

Impui, Liangmai, Rongmei and Zeme Tribes collectively declare drugs and poppy free zone

IT News
Imphal, May 12:

Joint Tribe Council (JTC) & Joint Tribe Students' Association (JTSA) on behalf of the four cognate tribes of Impui, Liangmai, Rongmei and Zeme today submitted a declaration to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, supporting the State Government's War on Drugs Campaign by declaring 'Drug and Poppy Free Zone'.

The declaration reads that The Indigenous Four Cognate Tribes of Impui, Liangmai, Rongmei and Zeme had never practiced poppy plantation nor been involved with any kind of illegal drugs since time immemorial. The declaration further stated that following the sincere and righteous footsteps of our forefathers, the four Cognate Tribes of Impui, Liangmai, Rongmei & Zeme reiterate our stand against illegal drugs and poppy plantation. The Joint Tribes also resolved to continue preserving, conserving the unadulterated forests, its resources and give life a valuable living'.

Addressing the media, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh



appreciated the Joint Tribe Council & Joint Tribe Students' Association (JTSA) for giving support to the Government at all times, particularly in its fight against drugs, in the wider interest of the people. Continuing that the State had been facing problems of drugs related activities which are detrimental to future generations, he maintained the Government had started the War on Drugs Campaign to uproot the ill effect of drug

menace in the State.

Stressing on the harmful effect of poppy cultivation on the environment including deforestation, degradation of soil fertility and pollution of water, he appealed to all those carrying out drugs related activities to stop it and come out in support of the War on Drugs Campaign. He informed that mass campaigns had been started by meeting locals of different villages to provide awareness to the people

about the ill effects of poppy plantation.

The Chief Minister also informed a meeting of concerned officials from different Departments including Forest and Police about the encroachment of land at Reserve Forest and Protected Forest areas of the State. He continued that DFOs had been instructed to ensure that no deforestation activities are carried out at Reserved and Protected Forest.

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Rajiv Kumar appointed as next Chief Election Commissioner, to take charge on May 15

New Delhi, May 12:

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice Thursday announced Rajiv Kumar, the current Election Commissioner, will take over as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) from May 15. Kumar will take charge from CEC Sushil Chandra, who is due to retire.

"In pursuance of clause (2) of Article 324 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Rajiv Kumar as the Chief Election Commissioner with effect from the 15th May, 2022. My best wishes to Shri Rajiv Kumar," said Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju.

Kumar took charge as the Election Commissioner of India (ECI) on September 1, 2020. Prior to assuming charge in the Election Commission, Kumar had been the chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection



Board. He joined as the PESB chairman in April 2020.

Kumar, an officer of the 1984 batch of the Indian Administrative Service of the Bihar/Jharkhand cadre, superannuated from the IAS in February 2020.

Born on February 19, 1960, Kumar acquired a slew of academic degrees including BSc, LLB, PGDM, and a master's in Public Policy, and has over 37 years of experience working for the government across ministries at the Centre and

state cadre across the social sector, environment and forests, human resources, finance, and the banking sectors.

Kumar has also been the Director, Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), SBI, NABARD; Member, Economic Intelligence Council (EIC); Member, Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC); Member, Bank Board Bureau (BBB); Member, Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), Civil Services Board among many other such Boards and Committees.

Kumar has been credited for being instrumental in conceiving and implementing mergers and acquisitions in the financial sector. Streamlining of the National Pension System (NPS) was also effected under him benefitting approximately 18 lakh central government employees.

YFPHR condemn attack by Andy Mangsatabam at the office of IWCDC located at Thangmeiband

IT News
Imphal, May 12:

Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) expressed strong condemnation to the action of one Andy Mangsatabam, the Proprietor of PUNYA HYUNDAI, HONDA, TOYOTA and KIA for physically attacking the staffs of Child Line (24X7) and Integrated Women and Children Development Centre (IWCDC) at its office located at Thangmeiband Yunnan Leikai, Imphal West along with his staffs numbering around 70-80. IWCDC is a registered organisation working in the field of Women and Children, Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS for the last 30 years.

A statement said that on the 30th of April, 2022 at

around 9:15 am, staffs of the PUNYA HYUNDAI, HONDA, TOYOTA and KIA numbering around 70-80 broke into the premises of the office of IWCDC located at

Thangmeiband Yunnan Leikai and brutally assaulted the male and female staffs of the centre. They arm twisted the hands of many female staffs, surrounded and physically abused while their mobile phones were snatched. They threatened all the clients and staffs to vacate the premises immediately or else face the consequences. As a result of their brutal assault 4 staffs were in need of urgent medical attention while the other got some bruises on their legs, chest, hands and face.

The YFPHR statement said that the perpetrators

threaten one female staff to take her to a remote hill area which is an act similar to outraging the modesty of women.

The misusing and insisting its staff by Andy Mangsatabam, Proprietor of PUNYA HYUNDAI, HONDA, TOYOTA and KIA to commit an act of violence against the institution established for the welfare of Children, Drug Users Friends and people living with HIV/AIDS cannot be tolerated and urgently need to be booked and punished according to the rule of law, the YFPHR said.

YFPHR urged the Chief Minister, Director General of Police and Minister of Social Welfare to make an urgent intervention to arrest all those perpetrators for committing crime against women and children.

International Nurses Day observed

IT News
Imphal, May 12:

The Manipur Nursing Council today observed the International Nurses Day to honour and celebrate the contributions of nurses all over the world.

