

## Villages of Saikul AC resolve to support War on Drugs

IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

Different villages and communities of Manipur continued to support the State Government's effort to uproot poppy cultivation. Today, a delegation team consisting of Village Chiefs of Saikul Assembly Constituency (AC) led by MLA Kinneo Haokip Hangshing submitted a resolution to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh expressing their support to the Government's War on Drugs Campaign.

The resolution signed by Chiefs of 50 villages stated that they had deliberated at length about poppy cultivation and resolved to put immediate hold on poppy cultivation in Saikul AC. They also resolved to approach the Government of Manipur to arrange alternative means for livelihood. The resolution further stated that any individuals or groups who defied the resolution should, at their own risk, face any legal action taken by concerned authority.

Addressing the media, N. Biren Singh stated that many communities had come up one after another in support of the State Government's War on Drugs Campaign considering



the ill effects of poppy cultivation on the environment and future generations of the State. He expressed appreciation to the Village Chiefs of Saikul AC for being the first among the Kuki community to boldly declare their stand against poppy cultivation. He also informed that Kuki brethren residing in other areas of the State had contacted him on their support to the movement against drug menace.

The Chief Minister assured that arrangements for alternative livelihood would be taken up soon consulting the Horticulture and Tribal Affairs and Hills Department adding that the Government would provide all necessary support.

Taking concern on a memorandum submitted by the delegation team, N. Biren assured to set up a Veterinary Hospital soon at Saikul AC and also to construct a Mini-stadium within the Assembly Constituency. He further expressed that he would look into what could be done on other matters mentioned in the memorandum.

He further appealed to all communities residing in valley areas to voluntarily come out and support the movement against drug menace, to totally eradicate it from the state. He also warned that any Government officials who are found involved in drugs related illegal activities will be terminated from their service and will be put behind bars.

Tribal Affairs and Hills Minister Letpao Haokip expressed his appreciation to the delegation team of Saikul AC for their support to the Government's War on Drugs Campaign and their resolution to immediately hold on poppy cultivation in the AC. He assured to provide every possible support for alternative livelihood from the Government side. He appealed to people of other areas to support the movement stating that support from all sections of people was needed to save the State from the ill effects of drugs.

President of Kuki Inpi, Saikul Seimang Lupho and other Village Chiefs also took part in submitting the resolution among others.

## Two died after a loaded truck ran over them

IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

Two pedestrians died yesterday after a sand-loaded truck ran over them in Keikol area in Imphal East district.

The accident happened at around 5.30 pm yesterday when the Tata truck carrying

sand plying from Sekmai to Koirengi met self accident at Keikol in Imphal East district near 4th IRB gate.

The two victims have been identified as Mongbijam Dharmendra (35), s/o M. Krishnamani of Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai and Rajesh Kumar s/o Parsuram

Thakur of Maghari village, Bihar. Both were reported to have died at the spot. The dead bodies were deposited at JNIMS morgue.

The driver of the truck identified as Thohri (29), S/o Pfokrelo of Khongnem Thana village is in Heingang PS custody.

## KYKL cadre arrested

IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

Combined troops of Manipur Police special commando and 43 Assam Rifles arrested one underground members suspected to be cadre of KYKL at around 5 am today from Indo-Myanmar border area.

A source from the state police said that the combined team of Manipur Police special commando unit Khabeisoi with a column of 43 Assam Rifle led by Inspt. Bedajit Singh, under the Command of Sub L. Bebekananda Singh OC special commando unit Khabeisoi under the overall guidance of Th. Krishnatombi Singh, MPS SP/ Railway & I/ C Special commando unit Khabeisoi arrested the person



while crossing towards India side from Myanmar near sunrise ground in Moreh ward no.4.

"The cadre tried to escape and run away from our frisking point towards Myanmar side. In that our team acted swiftly and overpowered him near the border area in the sunrise ground who identified

himself as Nameirakpam Mani Singh @ Joy age 37 yrs s/o (L) N. Tejo Singh resident of Jiri Patchao Chingdong Leikai, District Jiribam, Manipur. On verification, he disclosed that, he is an active cadre of KYKL joined in the year august 2010 through Surjit Singh, OGW of KYKL resident of Imphal west and got basic military training at Thanan Camp in Myanmar for around 45 days under the command of Sgt. major Mani Singh", the police source said.

