up to communicate on behalf and in absence of us with families of expedition members, College authorities and the media. Also, the Liaisoning Squad was formed to deal with local public, Thanamir & Khongjiri villages, other technical requirements and formalities. We were all ready.

Soon we figured out that exploratory expedition of such a kind will need heavy logistical support. Being a Mountaineering Team of a college, we had our basic well recognized limitations. While exploring possibilities we decided to reach out to the Rangapahar Military Station through our local Tetso College NCC channel. It is to be noted that we have received good number of male and female participants from Army Wing of National Cadet Corps of Tetso College who gradually became very helpful in our liaisoning with RMS. Officers at the RMS were cooperative and helpful who immediately understood our Expedition Plan and basic requirements. As a

result of their good gesture we were offered fifteen tents, handmade Map of the terrain, basic guidance and other logistical support like food, water, medical support on route.

We made sure that each and every member of the Expedition be made well acquainted with the actual aims and objectives of Expedition. It was made sure to make each member understand the hazards and dangers involve in the entire course of expedition. Moreover, the medical fitness forms (signed by MBBS Medical Practitioner) and consent forms (Signed by Parents/Guardians) have also been taken from the participants of NOVA ITER'22 EXPEDITION. We, the Executive Members personally contacted parents/guardians of each and every member of expedition to make sure no foul play has been involved in the matter of "FREE CONSENT".

The plan was absolutely foolproof, however, as experienced Mountaineers we acknowledged the fact that no matter how good the plan is it will never work in the hostile environment and war like situations in the Mountains especially when you are setting for an unexplored, unknown terrain. We made our ROPES well aware about this fact in following words- "IN MOUNTAINS EVERYTHING IS BOUND TO GO WRONG, ONLY YOUR DISCIPLINE, DETERMINATION, PATIENCE, COURAGE AND UNCONDITIONAL TRUST IN YOUR LEADERS WILL SAVE YOU".

On 11th of March, 2022 at 12.00 Hrs First Team and on 12th of March at 12.00 Hrs second Team left Dimapur in NST Bus. The departure ceremony was held at Tetso College Auditorium on 11th of March with Colonel Md Raza Israil, Sena Medal, Commandat, 5 Assam Rifles as the special guest. Also, a special prayer and blessings for the departing teams was invoked by Subedar K Kamei, Unit Pastor, 164 Naga TA. Finally with the encouragement from Director of Tetso College



Shri.KvuloLorin, we all left for the journey into the unknown.

As we reached Khongjiri we realized that despite constructive support from Khongjiri Village the things that we planned are not going to turn out as we imagined. Despite positive assistance of Khongjiri Village Council for NOVA ITER'22 expedition, due to surprising, unforeseen, unavoidable circumstances further marred by strange political undercurrents involving Thanamir and Khongjiri Village, Expedition Leadership was "FORCED" to retreat and reach Thanamir Village to climb from regular route. Our "forced" retreat defeated the primary objectives of Expedition- 1. We failed to trace and document the new (but already existing) route 2. We failed to climb to the Border Pillar No. 138 i.e. top of Mt. Saramati through a new (but already existing) route 3. We failed to climb up from Khongjiri through Border Pillar No 136, 137 to 138 and climb down from Pillar No. 138 through Fakim Village Route.

Sudden change of circumstances brought Expedition leadership under severe criticism. Initial restlessness among Rope Members turned into Mutiny against their Commanders. Some of the Expedition members launched merciless attacks of accusations on the helpless Commanders without having any knowledge about real facts. The situation got cleared once the village council members of

Khongjiri came to meet all of us on the evening of our departure to Thanamir and declared during discussion that "Leaders, Commanders and Liaisoning Squad of Expedition were not at FAULT nor they failed in their duties and Khongjiri Village will always be there to support modern ideas and visions in the best interest of the people not only just in the Khongjiri Village but also in the entire region". All misunderstandings among the Expedition Team members cleared, we moved ahead with full JOSH and renewed TEAM SPIRIT.

However, our journey from Khongjiri to Thanamir was not destined to be smooth. First Vehicle met with an accident around 2.00 HRS. All passengers were safe and sound. The situation was professionally handled by the Officer from Nagaland Police who came running with his Jawans from Pungro at a call from our Expedition Commander Dr. Aniruddha Babar.

Battling all odds NOVA ITER'22 Expedition finally reached Mt. Saramati with the Tricolour Flag of our Nation, TMC Banner and Flag of Tetso College.

NOVA ITER'22 EXPEDITION FAILED. We did not achieve what we planned for. Merely reaching on top of Mt. Saramati through an easy, garden route of Thanamir did not serve the purpose of Expedition. Tetso Mountaineering Club did not have any ego mongering desire

to reach on top, click pictures and get famous. We Are Different!

Who knows, our vision, our attempt, our ideas were miscommunicated and wrongly interpreted by those who opposed us. We were not there to claim Mt. Saramati. How can we claim a Mountain which is our GOD's beautiful creation for entire humanity? We were there at Khongjiri just to fall in love with what our heavenly Father gifted us. However, we were deprived of it. We failed NOT because of natural calamity or deadly circumstances, but because of the 'Ignorance, Insecurities, Narrow mindedness and sheer Blindness of Man'.

Many will not believe our story. Many will ask for evidences which we will readily provide. Many will keep on criticizing Commanders and Expedition officials. Many will even laugh at us. However, it was our Indian Army that remained with us throughout our struggles and pains which witnessed what we actually went through.

We have nothing much to say now, but we believe, more Expeditions in the future will surely come in search of new routes to Mt. Saramati, and they will find our footprints there. We left Khongjiri with a determination to surely come back, HOWEVER, our hearts and our footprints will remain there telling the story of valor and determination of Forty Four Climbers and their stubborn, brave Commander Dr. Aniruddha Babar to the generations to come.