Dr. K. Rajo, Director health Services, Medical Directorate Manipur, Lalbeikmoin, Joint Director (Nursing), medical Directorate, Manipur, Th. Nandarani Devi, Registrar Manipur Nursing Council and Dr. N. Surlaba Devi, Principal, College of Nursing, medical Directorate grace the occasion held at Multipurpose hall of Medical Directorate as dignitaries on the dais.

The day is celebrated on Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary on May 12 every year. The special day



was chosen by the International Council of Nurses and has been observed officially since 1974. The inspiration behind the day is the iconic Florence Nightingale, the British nurse and social re-

former who dedicated her life to the improvement of the health sector. This year, the theme for Nurses Day is "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global

health."

On the occasion 10 ANM topper students and 10 GNM topper students were honoured with cash prize with certificates by the Registrar, Nursing Council Manipur.

Google Translate adds support for 24 new languages including 8 Indian languages

Courtesy: Money Control
Chennai, May 12:

Google Translate is adding support for 24 new languages including eight new Indian languages, the internet giant announced at its annual developer conference Google I/O 2022 on May 11. This brings the total languages supported by the translation service to 133 languages.

Among the new Indian languages being introduced include Assamese, Bhojpuri, Sanskrit, Dogri, Konkani, Maithili, Meiteilon (Manipuri), and Mizo.

Google said it is also adding indigenous languages of the Americas such as Quechua (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador), Guarani (Paraguay and Bolivia, Argen-

tina and Brazil) and Aymara (Bolivia, Chile and Peru) and an English-based dialect Krio (Sierra Leone) for the first time on the service as part of this update.

The list of languages also includes Lingala (Democratic Republic of Congo), Luganda (Uganda and Rwanda), Bambara (Mali), Dhivehi (Maldives), Ewe (Ghana and Togo), Guarani (Paraguay and Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil), Ilocano (northern Philippines), Kurdish (Iraq), Oromo (Ethiopia and Kenya), Sepedi (South Africa), Tigrinya (Eritrea and Ethiopia), Tsonga (Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe) and Twi (Ghana). Overall, 300 million people use these 24 languages as their first or second language, the com-

pany said.

Google said these are also the first set of languages it has added using a translation technique called Zero-Shot Machine Translation, where the machine learning model learns to translate into another language by only seeing texts in a single language without ever seeing an example translation.

"There is a long tail of languages that are underrepresented on the web today and translating them is a hard technical problem since translation models are usually trained with bilingual text. However, there is not enough publicly available bilingual text for every language" Alphabet chief executive Sundar Pichai said in his keynote speech on May 11.

"With advances in machine learning, we have developed a monolingual approach where the model learns to translate a new language without ever seeing a direct translation of it" Pichai said.

The internet giant noted that it chose to specifically work with languages that had very large speaker populations and those where technology is typically underserved, since the technology is new, which led to them work on several languages in Africa and India due to the presence of large ethnic and linguistic groups.

Since it's a new technology, the internet giant said it chose to specifically work with languages that had very large speaker populations and those

where technology is typically underserved, which led to their work on several languages in Africa and India due to the presence of large ethnic and linguistic groups.

"While this technology is impressive, it isn't perfect and we'll keep improving these models to deliver the same experience," the company said in a blogpost.

These new languages will start rolling out to Google Translate users on May 11 and it will be available to all users by the end of the week.

Here's the complete list of new languages now supported by Google Translate:

Assamese - used by about 25 million people in Northeast India

Aymara - used by about 2 million people in Bolivia, Chile, and Peru

Bambara - used by about 14 million people in Mali

Bhojpuri - used by about 50 million people in northern India, Nepal, and Fiji

Dhivehi - used by about 300,000 people in the Maldives

Dogri - used by about 3 million people in northern India

Ewe - used by about 7 million people in Ghana and Togo

Guarani - used by about 7 million people in Paraguay and Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil

Ilocano - used by about 10 million people in northern Philippines

Konkani - used by about

2 million people in Central India

Krio - used by about 4 million people in Sierra Leone

Kurdish (Sorani) - used by about 8 million people, mostly in Iraq

Lingala - used by about 45 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, and the Republic of South Sudan

Luganda - used by about 20 million people in Uganda and Rwanda

Maithili - used by about 34 million people in northern India

Meiteilon (Manipuri) - used by about 2 million people in Northeast India

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The world will run only with artificial intelligence

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



It is estimated that by 2023, 50 percent of all business workloads are expected to run in the 'cloud', and Covid pandemic accelerated the cloud adoption. As of

now, over 60 percent of all corporate data is stored in the cloud. McKinsey estimates that AI techniques have the potential to create between \$3.5T and \$5.8T in value annually across nine business functions in 19 industries. AI is making its way into every field, so how could a smartphone remain untouched by it? Smartphones have become so important in our lives that most of the time we all spend scrolling this or that on the screen. And a smartphone is such a thing about which it is said that "it knows everything about you". Not only that, your phone knows you more than you. The same applies to computers as well. Both the devices are based on the Internet and AI has arrived to manage the Internet. Google is at the forefront in using AI. As per the accounting firm PwC, the AI industry will be worth over Rs 117 lakh crore by the year 2030. AI has already entered people's lives through digital assistants and face recognition technology etc.

AI has been used in industries to automate industrial procedures, avoid human errors, and discover unexplored places. All the industries, especially healthcare, banking, manufacturing, agriculture, and pharma, will depend heavily on AI, security and data analytics. In the coming times AI will handle the routine tasks of work and everyday life, while humans will engage their brain in creative tasks. That is, machines and gadgets will do routine work and humans will do creative work. World renowned Artificial intelligence expert Stuart Russell says that if machines become super intelligent then the very existence of humans will be in danger. Intelligence is power. Power means control, and that will be the end of the story of humans on Earth. Through artificial intelligence technology, you can track people, recognize their faces. Its abuse has already started, for example, your computer knows all about you, and your mobile phone listens to all your conversations. It is the responsibility of man now to stop these machines from making terrible mistakes, or else everything will perish. It's a warning.