The police source said that presently the arrested person is holding the post of self styled Sergeant of the banned outfit KYKL with Army no. 0566 and batch no. 30. He was handed over to the Moreh police station for taking further necessary legal action.

## Art of Living, MNP+ join hands to shore up immunity profile

IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

The Art of Living has joined hands with Manipur Network of Positive People (MNP+) to support the members of MNP+ to improve immunity and live a healthy and happy life. As part of the initiative, the international NGO founded by renowned humanitarian and spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with a presence in over 160 countries, on Friday handed over 1,000 Immunity Kits to MNP+ for distribution to its members.

A simple function titled "Boost Immunity, Boost Life"

was held at the office of MNP+ at Yaikul on Friday to coincide with the celebrations of the 66th birthday of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The beneficiaries from different parts of the state received Immunity Kits comprising a combination of powerful ayurvedic supplements such as Turmeric (Yaingang) tablets, Amruth tablets, Kabasur Kudineer (lung enhancer) tablets and Shakti Drops (a unique energy drops). The kit is especially manufactured by Sri Sri Tattva, a globally renowned ayurveda brand inspired by the Art of Living. The kits were made available by International

Association for Human Values (IAHV), the service (seva) unit of the Art of Living as part of its global outreach to shore up the immunity profile of people in the wake of Covid-19.

Addressing the gathering as a Chief Guest, Dr Hemolata Thokchom, Joint Director (CST) MSACS lauded the initiative and said the vision of the Art of Living and MNP+ to take a holistic approach to the issue of wellness of the people living with HIV is very much long overdue and will go a long way in ensuring a better health profile of the community.

contd. on page 4

## PCCF and CCF inspect catchment areas of Singda Dam; eviction to encroachers advice

IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), along with a team of Forest Officials visited Singda Dam and carried out survey of Singda Dam Watershed/ Catchment area on Friday. Following the inspections, the Water Resources department of the Government of Manipur has been advised to take up eviction of encroachers to the catchment areas which were already acquired by the department way back in the



1970s. Singda Dam Catchment area is roughly about 2300 hectares, out of which 310 acres have been acquired by

Water Resources Department in 1977. Given the receding nature of water level at Singda Dam, the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh, has

directed Forest Department and Water Resource Department to take necessary action to revive the Singda Dam Watershed area.

On visiting the area, PCCF has informed that more than half of the catchment area is planned to be treated with afforestation activities under KIW (Indo-German Project). On the remaining areas and particularly on the higher slopes on the north, PCCF has directed the DFO to take up Afforestation /Restoration during the current year plantation season.

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## Boss, Manipur Sun sets earlier

By: Sh Ajit  
Imphal, May 14:

Chief Minister N Biren, the symbol of people's choice, once again shows his innovative idea by introducing different time slots to primary, high and higher secondary, higher education. Moreover the office hours of government employees is made changed from 9:30 - 4:30 to 9-5. The reasons for changing such working hours are circulated among the people; some are very critical about the school hours; some are happy citing traffic congestion. Well, it is notable that our Chief Minister has a treasure of innovative ideas, for which we are proud of him. As there are many followers both in his party and public who are sincere fans who never question to his innovative idea. They try their best to materialize N Biren's ideas and tirelessly engage themselves in translating his ideas into action. But, when the Government of Manipur announces the change of working hours for different sectors, automatically, without any malice, I like to know: Boss, what exactly we are trying to achieve out of such change. Is it the solution of traffic congestion or giving time for weekend? Is it just copycatting of mainland Indian behavior, if not of western societies?

While fixing office hour, my Boss, usually the Governments consider sunset hour. We all know that 5 pm is just evening, not late evening or night in many parts of mainland India where the sunset time ranges from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. After working hours, everyone has about 2 hours for other works ranging from marketing to social gathering before they reach home. Boss, as we all know, India has only one time zone and Indian Standard Time is calculated in reference to Allahabad; the sunset hours in places east to Allahabad is geographically earlier than that of places west to Allahabad. This is just a simple geographical knowledge. For a ready reference, we can look the Sunrise and Sunset hours of a few State Capitals during the present week of May 2022.

