

## ANSAM reacts to Hindi imposition to NE people

IT News  
Imphal, May 11:

The All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) has strongly reacted to the Union Govt. decision to enforce Hindi till class ten in the NE states of India.

A statement of ANSAM said that India is a union of States that embrace, respect and celebrate its diversity. Such pluralistic characters range from physical geography, political history, social fabric, religion, race, language and ways of life. It is this rich diversity that is recognized and sustained through the Constitution since independence.

"Any callous political attempt to nullify this fundamental pluralistic union to any form of a homogenous identity is thus insensitive, regressive and is reflective of the ruling dispensation's inconsiderate bent of mind towards smaller communities. Such unconstitutional and undemocratic policy

fundamentally overlooks the consequences to an already vulnerable smaller communities like Nagas, who have been struggling to preserve our unique identities and cultures", the ANSAM statement said.

It added that Language is an intrinsic aspect of every culture and in the northeastern region this character is synonymous with our diverse tribal identity.

Manipur is a state where 34 recognized tribes have thrived along with other non-tribal communities and our diverse languages are a predominant identity that is sung, spoken, written and preserved with pride. Hence even the erstwhile attempt to make Meiteilon (Manipuri) compulsory in school syllabus was opposed tooth and nail by all the Tribals including ANSAM and the same was eventually forced to withdraw.

In such a sensitive backdrop, the abrupt decision to impose Hindi as

a compulsory subject up to Class X in the northeast comes as an extremely irrational and immature political move. While agreeing to introducing a plethora of languages in education institutes and through the linguistic departments, the mandatory imposition of any language will threaten the survival of local/native/indigenous languages.

As such the new policy not only carries the potent risk of widespread unrest but also that of irretrievably destroying the very ideals of Indian pluralistic character. Hindi is merely an official language which is not even spoken by half of the country. Given this non-qualifiable statistical proportion of Hindi speaking population in India and even a lower percentage in the north east, promotion of the same as a national language is both irrelevant and condescending. Indigenous communities like the Nagas see this as hegemonic imposition to an

already vulnerable survival of our traditional culture and identity. ANSAM will not accept any form of language imposition under any circumstances and rise to fight all out to protect and sustain our age-old indigenous languages that have been existing far before Indian Independence.

The ANSAM urged the government to categorically dismiss such "compulsory" "mandatory" dictates making unjustifiable imposition upon the young populace who are the future pillars of the society, the government should strive to efficiently preserve and promote our local tribal languages by increasing the composition and mandate of linguistic departments in the northeastern states.

"Peaceful co-existence of various communities cannot come through imposed policies, it can only be achieved through mutual respect and preservation of our pluralistic composition", ANSAM statement said.

## One lakh Pengba fishlings released into Loktak, Targetted to release 1 crore by end of May



IT News  
Imphal, May 11:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended a ranching programme today aimed at rejuvenation of Pengba (Osteobrama Belangeri), State Fish of Manipur in Loktak Lake and distribution of inputs (Cage Net and Fish Feed) at Sendra, Bishnupur District.

Addressing the formal function, the Chief Minister appreciated the concerted efforts and schemes of the ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore taken up in collaboration with local fishermen and the department in trying to protect and revive the indigenous fish varieties of the State.

Out of 54 indigenous fish varieties in the State, we have now only 35 varieties in existence, he said, expressing concern over the environmental hazard caused by human negligence. He strongly deliberated on the public habit of dumping garbage into our rivers which in turn fall into Loktak Lake and making it hard for the fish and other organisms to survive.

Now is not the time for speeches, it is the time to act, the Chief Minister said stressing on the importance of acting on the government's promises and assurances. Sometimes, we seem to forget that there is a democratically elected government formed with the mandate of the

people, he said, highlighting obstructions to developmental projects from some quarters. He said that the present government was formed with the full mandate of the people, and further appealed to the people against obstructing developmental schemes.

Explaining the story behind implementation of the Loktak Livelihood Mission in 2018, the Chief Minister said that during his air travels, he noticed a vast tract of swampy area around Loktak Lake lying idle. This gave him an idea to utilize the area for rearing fish by means of pen culture after clearing the phumdis which in turn will be turned into organic fertilizer, he said.

The Chief Minister also said that altogether Rs. 15 crore has already been sanctioned for developmental works for the peripheral area of Loktak Lake and only about Rs. 2.5 crore have been utilized so far.

Highlighting that the shortage of fish production in the State is due to lack of releasing fish in the lake, the Chief Minister said today we are releasing one lakh fishlings, and aim to release around one crore during the month of May. He also made an earnest appeal to the fish farmers to create awareness among the public as well as stop catching fishlings. The Chief Minister also appealed to the fish farmers against using

electric current to catch fish.

N. Biren Singh also spoke strongly against encroachment on forest land and Loktak Lake. Stating that out of 12,344 pattadars around the lake, 379 illegal encroachers were found, he said adding that after the Loktak Protection Act was implemented in 2006, no new patta could be issued. He reiterated that stringent actions will be taken up against all encroachers and concerned government officials who were involved in issuing illegal pattas.

The Chief Minister also warned against illegal drug business and illegal poppy plantations. Calling upon all to preserve and save Loktak Lake, the Chief Minister said that Manipur's own existence rests on the existence of Loktak Lake and Koubur range. So it is very important to safeguard Loktak Lake and Koubur Range, he said. He further stressed on the importance of safeguarding our forest cover and added that with conviction and commitment we have to meet all challenges for our future generation.

Earlier, around Rs. 400 crore were utilized for importing fish into the State annually; however, in the past 4-5 years, we have managed to bring this down to around Rs. 300 crore.

contd. on page 4

## AMBSU demands grace marks from Education Department



IT News  
Imphal, May 11:

All Manipur Bengali Student Unions demanded grace mark for the class 12 students who offered Bengali subject which was conducted by COHSEM, as the question were from out of syllabus.