In general terms, artificial intelligence refers to computation tools that resemble human intelligence to perform certain tasks in exactly the same manner. This technology is currently progressing at a very fast pace. Indeed computer databases have evolved into the core infrastructure that drives software. It is anticipated that most of the new features that will be included in the software in the coming years will be powered by AI. Then there is Big Data by which YouTube receives over 400 hours of video content every single minute. Computers have been trained in such a way that it can identify a person's personality better than his friends. To do this, it is seen what type of posts a person likes on social media. Artificial Intelligence and Big Data have a special relationship. Machine learning has contributed a lot to the development of AI. This technique trains AI using large data sets. AI chatbots can be trained on data sets that include understanding human interactions.

India's roaring corporate culture

By: Sauro Dasgupta

Today, Indian pro-business policies are helping woo foreign companies. However, the companies would just not set up here owing to poor infrastructure.

Several investors' summit under different state governments have always been a success. More than Rs. 50.28 lakh crores of FDI MoUs were promised and delivered in recent years. Most states don't publish that because their FDI delivery is insignificant.

Governments have been trying to reduce paperwork for corporations to help them invest fast. Reportedly, it would take only 1 day to start a factory in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh as opposed to the normal 25-30 days in other states. Fearing the implementation of these policies, many Opposition groups have been creating protests whenever a new investor comes to town. That will not be a problem if there is strict adherence to the rules and if the state puts its best foot forward to help investors.

We can take the example of the anti-Sterile protests in Tamil Nadu. Had that Sterile plant been in place, Indian requirements of copper would have been sufficient and it would have been exporting copper now. Today, as a result of the closure of the plant, we are a net importer of copper from China. There has been similar opposition to the bullet train project, something that has been a huge success throughout the world. Fortunately the government could resist the pressure and go ahead with it along with promoting a vibrant startup culture in strategic areas like defence, space, etc. The Electrical Vehicle Revolution in India also got support from the government and even Hyper loop has plans to invest in India.

There has been a strident opposition to the establishment of private ports, airports and infrastructure. When 1991 reforms happened, there was significant disinvestment in several government firms. There were not much protests then. Today, even our public institutions like museums, monuments, ancient places of worship, educational and health infrastructure requires upgradation, the Opposition gets very angry whenever there is any proposal of leasing them to the corporates for renovation. This need not have occurred had they renovated these institutions when in power.

Most of the Opposition states are in shambles. They suffer from state violence, political killings, extortion, absolute mismanagement, whether in terms of COVID management or Institutional management. No work gets done on time. The common people are absolutely at the mercy of the elite, who have nothing but hate and contempt for them.

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Students involvement in politics and its futility



By: Mangkholum Youthang

The purpose of being a student or the responsibility of a student is to go to school, learn new things, work hard to be a successful person someday and nothing more. But these days, when we look at our Manipur, students' involvement in politics has become out of control. Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, protests and strikes have been halted for over two years and it's a good thing. But before the pandemic, in almost every peaceful and violent protest students took part in it. But you'd be mistaken to think that these students got caught up in protests in their own will, there are reasons behind it. Some politicians and political parties have been brainwashing and manipulating students in order to achieve their political goals while in the process ruining the students' career. Students are being sent to the frontline to face the police only to be dispersed by the police using lathicharge and teargas. They sometimes become violent and wild towards the police, some would even sacrifice their lives. We all know the unfortunate incident that occurred back on 8 July 2015 when a young student named Sapam Robinhood died in a clash with the

police over the ILP issue. I'm not saying (L) Robinhood died as a result of his violent action towards the police, I'm just saying that when a good and innocent student like Mr. Robinhood is totally brainwashed by some people to act on their behalf, he/she is willing to sacrifice his/her life for the cause.

Since India is a democratic country and not a communist country like North Korea where people are not allowed to enjoy their rights, where students are not allowed to read books that the state doesn't want them to, it's a must for students to know a lot about politics and to read a lot of books related to politics. Students should know how governments work in different countries, how politics is done in different parts of the world, and a lot of other things related to politics. They should be aware of the affairs of the country, they should keenly watch the activities of politicians but not take part in active politics. Even if they have to, it should not necessarily be in the form of protests and strikes, there are lots of alternatives. They could express their opinions or discontentment in the form of writing letters to the government officials, writing articles in the newspaper, sit-ins or dharnas because this form of protest is peaceful, and such other non-violent methods. Students should realise that all these protests, strikes, rallies, where they are placed in the frontlines to meet with the lathi-holding-police are all done at their expense. They should learn to say no when people invite them to take part in a protest. In case a student is being threatened for not wanting to join a protest, that individual could go to the po-

lice station and inform the police about it. In a democratic country like India, nobody can force somebody into doing something that he/she doesn't want to.

There are only little benefits for students who are involved in politics. One of them is that they learn how to speak in public places confidently which could be very helpful for them in case they become a politician or leader someday. Being an executive member of students' union in a particular school or college and being the leader of a protest could really boost the student's morale. But nobody even the student cannot certainly tell he/she is going to be a politician or great leader someday. It'd be really great if the student becomes a well-known leader in the future but what if he/she doesn't? That means everything is lost and the student's career is ruined: the leadership in the student's union, the pain suffered as a result of being beaten by the police during protests, the hardship of being in jail for being a protest leader, all the precious time invested on politics, they have all become futile. Therefore, since there are only little benefits in involving in politics, students should invest their time only on reading books and learning new things everyday and working hard to create a better future for themselves. Let the politicians and political parties do their work i.e. politics, and stop letting students get involved in the game, and let students do their work i.e. education, and nothing else. By being involved in politics, they lose their valuable time and regret the same at a later stage. Therefore, through weighing the pros and cons, there is absolutely

no need for students to indulge in political activities, education should be their primary aim.