Therefore asking government employees to work till dusk (considering Manipur's position vis-à-vis 5 PM) is just

inhuman. We cannot follow every step of New Delhi even in deciding office hours. 5 PM in New Delhi is 2 hours before

State Capital	Sun rise	Sun set	Day length
Imphal	4.34	17.47	13.13
Kohima	4.32	17.48	13.16
Aizawl	4.40	17.50	13.16
Itanagar	4.32	17.52	13.20
Agartala	4.47	17.56	13.90
Shillong	4.41	17.56	13.15
Guwahati	4.41	17.58	13.17
Kolkata	5.00	18.06	13.06
Gangtok	4.51	18.12	13.21
Patna	5.08	18.23	13.16
Triruvananthapuram	6.04	18.32	12.28
Hyderabad	5.47	18.38	12.51
Lucknow	5.23	18.42	13.19
New Delhi	5.35	19.00	13.25
Jaipur	5.43	19.00	13.20
Mumbai	6.07	19.03	12.56
Ahmedabad	6.02	19.10	13.08
Jammu	5.37	19.17	13.40

Sunset while in Imphal is just 47 minute. One can say that fixing office hour 9-5 is simply torturing government employ-

ees. Moreover, the transport system of the State, though our Chief Minister is so ambitious and innovative, is next to worst. Regular bus services are simply unavailable. The public transportation, owned by private individuals, in the form of Auto-rickshaws or other light vehicles is available in limited areas. Persons have to take another means to reach their localities from such parking areas. This is very complex and undependable. This fact of public transportation adds more burdens on government employees who have to rush back home after hard office works in the late evening. The burden is more on the shoulders of lady employees. Boss, Singapore model does not operate every-

where as well as Delhi is far from Manipur both in distance and development. The innovative idea is good. It is also true that there will be resistance to any innovative works. But, we cannot generalize that all the innovative ideas are always good. For fixing office hours, the main point that should be considered is productive work done in those days. Will you kindly assess the productivity of the office hours of 9-5? Is there any change in the work culture of government establishments after the innovative imposition of the office hours? Some employees are happy because all Saturdays are holidays; almost all the employees are sad because they reach home either at late evening or night.

# Motor horns shouldn't be blown unnecessarily

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Recently, there was discussion that the Union Transport Ministry is preparing to bring a law under which only the sounds of Indian musical instruments will be heard

from the automobile horns. Means, if the rule is implemented then the pleasant music of flute, tabla, violin, mouth organ and harmonium will be heard on the streets. In place of loud sirens from ambulances and police patrolling vehicles, there will be a mesmerizing tune heard, the signature tune of All India Radio which is played in the early morning. While it sounds interesting, it is a strange idea, as the main function of the horn is to alert the surroundings, not entertain people who can turn around and forget that they have to move or give way to the vehicle coming behind. It is also a fact that the use of loud horns on highways and in cities has become so much that it makes the head dizzy. It is natural to have accidents when someone is driving at high speed with a loud horn.

There are 5 lakh road accidents in India every year, in which around 1.5 lakh people get killed and millions are injured. India loses three percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) due to the road accidents. The Ministry of Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari is considering this problem only to reduce the stress caused by noise. There should be legal strictness also on those who play loud horns or make noise by honking unnecessarily. Constant awareness about this is also necessary. Experts warn that being exposed to noise above 93 decibels for eight hours can lead to hearing loss. In addition to irritability, the noise of the horn can cause loss of hearing. In European countries, vehicle horn noise ranges from 87 to 112 decibels. In Australia and Canada, the limit for such noise is 104 decibels. Multi-tone horns are banned in many cities of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, apart from Delhi NCR and Chandigarh.

Oliver Lucas of England had designed an electric car horn in 1910. Even today the horns of cars run on electricity. These are driven by a flat circular steel diaphragm on which the electromagnet acts in one direction, while a spring pulls it in the opposite direction. The diaphragm repeatedly interrupts the flow of the electromagnet, causing circuit breaks hundreds of times per second producing a loud buzzer or electric bell-like sound. Car horns have a sound level of around 109 decibels and they typically draw five to six Amps of current. Have you noticed three words written on the back of trucks - Horn OK Please! This sight is common all over the country. No one knows what it means and who first started it. One theory says that when there was a shortage of diesel during World War II, the trucks had to be run on kerosene. From the point of view of safety, it was necessary to keep distance between each other, so they wrote Horn OK Please. The second theory states that earlier trucks were monopolized by the Tata company. To promote 'OK', one of their detergent soaps, the trucks were marked with OK in capital letters in the middle of the Horn Please.