Speaking to reporters in a press meet held at Jiribam news Network conference hall, AMBSU president Md. Ibrahim

said "students who offered Bengali subject, appeared the exam with nervousness as the prose section of question paper which obtained 38 marks were from out of syllabus", and added that Education Department to give a grace marks for the Bengali offering students.

The press meets were attended by AMBSU, General secretary Hamidul Alam, Asst. Secretary Md. Rajmul Hussain along with AMBSU's members.

## SUK organized 9th state level spelling Competition

IT News  
Imphal, May 11:

Student's Union of Kangleipak (SUK) organized ninth state level spelling Competition on the theme "Lottuna leiriba Maheirrol singli lousing puthoktuna Malem gi hidannabagi Lambida Changsinba" which laterally means revealing of the talents of Manipuri Youths and competition of Indigenous Manipur language on the theme "Ariba Manipuri lol(kanglei lol) gi phabaja Mashakpu Matam gi yawol da yokkhattuna thamba" which laterally means to preserved the Indigenous Manipuri language has started from today onward at Johnston Higher Secondary School.

The preliminary round of spelling competition will be held on May 12 at Johnston

Higher Secondary school and competition of Indigenous Manipur language was held today at C.C. Higher Secondary School. Both competitions final will be held on May 19 2022 and the prize distribution will be held on May 26.

The spelling Competition will be classified as two categories. Category A will be from class 5 to 7 and the category B will be from class 8 to 10. Competition on Indigenous Manipur language can be joined by the Post Graduate students.

Prized for the First, second and third position will be 20,000+ Certificate+ Memento, 15000+ Certificate+ Memento and 10000+ Certificate+ Memento respectively. Remaining finalist will also give Consolation prize by the Organizer (SUK).

## Shija Celebrates 26 Years of Laparoscopic Surgery in Manipur

By: Dr. Kh. Palin  
Imphal, May 11:

Shija Hospitals & Research Institute (SHRI) completed an illustrious 26 years of laparoscopic surgery today. SHRI performed the first laparoscopic operation on May 10, 1996, using instruments permanently installed at the then-hospital on RIMS road, Lamphel, Imphal.

Dr. Purnendu Roy, from Kolkata, was the tutor and guide and under him, the surgeons of SHRI learned laparoscopic surgery and took over the laparoscopic surgery procedures from him. Despite significant skepticism among

doctors and patients, Shija was able to do remarkable laparoscopic surgery on the gallbladder and appendix on numerous occasions and establish it in Manipur. As a result, patients, their families, and other surgeons and experts recognized that laparoscopic surgery was here to stay and to proliferate.

Shija Hospitals then installed the first video endoscopic machines (Endoscopes) in 1997, allowing the hospital's specialists to perform upper and lower GI endoscopy as well as therapeutic procedures. Similarly for colonoscopic procedures, not only diagnostic but also therapeutic

colonoscopy were done at the hospital. It included performing polypectomies, taking biopsies, to stop bleeding, and inserting stents in colon cancer to provide palliative treatment for inoperable cancers of the colon.

In 1998, the hospital established ERCP (Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography) for the first time in Manipur and was then able to proceed to treat patients with CBD stones, and pancreatic tumors which blocked the CBD causing jaundice. It also enables the surgeons to put stents to relieve deep jaundice in the patient so that these patients who

needed to go to places like Guwahati and Kolkata for such procedures were now able to access the facilities at SHRI. From then on, the laparoscopic surgery progressed rapidly and the confidence of the people and other surgeons rose and resulting in a high volume of laparoscopic surgeries.

With the establishment of the first Harmonic Scalpel in South-East Asia (an instrument used for laparoscopic surgery that does not cause bleeding and is safe for the patient) in January 1997, advanced laparoscopic surgery could begin in Manipur very soon. As a result, the hospital was able to do a lot of advanced

laparoscopic procedures which involved the esophagus, stomach, rectum, tumors of the liver, cysts of the liver, and pancreas. The experts at SHRI began performing bloodless surgeries for breast, hemorrhoids, and thyroid using a harmonic scalpel. With rapid progression into advanced laparoscopic surgery, Shija Hospitals became a center known for laparoscopic in the region as well in the country. Surgeons at SHRI quickly became faculty members teaching other junior surgeons skills and arts of laparoscopic surgery joining the Association of Minimal Access Surgeons of India (AMASI).

Recognizing the potential, skills, and abilities of the surgeons at SHRI, the association made Dr. Jugendra Sorokhaibam, a faculty member, and executive committee member and gradually progressed to become the president of AMASI (sub-section of ASI- Association of Surgeons of India), the largest association of Minimal Access surgeons in the world with over 11,000 members. Today, he is one of the faculties who go to different cities and towns of the country as well as different countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and other nations to operate and demonstrate surgeries to the sur-

geons of these countries. Later two other senior surgeons at Shija, Dr. Devendra Kh. and Dr. Chongtham Chandragupta also became national faculties of AMASI. Dr. Jugendra has also been instrumental to bring skills courses to Imphal to develop the skills of younger surgeons in the region as well as those of the countries. He also formulated a safe laparoscopic cholecystectomy (Gall Bladder removal) training program which was being demonstrated in various parts of the country to bring laparoscopic surgery to a very safe level and standard as expected by the association.

contd. on page 4

# The next Census will be Digital and the final

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The 15th Census of India was held in 2011. This process is repeated every ten years, hence the 16th census was scheduled in 2021, which was postponed due to the pandemic. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced that the next census of the country will be done digitally, and no citizen will be left out. Be it this year or next, the e-Census may be final. It is quite possible that after this the census will never be conducted again. All the data from the birth of infants to the death of adults will continue to be collected in digital form and the government will automatically send the information to the eligible citizens for various public welfare schemes, which will remove all the discrepancies. For this, the central government is going to amend the Birth-Death Registration Act. The draft of the amended law is in its final stages. It is estimated that the new law may come into force in the country before the start of the census in 2022. To make e-Census more scientific, modern technologies will be added to it.