Schools, colleges and universities' authorities/staff should also teach students to not interfere or get involved too much in politics. They should be encouraged to join classes regularly and to give priority to reading books instead. Every student needs to know that education comes first and then other things. Let's say a student wants to be a politician or wants to enter politics and he knows his responsibilities and sticks to his routine and prioritize education over everything, I'm sure he'll make a great politician and make our state even better. And if all our politicians and MLAs were smart and sophisticated back in their school and college days, I'm sure our state will be much even better. Truly speaking, one of the reasons our state is not very developed compared to other states despite the 60 MLAs we have is mainly because of the fact that some of our MLAs are not very well-educated, are lacking knowledge on how a government works, and are self-centered. Worse, there are some MLAs who didn't even finish class 12 and it's a fact. To run a state like Manipur where things are very complicated, a politician should mandatorily be well-educated and reasonable. And in order to let educated and reasonable people run the country or the state, educational institutions should make their pupils aware that education is the most important thing and not political protests or strikes or bandhs. This way, educational institutions could also become great players in shaping the country or state.

Supreme Court sees through Govt's game on Seditions Law

Flip-flops fail as all proceedings ordered held in abeyance

By: K Raveendran

The Narendra Modi government has received a real snub from the Supreme Court, which has overruled the Centres' objections and stayed all proceedings in sedition cases. A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana also directed on Wednesday that all pending cases, appeals and proceedings with respect to charges framed for sedition be kept in abeyance. Those who have been booked under the law or are in jail can now seek bail from the appropriate courts.

The landmark Supreme Court decision comes after a lot of flip-flop on the issue by the government, which all along defended the draconian law as an essential tool to protect the nation. The court has thrown out all its objections and decided to stay all proceedings until the validity of the colonial era law is decided for good.

The government's diabolism on the issue was obvious throughout. And even when it offered to review and reconsider the law in line with the mood in the court, the affidavit it filed in this regard smacked of vulgarity. The affidavit said the government has decided to re-examine and reconsider the provisions of Section 124A of the sedition law "in the spirit of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of Independence) and the vision of PM Narendra Modi".

It is a common practice, particularly in the Gulf monarchies, to announce remission of punishment on auspicious occasions, like religious events such as Ramadan. Such gestures have been shown even in India, where state governments have followed the practice in cutting short jail terms, though mostly for political prisoners belonging to the ul-



ing parties. But it is perhaps for the first time that one is hearing about a whole law being dropped to mark an occasion.

While it does raise doubts about the government's real intent, it also amounted to indirectly acknowledging that the seditions law is against the spirit of 'Azadi', but it nevertheless showed no inclination to let go of it. The British clamped down the seditions law as a repressive tool against the subjects of their colony, and it continued application would mean that the successor government considers itself to be as alien as the colonisers.

The second consideration cited by the affidavit to reconsider the law, which is PM Narendra Modi's vision is equally bewildering. The existence of a law or its repeal cannot be based on the whims and fancy, the so-called vision, of a ruler, but warranted by the soundness of the underlying legal principle. Anything other than this is frivolous, as far as law is concerned. So, when the Supreme Court decides that all cases must be held in abeyance, it is obvious that

it has more reasons than the PM's so-called vision or the occasion of celebration to throw out the government arguments as it considers it a bad law.

No doubt, Modi has of late been singing paeans of individual liberty and freedom. As is wont, Modi says one thing, but his government does quite another. Whether it is commitment to the poor or the inclusiveness of 'sab ke saath', the consistency is not in adherence, but in variance. The policies of his government have seen the rich grow richer and the poor become poorer, just as the inclusiveness of 'sab' has been more and more selective.

There was further evidence of the government's diabolism when it informed the court that it was not ready to drop the cases already booked under the law, as suggested by the apex court. In fact, the government has staged somersault on the issue after it promised the court that it would defer hearing of the petitions till it reviews the law and arrives at a final decision.

In fact, it has advanced another

specious argument for persisting with its stand. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has told the court that a cognizable offence cannot be prevented from being registered and that once a cognizable offence was committed, it may not be proper to stay the effect of the provision either by the Centre or the court. Therefore, the draft that the Centre is preparing suggests selecting a responsible officer for scrutiny, and his satisfaction is subject to judicial review. The government is deliberately ignoring the fact that an act becomes a cognizable offence only when it is made so and that it is within the powers of the government to make an act an offence in the first place; cognizable or not is a subsequent consideration.

Again, the mischief in making an officer of the government responsible for the decision is not too clever to be missed either. There is judicial review, but the review is about the satisfaction of the officer concerned. As long as the officer is satisfied, the court has nothing to do with the decision.

The government's new-found love for liberty has also not been above board. After stoutly defending the seditions law in the court, it suddenly struck a conciliatory note, sensing the mood in the court and promising to do a review, pending a final decision on the issue. It had also agreed that until that is done, the existing cases need to be held in abeyance, as the court had itself suggested. But it was an about-turn when the government replied to the court's queries. But obviously, the court has not fallen for the make-belief exercise.