By: Shahnaz Husain

Looking to chill out in the hot season? Well, your face does, too!

The heat is on the rise. When the weather changes, the needs of the skin also change? That means we're constantly on the look-out for treatments that will keep us cool.

Applying ice to skin for beauty purposes is known as cold therapy. It's routinely used in the treatment to eliminate puffiness, reduce oiliness, ease acne and boost the skin's healthy glow. Cold facials are especially beneficial for summer days.

With sunburn, inflammation, redness and acne on the rise in these times, a way out can be found for it right in your kitchen - apply ice to your face.

Not sure how? Read on to see all that you can freeze to make your very own beauty-boosting ice cubes to get supple, attractive and radiant skin.

**Aloe Vera ice cubes**  
Aloe Vera is known as "nature's beauty secret". These Aloe Vera ice cubes not only cool and soothe the skin, but also heal sun burnt skin. Take one bottle of

# Cold Facial during Summer

natural Aloe Vera gel that's inside an Aloe Vera plant. Choose an aloe plant with mature leaves growing near the base of the plant. If there are no leaves growing at the root of the plant, then it is not ready for harvesting. Pour the gel into an ice cube tray. Fill each reservoir of the ice cube tray three-quarters of the way with aloe gel.

You can pour 2-3 drops of essential oil in each section and let it freeze in natural way for few hours. You can also add marigold flowers to enhance cooling as marigold is a natural anti-oxidant and can heal burns and other skin irritations.

Basil and Aloe Vera calming combo in the icy goodness is also a great remedy for sunburn.

Take few basil leaves in a cup of water and grind them. Add 2 tablespoon of natural Aloe Vera gel and mix. Keep the mixture in an ice-cube tray and let it freeze for few hours and use it as per your convenience in once or twice in a month by rubbing them directly over your face and neck areas till you feel numb and the cube melts.

The regular use of Aloe Vera cubes on the skin will help fight infections, soothe sunburns, skin eruptions, black spots and even acne.

**Rose Water ice cubes**  
This is an amazing technique to give an instant and immediate glow to your skin.

Mix together 1 cup of concentrated rose water with 1 cup of water and add in rose petals in ice cube tray. For extra cooling effects, you can add in peppermint essential oil or rose essential oil for an extra rosy glow. Freeze your rose ice cubes are ready!

When ready for your facial

treatment, boil some water and pour into a large bowl. Place your face over the steaming bowl with a towel over your head for max five minutes or till you feel convenient with the steam. Next, grab one of your rose ice blocks and gently roll the ice all over your face and neck. Finish off with a spritz of rosewater.

Alternatively, mix together 1/2 cup rose water and 1/2 cup witch hazel. Stir them well and put in a Jar. Pour the mixture into each of the ice cube tray and allow it to freeze for a few hours, and your rose ice cubes are ready. Take rose petals preferably pink or red from garden or flower market whichever is convenient to you. You won't need the stems or leaves, just the petals. Next, give them a good rinse and transfer into a large pot. Add just enough water to cover all of the rose petals. Cover the pot and let it simmer for about 15 minutes or until the petals have lost all of their colors or even longer so the petals start to almost brew. Remove the petals out of the rose water pot and transfer the remaining liquid into a jar. Pour over ice cube trays and stick them in the freezer. You can use when you require.

## Green Tea Ice Cubes

This popular beverage is rich in antioxidants and flavonoids that help reduce the rashes and scars, fight ageing, kill bacteria, repair sun damage, and soothe irritated skin.

1. Brew 2 green tea bags in boiling water for 2-3 minutes. Avoid adding too much water to get concentrated solution. Take tea tree essential oil and add 2-3 drops in each section of your ice tray.

2. After it cools down, add your

green tea to each section of an ice cube tray and place it in the freezer for 2-3 hrs or until the solution becomes totally solid. Please ensure that your ice tray should be totally clean and free from any bacteria. Use these every other day gently moving it on your skin, especially around the eye/neck areas.