After the amendment of the law, the account of birth and death of citizens will reach the central government. Every birth and death will be registered by 2024. The birth and death register will also be linked to the census. This means that the census will be updated automatically after every birth and death in the country. This step of the government will actually reinforce the concept of 'One Nation One Data'. At present, this data reaches the center after a long wait through the states. At present, many cards are being used like Aadhar, Driving License, Voter ID, Passport and Ration Card, which people get made, but often these cards are not closed after their death. Because of this, unnecessary data keeps getting collected and there is a risk of misuse of these documents, while the benefits of facilities are not accessible to the eligible persons. After the amendment of the law, the wait of ten years for the census will end. The complete picture of the country's population will continue to reach the center every month, which will help in making new schemes.

The next census will be the e-Census and based on this, the development plan of the country for the next 25 years will be prepared. After birth, the details will be added to the census register and after 18, the name will be included in the voter list and after death, the name will be deleted. This will make it easier to change the name and address. Earlier this year, the central government had talked about some amendments in the rules to allow online self-counting in the upcoming census and the National Population Register (NPR). The announcement was made in 2020, but was postponed in view of the pandemic. The Center recently extended the deadline for change of jurisdiction for all states to June 30, 2022. Earlier this deadline was December 31, 2021. For the first time in the 140-year history of Census in India, it is proposed to collect data through a mobile app. Census provides invaluable socio-economic data, which form a reliable basis for policy making.

## Tolerance was low inside man



By: Vijay Garg

Man is a social creature, he is superior to all other living creatures, animals and birds living on the earth. Nature has bestowed upon man the blessings by which he can do his own good but man does not use them. Today I would like to share with you some of the things that are breaking down in society.

In the present age it is astonishing to see that in the modern age man is losing a lot of emotion inside, love from outside, feeling of helping others, lack of tolerance etc. Today's man sees only his own meaning because man only wants the full realization of his rights. The human being has turned away from his duties. Doing good to others is a sham. The only thing we can see and hear in the society is how my house will be filled or how my pocket will be filled. People are limited to this only. Due to which the community spirit among the people is declining.

Today every human being is engaged in the race of money. Due to which all the relationships have ended. Humanity is rarely seen among the people. As seen in the old days, mutual love, tolerance, etc. could be seen in the homes. At that time people did not give much importance to money but today only money has become predominant among the people. Due to which relationships are breaking up. Today the situation has become such that we use words to express our thoughts to others. Sometimes the other person who listens to them does not tolerate it. He feels awkward. All this is happening due to lack of tolerance inside the human being. Everyone in the society wants to get ahead of each other to show off their money. As usual, cars, scooters, vehicles, rickshaws, etc. all want to get ahead of each other while walking on the road. They try to compete with each other but to compete it takes patience which is in the people.

Nowadays almost all relationships, even nail-flesh relationships like aunts, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. have faded. Love at home is gone. The main reasons for this are inequality of money and

The second is the lack of tolerance. Everyone is busy with themselves. Someone has time to sit together but everyone has time to gossip. Relationships between brothers are breaking down. Domestic violence is on the rise. The main purpose of the people is that we should talk to everyone but we should not get the opposite answer but no one thinks that if we have spoken then we should also learn to endure.

It has often been observed that if a person is unhappy, people try to push him down instead of encouraging him. They also keep thinking in their minds that neither he can get ahead of us nor he will be happy. People just say from above that God forbid you rise higher but there remains a flaw in the minds of the people. I just want to say that love and tolerance should be awakened in the people as before. People should speak sweetly to each other instead of speaking harshly. People should give less importance to money and be more inclined towards cooperation.

Biodiversity benefits humanity in many ways. It helps make the global economy more resilient, it functions as an integral part of our culture and identity and it's even linked to our physical health. However, despite its importance, Earth's biodiversity has decreased significantly over the last few decades. The core threat to biodiversity on the planet and therefore a threat to human welfare is the combination of human population growth and resource exploitation. The population requires resources to survive and grow and those resources are being removed unsustainably from the environment. Man has begun to overuse or misuse most of the natural ecosystems. Due to this unsustainable use of resources, once-productive forests and grasslands have been turned into deserts and wastelands have increased all over the world. Mangroves have been cleared for fuel wood and prawn farming, which has led to a decrease in the habitat essential for breeding of marine fish. Wetlands have been drained to increase agricultural land. These changes have grave economic implications in the longer terms. The current destruction of the remaining large areas of wilderness habitats, especially in the diverse tropical forests and coral reefs, is the most palpable threat worldwide to biodiversity. A report finds that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history.

Scientists have estimated that there are around 8.7 million species of plants and animals in existence. However, only 1.2 million species have been identified and described so far, most of which are insects. The number of species, however, is likely to be greater by a factor of at least 10. Plants and insects as well as other forms of life not known till date are continually being identified in the world's hotspots of diversity. Unfortunately, at the present rate of extinction, about 25% of the world's

# Threats to Biodiversity

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwar Singh  
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'species will undergo extinction fairly rapidly. This may occur at the rate of 10,000-20,000 species per year at a rate 1000-10,000 times faster than the expected natural rate. Human actions could well exterminate 25% of the world's species within the next twenty or thirty years. Much of this mega-extinction is related to human population growth, industrialization and changes in land use patterns. A major part of this extinction will, of course, occur in bio-rich areas such as tropical forests, wetlands and coral reefs. The loss of wild habitats, due to rapid human population growth and short-term economic development, is the contributor to the rapid destruction of biodiversity. Island flora and fauna, which have high endemism in small isolated areas surrounded by the sea on all sides, have so far been most seriously affected by human activity. This has already led to the extinction of many island plants and animals (the Dodo in Madagascar is a well-known example). Habitat loss also results from the introduction of species from one area into another by humans, disturbing the balance in existing communities. In the process, the purposely or accidentally introduced organisms (some notorious example being Eupatorium, Lantana, water Hyacinth, Congress grass or Parthenium) have led to the extinction of many species and have also adversely affected human health. The loss of species occurs due to the destruction of natural ecosystems, either for conversion to agriculture or industry, or by over-extraction of their resources or through pollution of air, water and soil.