(IPA Service)

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India reports 2,827 fresh COVID-19 cases; active infections tally dips to 19,067

Agency
New Delhi, May 12:

With 2,827 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,31,13,413, while the active cases dipped to 19,067, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 5,24,181 with 24 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was 98.74 per cent, the ministry said.

A decrease of 427 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate

was recorded at 0.60 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.72 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,70,165, while the case fatality rate was 1.22 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 190.83 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-

crore mark on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 24 new fatalities include 17 from Kerala, two from Uttar Pradesh and one each from Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

A total of 5,24,181 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,850 from Maharashtra, 69,342 from Kerala, 40,105 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,184 from Delhi, 23,513 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,203 from West Bengal.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

Biju Gogoi, former AASU leader, found dead at ULFA (I) camp in Myanmar, says arrested cadre

Agency
Tinsukia, May 12:

A former leader of the All Assam Students Union (AASU) Biju Gogoi, who joined banned terror outfit ULFA (I) in 2019, had died in February this year. The news of Gogoi's death surfaced on Tuesday evening after the arrest of one of the cadres of the banned outfit. A joint team of Tinsukia police and Assam Rifles conducted an operation to arrest the ULFA (I) cadre. He told the security forces that Gogoi was found dead with bullet injuries at a ULFA (I) camp in Myanmar.

Notably, the former AASU from upper Assam allegedly joined ULFA (Independent) during the 2019 Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests. The arrested ULFA cadre has been identified as 24-year-old Santosh Lama alias Apu



Asom. Thapa was arrested near Biri Basti under the Jagun police outpost in the Tinsukia district. According to reports, Lama took training in a batch of 35 cadres. It is considered to be an important revelation as it authenticates reports of several youths joining ULFA (I) in the last year.

Thapa told reporters that he went to the camp in 2021. He further revealed that Gogoi was killed as he might have wanted

to run from the camp. Thapa said, "I went there in 2021. There are 25 people in the camp now. A mix of new and old cadres. The student leader Biju Gogoi was killed. Maybe he wanted to run and that's why he was killed. I saw his dead body in the morning. I went to work for coal fields but was taken to ULFA base instead earlier. I was taken to a camp at Myanmar."

The police were tracking

Thapa's movement since Sunday. Superintendent of Tinsukia Police, Debojit Deuri, told the media, "We got some revelations, he told us that 35 people trained there including 3 women. Lama has informed that he saw the dead body of Biju Gogoi, former AASU leader who went missing during CAA protests and later it was confirmed that he joined the banned outfit, the cadre told us he saw Biju Gogoi lying in a pool of blood with bullet injuries at the camp."

Recently, a couple has been missing from the Tinsukia district of the state. As per a report published in East Mojo, the husband and wife were missing from May 5. The police traced the movement of the couple to Nagaland's Mon district. Reportedly, they had left behind their four-year-old daughter.

The CBI arrests 14 persons for violation of FCRA

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 12:

In a massive crackdown against officials and NGOs involved in an alleged bribery scandal involving the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), the CBI registered the First Information Report (FIR) against 36 people and arrested 14 people, including Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials and a National Informatics Centre (NIC) official on Wednesday.

Those arrested included the Chartered Accountants, and representatives of the NGOs. The CBI also recovered Rs 3.21 crore in cash along with several incriminating documents during the raids. The accused have been sent to police

custody till May 14 by the Special Judge (new Delhi) Naresh Kumar Laka.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed the FIR (No RC0032022A00026 7, 7A, and 8) under sections 120B, 419, 420, 468, 471 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 7, 7A, and 8 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against 36 persons, including seven Government officers attached to the FCRA division of MHA, for facilitating the inflow of foreign funds to the NGOs illegally.

The charges of Criminal Conspiracy, Demand of Undue Advantage by Public Servant, Taking Undue Advantage to influence Public Servant by Corrupt or illegal means or by the exercise of personal influence, Undue Advantage to



Another Person with intention, impersonation, cheating, forgery for cheating and using forged document as genuine,

have been levelled against the accused.

The FCRA department is part of the foreigners' division

of the MHA which grants permission to NGOs to receive foreign funds under the FCRA. The division is responsible for

renewing and cancelling the license based on the reports they receive.

There are over 16,800 registered NGOs under FCRA and nearly 20,000 NGOs have lost their FCRA license in the last 10 years. Of these over 12,500 did not file returns for renewal on time. Some of the NGOs are accused of receiving funds and using them for anti-India activities.

On Tuesday CBI conducted raids at 40 locations in various cities, including Delhi, Rajasthan, Chennai, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Mysuru (Karnataka), and other places, for committing violations of FCRA provisions and allotting licenses in exchange for bribes.

Those named in the FIR include Parmod Kumar Bhasin (MHA, New Delhi (earlier posted at FCRA division, Gurgaon, Haryana), Alok Ranjan (MHA, New Delhi (earlier posted at FCRA division, New Delhi), Raj Kumar (FCRA division, East Delhi), Mohammed Saheed Khan (Assistant Director, FCRA, Delhi) Mohammed Ghazanfar (MHA, New Delhi (earlier posted in FCRA Division) Uma Shankar (NIC) and Tushar Kanti Roy (FCRA division).

S. Rajasekaran (M/s Ganga Medical Centre and Hospital Pvt. Ltd, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Vageesh, Chartered Accountant, working in Ganga Medical Centre & Hospital Pvt. Ltd. on behalf of Ganga Orthopaedic Research & Education Foundation, Coimbatore, Ms. Suguna Ravichandran, Auditor of GOREF, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and Pawan Kumar Sharma (operating business from Chandni Chowk, Delhi).