## How To Use these:

After using a cleanser, take one of the ice cube and hold it on to the pimple for a while. You will realise that it numbs the area. Depending on your pimple, you will see the results within a short period of time.

**Cucumber & Lemon Ice-Cubes**

## How To Make It?

Blend cucumber and the juice on 1 lemon to make a puree. Add just enough water to blend for desired consistency. Mix it well until smooth.

Add a few drops of lemon and pour it evenly an ice-cube tray.

Freeze it for a few hours preferably for overnight and apply cold for maximum effect.

Before using, allow the cube sit for 30 seconds or so to soften slightly. Gently rub the cube over your face and neck, using the icy slush to exfoliate. You can sit on your face for 5-10 minutes before rinsing.

Freeze the cucumber water in trays. You can add herbs basil, mint or lemon juice in them for a little extra flavor. Put them in freezer and allow them to settle for overnight to form.

Solid state. You can use them as per your convenience.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

# Why does the USA want more engagement with Bangladesh?

By: Fumiko Yamada

The two countries' diplomatic ties began on April 4, 1972, when the United States recognized the newly formed Bangladesh. Both countries have had cordial relations for the past 50 years, strengthening collaboration in areas such as development, climate change, counter-terrorism, democracy, and human rights.

Over the last decade, cooperation in trade, investment, and security, particularly in counter-terrorism, has strengthened. After 2016, this collaboration grew even further. Bangladeshi items have a large market in the United States. The trade balance between the two countries favors Bangladesh, and the United States is the largest single market for garments produced in Bangladesh. By 2019, bilateral commerce had reached USD 9 billion, with US exports to Bangladesh totaling USD 2.3 billion, up 12 percent from 2018. Meanwhile, Bangladesh exported USD 6.7 billion to the United States, up 9.5 percent from 2018. The US has made a significant contribution to the vaccine. Bangladesh is the third-largest recipient of US aid in South Asia. The US praised Bangladesh for providing sanctuary to Rohingya refugees, noting that it had not only met its obligation but also continued to provide support and collaboration. The implementation of sanctions by the US has fallen numerous times in the context of such a relationship.

The year 2021 was a trying one for relations between the US and Bangladesh. On December 10, 2021, the United States sanctioned Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and numerous current and former officers for a long his-

tory of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings. Bangladesh was not invited to the virtual Summit for Democracy that same month by the Biden administration.

In 2022, the United States produced a report on the situation of human rights in 198 countries. Bangladesh's state department has accused the country of human rights violations.

The US decision to apply sanctions on Bangladesh, which include ideals like democracy and human rights, is considered as a strategic move by the Biden administration in shifting geopolitical objectives and US foreign policy. For different causes, there are ongoing discussions, criticisms, and analyses of US-Bangladesh ties.

Bangladesh held the 8th US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue on March 20, 2022, after a one-year hiatus due to the Corona pandemic. The US Under Secretary for political affairs, Victoria Nuland, the third highest ranking person in the US State Department, visited Dhaka on March 19 and participated in the dialogue as the US delegate. The Bangladesh team, on the other hand, was led by Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen. Those two delegates came together primarily to strengthen the US Bangladesh 50 years bilateral connection and establish a "robust relationship." It is surprising that the United States is more interested about Bangladesh and has included it in its strategic calculations today. Though, in the past, the US did not do so, instead classifying Bangladesh as an underdeveloped country similar to Niger and calculating Bangladesh on hu-

manitarian grounds.

However, the dialogue took place in two stages at the same location: first, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland met with Foreign Secretary Masud Momen; Bangladesh raised US sanctions against Bangladesh's elite force Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), calling them "unjustified," and the US sought Bangladesh's support in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The primary debate of the dialogue was then commenced in the second stage in order to close the gaps in bilateral ties.

Joe Biden, the US President, stated earlier this year that he believes the Dhaka-Washington relationship will endure for the next 50 years and beyond.

'Our defense cooperation is stronger than ever,' the US president wrote to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, adding that the Bangladesh Coast Guard and Navy are vital allies in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region, as well as contributing to the regional fight against human and illicit drug trafficking.

On the heels of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, the third-ranking official at the State Department, said the US wanted to work together with Bangladesh on global security.