In India, forests and grasslands are continuously being converted to agricultural land. Encroachments have been repeatedly legalized. Similarly, our natural wetlands systems have been drained to established croplands resulting in loss of aquatic species. Grasslands that were once sustainably used by relatively smaller number of human being and

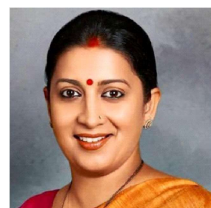
their cattle are either changed to other forms of use or degraded by over-grazing. Our natural forests are being deforested for timber and replanted using teak, Sal or other single species for their timber value. Such monoculture plantations do not support the same biological diversity as a multistoried natural forest, which has a closed canopy and a risk undergrowth of vegetation; nor do they nourish the soil. When excessive firewood is collected from the forest by lopping the branches of trees, the forest canopy is opened up and this alters the local diversity. Foraging cattle retard the regeneration of forest as young seedlings are constantly trampled. The ever increasing human population pressing on the fringes of our forest areas degrades forest ecosystems and the not-so-subtle daily encroachments gradually decrease the buffer zones and the forested areas. A primary example is the Gir National Park, the last bastion of the Asian lion- a metre-gauge railway runs through the park, a state expressway and three temples. This is a major factor to consider in evaluating the quality of ecosystem. Repeated fires started by local grazers to increase the growth of grass ultimately reduce regeneration and lower the diversity of plant species. Without alternate source of fodder, this pressure cannot be decreased.

Another factor that disrupts forest biodiversity is the introduction of exotic weeds, which are not a part of the natural vegetation. These weeds spread at the expense of the diverse range of indigenous undergrowth species. The impact on the diversity of insect, birds and other wildlife species, though not adequately studied, is quite obvious. In our country a variety of traditional farming techniques evolved over several centuries-slash- and -burn cultivation in the Himalayas and rab, lopping off tree branches to act as wood-ash fertilizers in the Western Ghats are two such systems. When the human population in these ar-

reas was low, these were sustainable methods of agriculture. Unfortunately, these areas now have a large number of people who subsist largely on forest agriculture. These methods are now unsustainable and are leading to loss of forest biodiversity. The overharvesting of fish, especially using large trawling boats, is leading to serious depletion of fish stocks. Marine turtles, which are inadvertently caught in fishing nets, are being massacred off the coast of Orissa. The rare whale shark, a highly-endangered species is being killed off the coast of Gujarat. Specific threats to certain animals are related to large economic benefits. The skin and bones of tigers, ivory of elephants, horns of rhinos and perfume of the musk deer are extensively used abroad. Bears are killed for their gall bladders. Corals and shells are also collected for export or sold on the beaches of Chennai, Kanyakumari and the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Tortoises, exotic birds and other small animals are packed into tiny containers and smuggled abroad for pet trade. A variety of wild plants with real or sometimes dubious medicinal values are being over-harvested. The commonly collected plants include Rauwolfia, Nux vomica, Datura and others. The garden plants collected for illegal trade include orchids, ferns and mosses. We do not see all the varied functions that biodiversity plays in our lives because they are not obvious. We rarely see how they control our environment unless we study nature closely, over a period of time. *We tend to overlook nature's inter-relationship and take short-term actions that can have a serious impact on biodiversity and its habitats. Humans do not have right to do this. We only share this planet with millions of other species that also have a right to survive. It is morally wrong to allow our actions to lead to the extinction of other species.*

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## "How India is empowering women through policy"



By: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani

The Indian government has catapulted the maxim of *sarvajananahitaya, sarvajanasukhaya* (for the good of all, for the happiness of all) into a palpable reality in the past decade. The extant essence of *janhiti* (public interest) has been reinvented to "mainstream" gendered experiences. Gender mainstreaming has seamlessly pervaded every sphere of statecraft, ensuring it is not reduced to the ranks of an artificial add-on.

The incumbent government adopts a system-wide gendered lens to inform policy praxis. Women have been mandatorily recognised as the head of the household for the issuance of ration cards, under the auspices of The National Food Security Act, 2013. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) accord benefits—homeownership and LPG connections, respectively—to women beneficiaries. Such interventions have unequivocally fortified women's access to economic resources, elevating inter alia their social status.

Earlier schemes like the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) that inadvertently exempted women from

seeking health services have been re-engineered and conclusively replaced. In its place, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) not only renders households without any adult male members eligible for the scheme, but also dismisses the off-colour cap of five beneficiaries per family that would penalise women in larger families, owing to male preference. Additionally, PM-JAY supports a substantial number of health benefits packages that are either women-centric in nature or are overwhelmingly common to both men and women. Under the aegis of the scheme, more women than men have availed of oncology services.

A barely decade-old government is doing what other sardharis who held the reins of the nation for the better part of the century could not: It is visibilising women, it is nurturing nari shakti. By placing assets such as houses and LPGs in the hands of women, it is challenging the unequal status quo. It is doing so not only through policies but by bridging gendered data deficits.

The first nationwide Time Use Survey was carried out in 2019 shepherded by the National Statistical Office under the stewardship of the incumbent government. The Survey has finally put a number to the unpaid, unacknowledged sweat and toil of our jananis—7.2 hours a day, that is approximately how much the average Indian woman devotes to caregiving and domestic services against the average Indian man's 2.8 hours. The investigation of the implications and consequent policy corrections for the same has only been

made possible by this Survey.

It is worthy to note that it was in 1998, contemporaneously with the far-sighted Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance, that the TUS was first piloted across six Indian states; now, Time Use Surveys have found a prominent place in policy discourse and find mention in the global indicator framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs).