Ramanand Pareek (Hawala operator, Chennai), Robin Devadass (running an NGO-The Social Project, Vellore, Tamil Nadu), Gajanan Sharma, Swapnan Manna (a representative of Srijan Foundation,

Ranchi, Jharkhand), Hawala operator Vimal Tawaniya, Ranchi, Anish Selvaraj, Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu and Chinappan Pichai Pillai (Ayres Multipurpose Social Service Society, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu).

Ramaswamy Ranganathan (Centre for Tribal & Rural Development Trust, the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu), Shafi Mohammad (Jahangirabad Educational Trust, Okhla, New Delhi), K Ponpandi Inbarasu (Chartered Accountant), Ravi Shankar Ambastha (Rohini, Delhi), Manoj Kumar B A (Secunderabad, Telangana), M/s Mansi International Private Limited (Pratap Nagar, New Delhi, Ms. Manisha Verma (Employee of Alok Ranjan), Alfred Mohanty (Christian Life Centre Ministries, Vishakhapatnam).

Katherina Suresh Kumar (a representative of NGO Harvest India, Seetharampuram, Vijayawada), Lungawirul Khawbung (General Secretary of the Organisation Reform Presbyterian Church North East India, Chorchandpur, Manipur), Santosh Kumar Prasad (Director of M/s Shaurya Business Solutions Private Limited, New Delhi), Smt. Amita Chandra (Director of M/s Shaurya Business Solutions Private Limited, New Delhi, Tenzin Lhakpa (Bajinath, Himachal Pradesh), Bishnu Mour (President, Nari Roshni Foundation, Guwahati, Assam), Jagdish, Devesh Chandra Mishra (Hauz Khas, Delhi), and promoters of NGO Omidyar Network, (Kenya, India, USA).

Omidyar Network is accused of funding a dubious organization to effectuate regime change and install pliant governments in countries across the world that align with the left-liberal ideology or reinforce the primacy of the Left's narrative. Omidyar is known for funding many publications across India.

Career Guidance

Childhood in the Countryside



By: Vijay Garg

Schools have now opened normally like two years ago. These two years were very confusing for the children living in the city. His movement to any other city, village was restricted. His activities were confined around the house. Since the last few months, when the markets started opening, due to the demand of children in many homes, parents started keeping domestic and foreign breed dogs, cats, rabbits, parrots, colorful fishes, birds. Children these days have increased sensitivity to animals.

Our children also had constant demands to have a small puppy or a cat, but due to many practical challenges this has not happened yet. One reason for our hesitation could also be the rural background, where in those days our priority was cows, bulls, buffaloes. In our childhood, dogs and cats used to live outside the houses and it was not customary to make them sit on cots, posts, chairs.

It is said that all roads are never closed in life. There is always a way out by trying. So, that's how our daughter made friends with a nomadic kitten. She started taking biscuits and sometimes milk for him. She started visiting him every evening. He named her Bela. Bela used to move between the two apartments, but in the evening she too started waiting for Kuhu at a designated place. On seeing our daughter, wagging her tail against the wall, she would jump and cling to her feet.

When she would caress Bela, take her back, then the cat would go and eat the food brought by her. Sometimes in such a situation some dogs would start coming towards Bela. On seeing them, Bela jumped up and jumped to the other side of the wall. Once Bela came to me and started trying to wrap her feet, so I jerked back. Our daughter didn't like this behavior!

My own experience with cats has been 'defensive'. In the village, for the protection of food, milk and curd from the cat, people used to sneeze 'Sikhuta', in which the goods were hung in such a way that the cat could not reach there. In the kitchen of our ancestral house, there was a small mesh cupboard in which milk, curd etc. were kept. The cat could not open the cupboard and

went away sad. In the village, children sometimes entertained themselves by throwing water over the cats. However, in those days it was said about the cat that if she died due to persecution or beating, then the guilty person would have to donate a gold cat equal to its weight!

Animals like cow, bull, buffalo have been more influential in the memories of many people who spent their childhood in rural areas. Large bullocks were kept in the village, as the use of tractors in agriculture was very limited. Bulls also had names like Bhura, Dilhwa, Safedu etc. They were taken care of like family members. Bullocks recognized their farm-barn and family members. The children used to 'hang' and enjoy sitting on the bullock cart with the loudness of its strength. Bullocks understood the language of the plowman.

In a week or ten days, the bullocks were bathed, oil was applied on their horns and they were garlanded. The cows and oxen in the village were regularly given roti at night, which was called 'Kaura'. Perhaps it has also been a kind of gratitude that their hard work has contributed significantly to the food we are eating! It was customary to give the last bread to the dog. After coming to the city, now we do not get cows and bulls, but during the

lockdown we started keeping water and bread for the birds.

The daughter was happy to have Bela. But one day in the evening Bela did not appear. Gave her a voice, searched around, but she could not be found. I would also go there in the morning and evening to see that maybe. Found a cat, I took a photo of it, but the daughter said, no it is not Bela. She started feeling a little sad. The apprehension of evil about Bela started haunting the house. I was a

little sad too. For ten or twelve days the daughter went downstairs to play and came running to tell that Bella was found! Satisfied to hear this. At the same time, he remembered his childhood and the pangs that had become deserted due to the absence of cows and bulls. The locked locks in the houses were revealed in front of the eyes. This question kept swirling in our mind that we have come from village to city, but are we now looking for a village in the city?

Contd. from Page 2

India's roaring....

In the past eight years, Modi governments has been regularly handing over renovation and development projects to the corporates. This has enabled a new wave of development. The government has also plugged all loopholes in the provision of welfare services to the common people. The Opposition gleams over their failures but refuses to admit them.