"Bangladesh and the US will work together to protect democracy and human rights at a time when Russia is invading Ukraine in the changed world situation and international law and human rights are under threat," Victoria Nuland said at the start of the eighth Partnership Dialogue, which began in 2022 to discuss all aspects of bilateral relations. To enhance US investment in Bangladesh, Dhaka will have to work more.

Newly appointed US Ambassador to Dhaka Peter Haas praised

Bangladesh's contribution in promoting peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region recently, saying the US wishes to work with Bangladesh to achieve their common goals.

"Bangladesh and the US have opposing but remarkably similar views for the Indo-Pacific area. 'We can - and do - collaborate to enhance areas where our visions intersect,'" he remarked.

Bangladesh and the United States can "move faster together" in expanding trade and investment connections, according to US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas at an event titled 'US-Bangladesh Business Forum: Building on 50 Years of Friendship' held in Dhaka on May 08, hosted by HSBC Bangladesh, in partnership with the US-Bangladesh Business Council (USBBC).

During Nuland's visit to Dhaka, she signed a draft defense cooperation agreement, which represents that endeavor. However, Washington may continue to view Dhaka as a regional security partner. The United States now seeks to establish a strategic engagement and relationship with Bangladesh.

The United States' recent increasing attention on democracy and human rights in Bangladesh raises the question of why the US is taking this action now. There are several options. One possibility is that United States has a larger role for the country in its Indo-Pacific strategy.

Bangladesh favors regional peace. Bangladesh still believes in the Non-Aligned Movement's "importance" (NAM). The United States must recognize that Bangladesh is allied with the United States.

Bangladesh believes the US sanctions are motivated by geopolitics, while the US claims the Rapid Action Battalion is harming the rule

of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and economic prosperity of the Bangladeshi people. Finally, the US sanctions against Bangladesh are nothing more than a South Asian geopolitical plan. Because of China's overwhelming domination in South Asia, the US will have no friendly states (without India) in the region. Of certainly, Bangladesh will be able to overcome this diplomatic dilemma and obstacle.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the United States to consider Bangladesh as a prospective partner for increased trade and investment, claiming that the two nations' trade volume will double. The prime minister made the remarks during a meeting with the US-Bangladesh Business Council's inaugural executive business delegation in Dhaka on May 10, 2022.

While Bangladesh's top concerns are sanctions and investment, the United States wants to ensure its security in the region. The US must maintain its security in the Indo-Pacific area amid the current great power rivalry. In order to accomplish so, the United States plans to sign two defense agreements with Bangladesh: GSOMIA and ACSA. Through these accords, the US hopes to strengthen military ties by enhancing intelligence sharing and exchanging logistical and technological support.

Bangladesh should pursue its policies and maintain its soft demands in order to enhance its 'Mutual Understanding' with America and become a trustworthy ally of the United States. Because the United States is Bangladesh's single largest export market for ready-made garments (RMG), accounting for 83 percent of total exports. The United States was also Bangladesh's top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (\$3.5 billion in total invest-

ments as of 2019). Bangladesh should retain "strong connections" with the United States for two reasons: 1) investment and 2) the Rohingya Crisis. In the 8th US-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue, we noticed that Bangladesh had followed the strategy. According to the most recent data, there are 213,372 Bangladeshis living in the United States, contributing to the country's economy. Last but not least, through numerous scholarship and study programs, the United States has made important contributions to Bangladesh's knowledge space.

Both countries have been showing signs of progress for some time, with Bangladesh establishing human rights cells and sending out human rights reports. At the same time, the US has reaffirmed its commitment to working with Bangladesh to improve the country's human rights situation.

Bangladesh garments are primarily exported to the United States. Bangladesh supports the United States' Indo-Pacific strategy of freedom and openness. Bangladesh requires the United States for its development. It's worth noting that Bangladesh aspires to be a South Asian economic miracle. Its financial success is now commendable. As a result, it is dependent on the United States and the European Union to maintain the current rate of rapid economic growth. Bangladesh is not a threat to the United States. Bangladesh is a firm believer in international friendship. Bangladesh may be one of the trusted allies with USA in the region.