As a routine source of crucial information on nutrition, fertility, family planning, reproductive, maternal and child health and mortality, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a barometer of India's performance in securing equitable health outcomes, especially for women. The sampling strategy of NFHS-4 (2015-16) underwent a comprehensive, methodological renovation, statistically accounting for all districts in the nation, proving to be a colossal improvement over its predecessor NFHS-3's (2005-06) nationally representative sample. Sub-national and district-level representativeness has prompted prioritised, targeted interventions to address healthcare challenges.

NFHS-4 for the first time recorded gender-disaggregated cancer prevalence. NFHS-5 for the first time recorded information on whether women had ever undergone a screening test for cancer of the oral cavity, breast, and cervix. Together, NFHS-4 and 5 provide a tour d'horizon of the health of the Indian woman and serve as an incomparable mine of data.

The statistical architecture of the nation as we knew it has been rebuilt to count women. The popular ac-

demic adage holds that "what gets counted counts". This provides a scaffolding for resource allocation for policy-making. Recognising the same, quinquennial employment and unemployment data collected erstwhile by the National Sample Survey (NSS) were supplanted by quarterly and annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for timely gender-disaggregated labour force statistics. The PLFS now boasts of gender-disaggregated data such as Female Worker Population Ratio, Female Labour Force Participation Rate and Female Unemployment Rate.

Under the stewardship of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) initiated the collection of data on female feticide in 2014. Such despondent data points are bitter pills to swallow but in the spirit of quantification, the incumbent government has facilitated its collection and has swiftly acted upon its implications through the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Quantification is a step towards resolution and rectification. The government is generating a plethora of gender-disaggregated data through either implementation-related statistics or through surveys and using them to inform or reform schemes, thus perpetuating a virtuous cycle. It is now the onus of individuals and groups in academia, research and evaluation consultancies to conduct audits and third-party assessments of such data to further mainstream gender in public policy for *janhiti* (public interest).

(The writer is a Union Minister of Women and Child Development)

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# Cyclone Asani: Red Alert for Andhra, NDRF teams in 3 States, MHA reviews preparedness



Agency Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), May 11:

As the severe cyclone Asani neared the east coast with a wind speed of up to 105 kmph, a total of 50 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been earmarked for West Bengal, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 22 teams have been deployed on the ground while 28 self-contained teams have been kept on alert within the states to tackle the cyclonic situation. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert to Guntur Krishna, East and West Godavari, and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh as the cyclonic storm is approaching the state. The cyclone, which was moving at 5 kmph in the morning, gained speed to 25 kmph later in the day, as it lies centered around 210 km south-southeast of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh and 530 km south-southwest of Gopalpur in Odisha, according to the latest bulletin issued by the IMD at 4.30 pm. The system is expected to recurve by today evening and move parallel to the coast in the north-northeast direction. IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said that cyclone Asani has already achieved the

maximum stage of intensification and is gradually getting weakened. "After nearing the Andhra Pradesh coast in the evening, the system will change its course and move off and along the Odisha coast," he said.

The cyclonic storm Asani is currently moving in a "cone of uncertainty" over west-central Bay of Bengal and is expected to cross the coast anywhere between Kakinada and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday evening.

Special Chief Secretary (Disaster Management) G Sai Prasad said they were constantly monitoring the path of the cyclone and, accordingly, issuing alerts to the respective district administration. "We have already sent nine teams each of National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force to the coastal districts for emergency operations," the Special Chief Secretary said.

State Disaster Management Authority Director B R Ambedkar said gale with a speed of 75-95 kmph was likely along the Bay of Bengal coast under the impact of Asani.

Mohapatra said that the severe cyclonic storm will weaken into a cyclonic storm on Wednesday and turn into a deep depression on Thursday.

Bhubaneswar Regional Meteorological Centre Director H R Biswas said that the severe cyclonic storm has already started losing steam.

Light to moderate rainfall took place in Puri and Khurda, while very heavy downpour is likely to occur in some places in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and coastal Odisha from Tuesday night. He said the gale-force wind speed will decline to 80-90 kmph by Tuesday night and to 60-70 kmph by Wednesday evening.

The Met Department has warned fishermen against venturing into deep sea till Thursday as Odisha braced for heavy rain in the coastal areas.

The weather department has predicted heavy rains in Guntur Krishna, East and West Godavari, and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh today and on Wednesday. Wind is gushing with a speed of 48 km to 63 km.

About Preparedness In Odisha, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) P K Jena said local authorities have been put on alert to face heavy rain and water-logging and asked to undertake evacuation of people from 15 blocks in four coastal districts.

The Ganjam district administration has closed all beaches including Gopalpur for visitors for two days as sea condition is

likely to remain very high on Tuesday, and become very rough on May 12 before improving thereafter.

In Andhra Pradesh, all the coastal district collectors have been advised to take all precautions in view of the cyclone and rehabilitation is underway on the sea belt and coastal area villages. Teams of NDRF and SDRF have been kept ready for rescue operations in the state and people are advised to stay in their houses and safe places.

Out of 22 deployed NDRF teams, 12 teams have been stationed at the coastal districts of West Bengal while nine in Andhra Pradesh. Besides, one team was deployed at Balasore district in Odisha.

Since the issuance of early warning from the IMD, NDRF personnel were conducting awareness drives about do's and don'ts during cyclone and persuading people living on the coast line to shift to safer place/cyclone shelters.

Meanwhile, the Union Home Secretary has also reviewed preparedness of central ministries/agencies and administrations of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in view of the cyclone.

Taking to Twitter, the ministry said that the IMD informed that the cyclone is likely to reach West Central Bay of Bengal close to Kakinada-Vishakhapatnam coasts by May 11 morning to noon and then move along Andhra coast between Kakinada and Vishakhapatnam (Krishna, East and West Godavari and Vishakhapatnam districts).

Moreover, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) has put its officials on high alert in the wake of possible heavy rainfall triggered by the cyclone and asked them to ensure speedy restoration of railway traffic, a statement said. ECOR has positioned special teams for early restoration of tracks, signaling system and electrification and also kept on standby diesel locomotives in case of power failure.