PM Modi rightly says that the government has no business to be in business, a continuation of Reaganomics. Till 1991, government firms provided substandard and costly goods to the people. The red tap never allowed the

corporates to provide the people with affordable goods and services. We have come a long way since 1991. The government must provide welfare and relief services to the people. It must reduce paperwork and documentation for all, a relic of the colonial Era. The corporates must be given a free hand to run their business as in the advanced Western nations. Unless the government and the private sector work together, no development can take place properly in this country

(The writer is a PG 1 Student, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University)

Name Correction

This is to notify to the general public that my name was wrongly entered in my educational documents as Kakchingtabam Omita Devi, instead of my correct name Kakchingtabam Omita Sharma. Now I am to correct the said name as mention herein above.

Sd.-
Kakchingtabam Omita Sharma
Thiyam Leishangkhang, PO & PS Wangoi

Cyclone Asani weakens into deep depression; rainfall likely over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal

Agency
Amaravati, May 12:

Cyclone Asani which made landfall in coastal Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday night has weakened into a depression over the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said early Thursday.

Light to moderate rainfall is likely at many places with heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

Light to moderate rainfall are also likely at a few places over coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal today.

"Deep Depression over coastal Andhra Pradesh remained practically stationary during the last six hours and

weakened into a depression over the same region," the IMD said.

Early this morning movement of vehicular traffic was affected Kakinada -Uppada Beach Road as the road was damaged due to strong winds and heavy rains as an impact of cyclone Asani. Police said that restoration work will begin soon.

According to the weather forecaster, the depression lay centered at 11.30 PM on Wednesday over the region, close to West of Andhra's Machilipatnam and is likely to hover around the same region and will further weaken into a "Well Marked Low-Pressure Area" by Thursday morning.

The IMD said in an early morning bulletin on Thursday

that Squally wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph will prevail around the system centre and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal during the next 12 hours. Squally wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is likely to prevail along and off the districts of Krishna, East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh and Yanam of Puducherry.

Also squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely to prevail along and off adjoining districts of coastal Andhra Pradesh during the same period.

Similarly, squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely to prevail off Odisha coast dur-

ing next 12 hours, the IMD bulletin said.

Yesterday, CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy held a review meeting via video conference with Collectors, SPs, and other senior officials on the action to be taken in the districts affected by the Asani cyclone.

In the Krishna District District Collector Ranjit Basha, District SP Siddharth Kaushal and Joint Collector Mahesh Kumar later visited cyclone-hit areas along with National Disaster Relief teams.

The CM also announced financial assistance of Rs 1000 to be distributed per person at the time of leaving rehabilitation camps for home and it should be at least Rs 2,000 per family.

Editors Guild welcomes SC order on sedition law

Agency
New Delhi, May 12:

The Editors Guild of India on Wednesday welcomed the interim order of the Supreme Court staying the application of the sedition law.

The Guild welcomes this interim order as sedition law has been used far too often by central and state governments against journalists in an effort to curb independent reporting, it said in a statement here.

The Guild was one of the petitioners who had challenged the sedition law Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code. The

other petitioners included Major General SG Vombatkere (Retd), former Union Minister Arun Shourie and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUC).

The Editors Guild of India is extremely pleased that in response to the petition filed by the Guild, challenging the sedition law (IPC 124A), the Supreme Court of India on May 11, 2022, has passed an interim order effectively keeping the law in abeyance, until the Union Government reconsiders the provision, the Guild said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, observ-

ing that the central government agrees with the prima facie opinion of the court that the rigours of the sedition law are not in accordance with the current social milieu, the Supreme Court urged the central and state governments to refrain from registering any FIR invoking Section 124A.

"We hope and expect that the State and Central Governments will refrain from registering any FIR, continuing any investigation or taking any coercive measures by invoking Section 124A of IPC while the aforesaid provision of law is under consideration," the SC said.

Contd. from Page 1

Input, Liangmai, Rongmei and Zeme Tribes collectively declare drugs...

Further, DFOs are advised to take action against any person involved in poppy plantation by registering FIR and also to start carrying out afforestation activities.

Informing that the Government had received reports of subletting Government quarters by some employees who had been allocated quarters in their names, he appealed to stop such activity and also warned that action would be initiated against those Govern-

ment employees who sublet their quarters. Stating on the recent operation taken on using flag post on vehicles, he stressed that the operation had been taken up to check misuse of flag post vehicles in carrying out illegal activities.

Representatives of the Joint Tribe Council (JTC) expressed the decision to stand against illegal drugs and poppy plantations after consultation with villagers, taking concern on the future of the

State. Expressing hope that the War on Drugs Campaign would be successful and the State would become a drug free zone one day, the JTC appealed to all communities of the State to join hands and stand together to uproot drug menace from the State.

Chairman, Hill Areas Committee and MLA for Nungba AC Dinganglung Gangmei and MLA for Tamenglong AC Janghemlung Panmei also attended the press conference.

Google Translate adds support....

Mizo - used by about 830,000 people in Northeast India

Oromo - used by about 37 million people in Ethiopia and Kenya

Quechua - used by about 10 million people in Peru,

Bolivia, Ecuador, and surrounding countries

Sanskrit - used by about 20,000 people in India

Sorani Kurdish - used by about 14 million people in South Africa

Tigrinya - used by about

8 million people in Eritrea and Ethiopia

Tsonga - used by about 7 million people in Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe

Twai - used by about 11 million people in Ghana

Myanmar junta to reopen borders to tourists

Agency
Yangon, May 12:

Myanmar's junta will allow tourists to apply for visas after a break of more than two years, state media said on May 12, sparking calls by an activist group for foreign travellers to stay away.