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# India adds 2,858 new infections in 24 hours; North Korea reports 21 'Fever' deaths amid Covid

Agency  
New Delhi, May 14:

India's first indigenous mRNA Covid-19 vaccine technology has been developed by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and will be tested against the coronavirus infection. It is currently at a pre-clinical study stage.

Almost 90% effective against Covid-19 in the mouse model, mRNA vaccines can also be used to neutralize diseases like malaria, dengue and tuberculosis, *The Times of India* reported.

"The team at the Atal Incubation Centre attached to the CCMB led the development of the vaccine candidate within a year of the project inception," Dr Vinay Nandicoori, director of the CCMB, told *TOI*.

Meanwhile, the drug regulatory authority of India is up-set with Pune-based vaccine-maker Gennova Biopharmaceuticals over the alleged violation of clinical trial protocols for its mRNA vaccine

against Covid-19, *News18* reported on Friday.

The vaccine, known as GEMCOVAC-19, is the country's first homegrown mRNA Covid-19 vaccine, which is a heat stable product and pegged as a game-changer for the future of the healthcare industry.

While Gennova had submitted interim data on its mRNA Covid vaccine to the drug regulator seeking the emergency use authorisation in March, the regulatory agency, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), has noticed at least five modifications in the trial protocol which were undertaken without seeking approval from the drug regulator, thus violating the protocols.

"The modifications went unnoticed even by the subject expert committee (SEC) and now deliberations are going on with the company to seek more clarity," a top official at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare told *News18* com. "The violations of the protocol are

taken very seriously."

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has tested positive for COVID-19 but said she still plans to travel to the U.S. later this month for a trade trip and to give the commencement speech at Harvard University.

Ardern on Saturday posted a photo of her positive test result on Instagram and said she was disappointed to miss several important political announcements over the coming week, including the release of the government's annual budget and a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"I'm gutted to miss being there in person, but will be staying in close touch with the team and sharing some reckons from here," she wrote.

Ardern, who is fully vaccinated, had been isolating at her Wellington residence since Sunday after her fiancé Clarke Gayford tested positive for the virus. Under New Zealand's health rules, people must isolate for seven days if somebody in their household tests posi-

tive.

North Korea reported 21 new deaths on Friday among people with fevers, the state news agency reported on Saturday, as the country battles its first COVID-19 outbreak which state leader Kim Jong Un has called a "great turmoil".

About 280,810 people were being treated and 27 people have died since a fever of unidentified origins started to be reported in the country since late April, KCNA news agency said.

State media did not say whether the new deaths were due to COVID. KCNA said on Friday that one death had been confirmed to be due to the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Delhi on Friday recorded 899 new Covid cases and four more deaths, the highest single-day fatality count in over two months, while the positivity rate stood at 3.34 percent, according to data shared by the health department here. The city had logged three Covid deaths on March 7 and four fatalities due to the disease on March 4.

## Nagaland CM to meet Shah on Naga issue



Agency  
Kohima, May 14:

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, along with legislators of the all-party United Democratic Alliance, will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah next week to hold discussions to resolve the decades-old Naga political issue, a state minister said on Friday.

The decision to this effect was taken during the first meeting of the Core Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Naga Issue of the state government on Friday following the April 29 merger of 21 out of the 25 Naga

People's Front (NPF) legislators to the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP).

Rio, deputy chief minister Y Patton, chairman of UDA, T E Zeliang, its co-chairman Kuzholuzo Nienu and other legislators will leave for New Delhi either on May 16 or 17 for the meeting, state Minister for Planning & Coordination, Land Revenue and Parliamentary Affairs Neiba Kronu told *PTI* after the meeting.

The Parliamentary Committee on Naga Political Issue comprise all the 60 members of the Nagaland Assembly and the two MPs from the State.

The Core Committee has elected representatives from all the political parties in the state NDPP, BJP, NPF and Independent.

The Centre has been holding separate talks with NSCN(IM) since 1997 and the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) from 2017. It signed the framework agreement with NSCN(IM) on August 3, 2015 and an Agreed Position with NNPG on November 17, 2017.

However, no final solution has been achieved with NSCN(IM) remaining firm on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas.

## MHA writes to States, UTs to observe anti-terrorism day on May 21

Agency  
New Delhi, May 14:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all the states, Union Territories (UTs), Central government departments as well as ministries to observe anti-terrorism day on May 21 in a "befitting manner".