# MP (Lok Sabha) Lorho S Pfoze inaugurates Japhou Model Village play ground Reviewed Disha Schemes in Chandel & Tengnoupal



IT News Chandel, May 11:

MP (Lok Sabha), Lorho S Pfoze yesterday inaugurated Japhou Model Village Play ground. The said play ground was constructed under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, (MPLADS- Lok Sabha 2019-2020). Speaking as the Chief guest in the inaugural function the MP said that with the aim of developing the human resources particularly of the youths, two villages, Japhou and Modi villages were assigned as model villages in the district. He further said the Member of Parliament and the Deputy Commissioner of the district will guide and play the role of leaders but the onus of making these villages a real model villages lies with the villagers and all the other stakeholders of the villages. He urged the district level officers of different departments to help these villages in implementing the state and central sponsored schemes and added that though it was a 2020-2021 project, all the DLOs and the District administration should continue extending support till

these villages have become a model village in real sense.

He further added that making or being a Model village has a great significance, it is not only about implementing the government schemes but it is to build up and change the attitude of the public and to instill a feeling of being part of the development process, thus developing a civic sense and making every villagers realise their role in the development process, only then it will become a real Model Village.

While concluding his speech, the hon'ble MP said that being a Member of Parliament, his concerns are not only above any particular religion or communities but about the whole state, he urged all the people of the State to forget the past differences and unite and work towards a united and prosperous state.

Yesterday's function was also attended by the DC Chandel, Mayanglambam Rajkumar, SDO Chandel, Naorem Pritam, and Ex ADC Member, Manglem Monsang as guests of honour and functional President respectively and Ng. Maipangkam Monsang, Chief of Japhou Vil-

lage as the Chief Host. The function was also attended by DLOs, village heads and representatives of different CSOs.

In other event held at the conference Hall of the DC complex Chandel, the Hon'ble MP had a review meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA), for Chandel and Tengnoupal District. The review meeting was also attended by the DC Chandel, Shri Mayanglambam Rajkumar, DC Tengnoupal, Mannuamching, SDOs and all the concerned DLOs of the two districts.

In today meeting the progress of various schemes / programmes covered under DISHA were discussed in detail with Power point presentations by the concerned DLOs of both the districts. It may be mentioned here that a total of 28 (twenty eight) different schemes/ programmes like MGNREGS, PMAY-G, ICDS, DDU-GKY, PMEGP to name few, are covered by DISHA.

Today's meeting discussed the Achievements, Challenges and future course of Action/way forwards were discussed in detail with the MP.

# Group Captain S Biswas Takes Over the Command of IAF Station at Thane



A guard of honor being accorded to Group Captain Sushanta Biswas, the new Station Commander, IAF, Thane.

IT Correspondent Mumbai, May 11:

Group Captain Sushanta Biswas, took over as Station Commander of the Indian Air Force station at Thane near Mumbai from outgoing Group Captain Shekhar Sharma in an official ceremony.

Group Captain Biswas, assumed the responsibility in a befitting military ceremony

conducted at Air Force Station located at Thane West held on Tuesday.

Group Captain Biswas is an alumnus of the College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad (Telangana). He has vast experience in Aircraft Navigation and Missile Systems and has held key appointments at various Air Force establishments. Before taking over the command of Air Force Station Thane, he

was holding the appointment of Command Air Defence Officer (Missile), Head Quarter South Western Air Command, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.

The IAF station (26 wings) was raised in May 1968 as a Surface to Air Missile Establishment tasked with protecting Mumbai and surrounding areas. It operates with 2 Combat and one tech Surface-to-Air Guided Weapons (SAGW)

squadron The Wing is spread across three pockets namely the main base at Thane, Air Force at Sheva (Raigad district), and Karave (Navi Mumbai). The complex also has a Kendriya Vidyalaya and a canteen for defence personnel offering all kinds of items for day-to-day activities at discount.

The Thane IAF station remains on standby to assist local administration during natural calamities and as per the exigencies. In 2019 the IAF, Thane team had rescued over 50 people including 16 infants, trapped in torrential rains in the Khadavali area in the Thane district by deploying an MI-17 helicopter. It had also participated in rescue operations during the Tauktae cyclone that affected Maharashtra in May last year.

In another development, Rear Admiral Vikram Menon, Flag Officer, Goa, called on Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at his office in Panaji and assured the continued support of the Indian Navy to the state administration as and when required, on Tuesday.

# AR conducts Awareness Lectures on drug and tobacco menace



IT News Imphal, May 11:

Churachandpur and Khoupum Battalions under the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted lectures on drug and tobacco menace awareness for the

youths of Aina and N Khunao villages, CCPur and Bishnupur districts yesterday. The lecture at N Khunao was conducted in collaboration with Integrated Center for Drug Addict, Bishnupur.

The lectures were fo-

cused on health hazards of tobacco, ill effects of smoking, various types of cancers related to drug and tobacco use and ways for rehabilitation. Posters, pamphlets and handouts were also distributed during the awareness programme.

# Assam Rifles conducts lecture and demonstration on rain water harvesting

IT News Imphal, May 11:

Loktak Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted a lecture and demonstration on rain water harvesting at Sendra village, Bishnupur district Manipur yes-

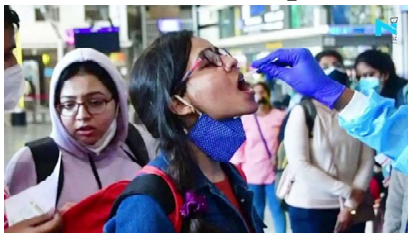
terday. The event was conducted to generate awareness on water scarcity in the environment, various aspects of rain water harvesting and ways and means to enhance the ground water level. The local populace were also briefed on means to save water

and judicious use of water for non-essential works like washing and cleaning etc.

The local populace applauded the efforts of Assam Rifles in educating them on social issues that immensely affect the well being of future generations.