The country closed its borders to visitors in March 2020 at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in an attempt to prevent infections rising.

It was further isolated after the army toppled the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, prompting huge protests and a bloody military crackdown on dissent.

"With an aim to develop the tourism sector... e-Visa (Tourist) applications will be allowed and accepted from 15 May 2022," said a notice in the *Global New Light of Myanmar*. It did not give details on when the first visitors could be expected to arrive.

Activist groups warn that the military's vested interests in swathes of the economy - including mines, banks, petroleum, agriculture and tourism - mean tourist dollars will likely end up in the junta's coffers.

"Even if foreign visitors avoid hotels and transport owned by the Myanmar military and their associates, they will still fund the junta through visa fees, insurance and tax," said activist group Justice for

Myanmar. "We call on anyone considering a holiday in Myanmar to boycott."

After democracy was established in 2011 following decades of military rule, Myanmar opened up to tourists, becoming popular with travellers seeking an exotic destination away from the well-trodden backpacker haunts of Southeast Asia.

But the tourism sector was battered by the pandemic, with the country registering 40,000 daily COVID-19 cases at its peak last year. It has recorded almost 20,000 deaths in total.

Clashes between anti-coup fighters and security forces following the military takeover, including in the main cities of Yangon and Mandalay, have

also dented business, with many international firms pulling out of the nation.

The economy has slumped, with the local kyat currency plunging against the dollar and rolling power outages in major cities aggravating economic misery. Access to ATMs and foreign exchange counters is patchy even in commercial hub Yangon.

Commercial flights for business travellers resumed in April, with visitors required to take a COVID-19 test on arrival but no longer required to quarantine. More than 1,800 people have been killed by security forces and more than 13,000 arrested since the coup, according to a local monitoring group.

Sports

12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Nikhat Zareen and Three Other Indians to Begin Their Challenge

Agency
Istanbul, May 12:

Nikhat Zareen among the four Indian boxers will be kickstarting their campaigns at the 12th edition of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul on Wednesday.

The 2019 Asian Championships bronze medalist boxer from Telangana, Nikhat will fight 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 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.

Late on Tuesday night, 2017 Youth World Champion Nitu will fight against Romania's Steluta Dutu in the 48kg opening round match.



Earlier on the opening day of the competition on Monday, 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.

2021 Asian Championships bronze medalist Jaimesine, Anamika and Shiksha will kickstart their campaigns in the round-of-32 on Thursday. Jaimesine will face challenge from the two-time Youth Asian Champion Pornpit Buapa of Thailand in the 60kg category while Anamika (50kg) will fight against Romania's Eugenia Anghel. Shiksha, who was handed a bye in the opening round, will play Argentina's Herrera Milagros Rosario in the 54kg match.

Mitchell Marsh, David Warner help Delhi win by 8 wickets against RR



Agency
Mumbai, May 12:

Australian Mitchell Marsh put in a five-star performance on the Wednesday against Rajasthan Royals as the Delhi Capitals dominated, and won by 8 wickets at the DY Patil Stadium. Marsh scored 89 and David Warner got an unbeaten 52 as DC picked up a comfortable win. Earlier, Delhi's bowlers had restricted RR to 160 with Chetan Sakaria, Anrich Nortje and Marsh picking two wickets each.

R Ashwin got his maiden fifty as well. Batting first, the Royals had a shaky start as Chetan Sakaria was troubling the openers, especially Jos Buttler a bit. After almost dismissing him in the first over, Sakaria managed to get his man in the third over, with Buttler caught at midwicket for 7. Yashasvi Jaiswal at the other end too wasn't able to get much of a

move on and became Mitchell Marsh's victim after scoring 19 off 19.

The Royals completed the powerplay at 43/1 with Ashwin and Jaiswal unable to get too many of the big hits going. A couple of quiet overs later, Marsh had Jaiswal walking back, well caught by Lalit Yadav.

Ashwin and Devdutt Padikkal then began to pick off the boundaries slowly as the Royals got a move along. At the half way stage, they were 68/2, and soon after both the batters sent the spinners, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel, into the crowd for sixes.

In the 14th over, Ashwin completed a well-deserved maiden half-century as RR got to 107/2 and had set up the platform for the big hitters to come in and take off. Marsh got his second wicket right after, getting Ashwin for 50 off 38 with David Warner taking a good catch to start off the 15th over.

Marsh and Shardul Thakur conceded 9 each as Sanju Samson and Padikkal started to improvise and attack, looking for the big finish. Samson though could not carry on and misused one which Thakur caught well at mid-on off Anrich Nortje, sending the RR captain

back to the hut for 6.

While Riyan Parag smashed Nortje for a six, he was caught by the slower one from Sakaria, who picked his second wicket. Parag tried to the clear corner but was caught by Rovman Powell for the 9, with RR still looking for the big finish. Padikkal attempted to accelerate after that but fell 2 runs short of a half-century as Nortje picked a second.

After his match-winning fifty in the previous game, Yashasvi Jaiswal managed to score 19.

Looking confident after having hit a few boundaries, including two maximums and a ramp shot over keeper Pant, Ashwin went along nicely and brought up his maiden IPL half-century.

However, the premier off-spinner got out soon after reaching the landmark with Marsh coming back into the attack to give DC the breakthrough.

Meanwhile, Padikkal smashed Axar Patel for two sixes one over deep backyard point and another over long-on.

As the DC players rejoiced, Kuldeep Yadav was seen walking off the ground holding his left shoulder, having hurt himself while going for a catch in the previous over.