# India reports slight increase in daily Covid-19 tally, 2,897 new cases reported



Agency  
New Delhi, May 11:

India on Wednesday reported a slight increase in the Covid-19 cases as compared to the day before. The country reported a total of 2,897 fresh coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally of the cases to 4,31,10,586. India reported a total of 54 fresh fatalities due to the virus, taking the total death toll in the country to 5,24,157, as per the union health ministry data.

A total of 2,986 people have recovered in the last 24 hours, taking the recovery rate to 98.74 percent. India recorded a total of 143 active cases in the past 24 hours, taking the active caseload stands at 19,494 - comprising 0.05 percent of the total cases.

The country's daily positivity rate stands at 0.61 percent, while the weekly positivity rate is at 0.74 percent.

Over 84.19 crore samples have been tested in the country so far for the virus, reported the health ministry.

India's cumulative Covid-19 vaccine coverage has exceeded the 190 crore mark. Over 3.09 crore first dose and over 1.06 crore second dose

vaccines have been administered for the age group of 12 to 14 years. Over 5.88 crore first dose and more than 4.34 crore second dose vaccines have been given to the age group of 15 to 18 years. Meanwhile, 2,88,71,689 precaution doses (booster shots) have been given to people above 60 years of age, healthcare workers, and frontline workers.

According to the health ministry, more than 193.53 crore vaccine doses were provided to states, and union territories - out of this over 18.01 crore doses are still available with them.

India has begun witnessing an upward trend in the daily Covid-19 cases - especially in Delhi and Maharashtra - the two states that had recorded all-time high cases in the past. However, the daily tally is below the 3,000 mark for the past three days straight.

A total of 5,24,157 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,849 from Maharashtra, 69,325 from Kerala, 40,105 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,183 from Delhi, 23,511 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,203 from West Bengal.

The Chief Minister said that the government needs the support of the people. We need support and sincerity from the public, government as well as officials to bring development, he added. N. Biren Singh further assured that any developmental project to be implemented in and around Loktak Lake will be taken up by properly maintaining the ecological balance as well as with proper consideration of the local public. And at the same time the people should ensure that the ecological balance of the Lake is properly maintained and that there is

no illegal encroachment in the area, he said.

He further stressed the need to construct a ring road around the lake to ensure that there is no encroachment around the lake and to improve tourism in the area.

Reiterating that the government will not work against the law, the Chief Minister further appealed to all to support surveys of the Revenue department and LDA.

Director (Fisheries), Government of Manipur, H. Balkrishna Singh stated that due to overfishing in the Loktak lake, the population of

fishes are depleting and to supplement the depleting population and as Pengba is declared the State Fish of Manipur, one lakh fishlings are being released into the lake today.

Asserting that the fishlings will need at least six months before it is fully grown, the Director appealed to local fishermen to protect them and allow them to grow fully in an undisturbed habitat.

He said once these fishlings grow and start breeding, it will help in improving the local economy as well as in preserving the State fish.

ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore Director Dr. B. K. Das said the population of State fish Pengba is gradually declining in Loktak Lake and so ICAR-CIFRI is trying to reestablish its population in the lake. He said that they will mark this day so that this fish can establish its population within 2-3 years in the lake, and at the same time increase the livelihood of the local fish farmers.

The programme also included distribution of Inputs including cage net and fish feeds to fish farmers' associations.

Today's programme was

also attended by the Fisheries Minister, Government of Manipur H. Dingo Singh, Thanga AC MLA T. Robin Singh, MLA Mayang Imphal AC K. Robin Singh, Keirao AC MLA L. Rameshwar Meetei, Moirang AC MLA Th. Shanti, Chairman Loktak Development Authority, Manipur M. Asnikumar Singh among others.

The programme was organised by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Manipur and Loktak Development Authority, Manipur.

Contd. from Page 1

## One lakh Pengba fishlings released...

## Shija Celebrates 26 Years of Laparoscopic ....

SHRI is currently performing all types of advanced laparoscopic surgery, innovating and performing newer techniques such as laparoscopic CBD exploration and laparoscopic cholecystectomy in the same sitting or ERCP and laparoscopic cholecystectomy in the same sitting, so that patients only need to stay in the hospital for 1 or 2 days before being discharged, even for conditions requiring multiple procedures that can be combined. Laparoscopic hernia surgery, as well as pancreatic, stomach, liver, and kidney operations, including donor nephrectomy for kidney transplantation, are being performed on a regular basis at SHRI. Even during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the laparoscopic surgery did not stop. Patients with Covid-19 got laparoscopic surgery procedures as needed.

So with the developing procedures and skills at SHRI, patients from different states as well as from the neighbor-

ing country of Myanmar came looking for laparoscopic surgery so that they are relieved of their illness as quickly as possible through the keyhole surgeries and quickly able to return home or go for sightseeing in India. For example, Buddhists coming from Myanmar would like to go to Gaya, Bihar after the surgery if they quickly recover. So these are things that are attracting health tourism to the state and adding to the economic development of the state. Laparoscopic surgery at SHRI has helped to put the hospital on the map of healthcare not only in the northeast but throughout the country. Acknowledging the abilities of SHRI, two of Myanmar surgeons and 6 nurses were also trained at Shija in surgery and critical care services. Shija Hospital is taking up the responsibility of training surgeons in laparoscopic surgery who would like to develop their skills.

Because of the rapid advancement and talents, as well as the number of procedures performed, laparoscopic surgery training for PG students became practicable, and DNB (post-graduate) surgical students have been trained in laparoscopic surgery. With rapid development in endoscopic and laparoscopic procedures that includes endourology procedures like PCNL, URS, RIRS, TURP, etc. SHRI became the destination for those patients who wanted to undergo minimal access surgery. A result of the need to increase the number of beds for the hospital proved to be a great boon in establishing the first home-grown private medical college in northeast India with 150 MBBS students.

With these developments, Shija is looking forward to very advance, safe, and beneficial Minimal access surgery services in the region which can serve not only the people of

the state and neighboring states as well as those patients from Bangladesh and Myanmar. Shija hospital in collaboration with AMASI has also conducted many free laparoscopic surgery camps in remote corners of the state and also in Monywa general hospital as well as the general hospital at Mandalay, Myanmar where senior faculties of AMASI went by road to Mandalay and operated there to train surgeons of Myanmar.

Along with the laparoscopic general surgery, laparoscopic Surgery in Shija Hospital was developed for gynecology and thoracoscopic surgeries, where operations for removal of operable cases of cancer of the esophagus are being done and thoracoscopic procedures for diseases of the pleura are being done, all form of gynecological operations which includes Ovarian surgeries, hysterectomies, endometriosis, myomectomies is regularly being done

by all the gynecologists practicing at Shija Hospitals. Similarly, the urologists at Shija hospitals are now very adept in doing laparoscopic procedures for kidney, ureter, and urinary bladder. Removal of the diseased kidneys is most often done by keyhole surgery by urologists. Surgeries of other organs in the abdomen like colon surgery, surgery of the rectum, tumors within the abdomen, and also acute abdominal condition such as following trauma and peritonitis with the ulcer perforation, etc. are being done by keyhole surgery at SHRI.

Laparoscopic surgery is being used extensively in all surgical settings at the moment. Shija is very excited about moving forward and establishing a Robotic Center with Robotic Procedures in order to increase the accuracy and finesse of surgery using robots, which are growing globally and slowly progressing in India.

## Sports

## 12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: India's Nitu shines on debut, enters second round

IT Correspondent  
New Delhi, May 11:

Indian boxer Nitu put up a dazzling show on her debut at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships and entered the 48kg second round after outpunching Romania's Steluta Duta 5-0 in Istanbul on Tuesday.

An exciting bout that saw both the boxers starting dominantly from the word go as they exchanged continuous punches in an intense fast-paced opening round. However, the 21-year-old from Bhiwani, Nitu, who won the gold medal at the 2022 Strandja Boxing Tournament earlier in February, did manage to make an impression as the bout progressed.

The last three minutes were also pretty close and saw fierce battle between the two, but this time the Indian stepped up brilliantly and looked in good control, moving around the ring effortlessly.

The 2017 Youth World Champion Nitu will now face Spain's Lopez Del Arbol Marta in the Last-16 match on Saturday. Lopez defeated Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Thu Nhi by unanimous decision in the opening round match.



On Wednesday, four Indians will be seen in action. 2019 Asian Championships bronze medalist Nikhat Zareen will kickstart her campaign against Mexico's Herrera Alvarez in the 52kg opening round match.

Manisha (57kg), Parveen (63kg) and Saweety (75kg) are the country's three other pugilists who will also begin their challenge in the round-of-32 on the third day of the prestigious event, which has been witnessing a record participation of 310 boxers from 73 countries across the world.

Manisha, who received a bye in the opening round, will square off against Nepal's Kala Thapa while Parveen and

Saweety will take on Ukraine's Mariia Bova and England's Kerry Davis respectively.

Earlier on the opening day of the competition, Lovlina Borgohain made a winning return to the international circuit after clinching a thrilling 3-2 victory against the two-time World Championships medalist Chen Nien-Chin of Chinese Taipei. It was Lovlina's first international match after winning the bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"After learning so much at the Olympics, I had worked very hard on my game and today, I wanted to gauge my progress. It was a tough bout but with the support of every-

one, I could do well. I will keep trying to do well in the coming matches and win gold for India," the 24-year-old boxer from Assam said after the win.

This year's World Championships, which will be played till May 20, also marks the 20th anniversary of the event.

Indian boxers have won 36 medals, including nine gold, eight silver and 19 bronze, in the 11 previous editions of the tournament, which is the third highest after Russia (60) and China (50). In the last edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships, held in Russia in 2019, Indians concluded with one silver and three bronze medals.

## Manipur to host Sub-Junior Women National Hockey Champ

IT News  
Imphal, May 11:

Manipur will be hosting the 12th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship 2022 at Khuman Lampak Hockey Stadium in Imphal from May 11-22.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh accompanied by the state youth affairs & sports minister Govindas Konthoujam and president Gyanendra Ningombam of Hockey India besides president Dr Basudev of Manipur hockey is all set to inaugurate the 12 day championship this afternoon.

Teams from 24 states and union territories will be participating in the championship,

which has been categorised into eight groups. Matches will be played in daylight as well as under flood light.

The participating teams are divided into eight pools. The Pool A have teams from Haryana, Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir while in Pool B are Jharkhand, Manipur, Kerala and in Pool C are Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat.

In Pool D are Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand while in Pool E are Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam and Pool F have Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh. Teams from Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh are in Pool G and in Pool H are Bihar, Karnataka, Mizoram and Telangana.

Meanwhile secretary Laimayum Basanta of organising committee, briefing media here sought cooperation from the masses in promoting hockey in the country particularly in the northeast. Manipur has so far produced 19 olympians including 7 from hockey.

The opening match will have host Manipur Hockey taking on Kerala Hockey under the flood light.

After seven days of pool matches, the Quarter-Finals will be played on May 19, the Semi-Finals will be held on May 21. The Medal matches for the Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship 2022 are scheduled for May 22.

## Jyothi Yarraji breaks 100m hurdles national record in Cyprus meet

Agency  
Limassol, May 11:

A month after her national record effort was not counted due to wind assistance beyond legal limit, 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji has smashed the NR while winning an event in Cyprus with a timing of 13.23 seconds.

The 22-year-old Andhra

athlete on Tuesday won the gold in Cyprus International Meet at Limassol under a head wind speed of 0.1m/s. The old national record of 13.38 seconds was in the name of Anuradha Biswal since 2002.

This Cyprus International Meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger category D event.

Jyothi, who trains under Joseph Hillier at Reliance Foundation Odisha Athletics High Performance Center in Bhubaneswar, had clocked 13.09 seconds during the Federation Cup in Kozhikode last month but it was not counted as national record as the wind speed was +2.1 m/s, more than the permissible +2.0 m/s.