With the header of "most immediate", the letter accessed by ANI, was sent on Thursday to chief secretaries of all state governments and administrators of all UTs along with secretaries of all ministries and departments of the government of India.

Noting the importance of the day, the letter states, "Every year

21st May is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day. The objective behind observance of this day is to wean away from the youth from terrorism and the cult of violence by highlighting the sufferings of common people and showing as to how it is prejudicial to the national interest."

It also proposed that the anti-terrorism pledge may be taken in all government offices, public sector undertakings, and other public institutions.

Keeping in view the safety of participants and organizers and to avoid public gatherings, it said, officials may be advised to take anti-terrorism pledge solemnly in their rooms and offices itself.

In addition, considering the importance and solemnity of the occasion, the letter stated, "innovative ways of propagating the message of anti-terrorism through digital and social media platforms, may also be considered".

"Accordingly, I request you to kindly observe the Anti-Terrorism Day in a befitting manner," mentioned the concerned official issuing the letter from MHA.

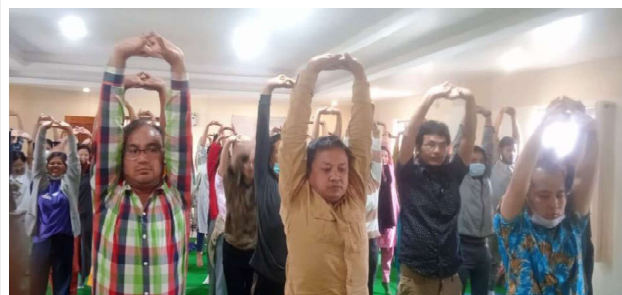
To achieve the above objective various anti-terrorism programmes and drives had been organized in the past.

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it further said, it is imperative to follow the

preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing, and wearing masks as prescribed and recommended by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare while organizing the appropriate programme for the occasion.

The letter, while pointing out that this year 21st May falls on Saturday, a closed holiday for Central Government offices, said: "To avoid inconvenience to the employees who have to travel a long distance from suburbs or cities to come to the office on Saturday, it has been decided that the 'pledge taking ceremony' in the offices of the Central Government may be held on Friday, the 20th May 2022".

## On the Run Up to the International Day of Yoga, 2022 held



IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

An Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme on the run up to the International Day of Yoga, 2022 was organised by the Regional Outreach Bureau, Imphal, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India at Ibtombi Institute of Education, Imphal today. The event was presided by Dr. R.K. Bijen Singh, Principal, Ibtombi Institute of Education, Imphal elaborately explained on the benefits of practicing yoga.

As a part of the programme, Elocution contest

countdown to International Day of Yoga, 21st June, 2022.

Dr. Khadambam Mukta Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Yoga and Physical Education, Manipur International University, Imphal led the audience in performing Common Yoga Protocol (CYP). Speaking as resource person, Dr. Cherish Salam, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education, Ibtombi Institute of Education, Imphal elaborately explained on the benefits of practicing yoga.

As a part of the programme, Elocution contest

and on the spot quiz on yoga was held and prizes and certificates were distributed to the audience present. Private Registered Troupes of ROB, Imphal namely Mass Theatre Manipur, Paona Bazar, Imphal performed a drama related with yoga.

Dr. Aribam Ibomcha Sharma, Head of Office, Regional Outreach Bureau, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Imphal, teaching staffs of Ibtombi Institute of Education, Imphal also attended the event amongst others.

## Career Guidance

### Revised work hours protocol for extreme summers is needed



By: Vijay GarG

The effect of Cyclone Asani has waned. The moisture-laden easterly winds did lower temperatures for a couple of days in the north. The plains are back to witnessing a return of the debilitating heatwave. The weather office has issued a yellow alert that could soon be upgraded into an orange alert. Are any steps afoot to mitigate people's misery as the temperatures threaten to cross 46 degrees Celsius in Delhi and neighbouring states?

A welcome step is shortening school hours, limiting students' outdoor activities, and relaxing the dress code

norm. However, is there a need for primary schools to function? The heat threatens the adult population in no less measure. Sunstrokes are on the rise and dehydration is common. And yet there is no attempt to advance or shorten office hours. Private offices can easily shift to the WFH mode if advancing office hours is not possible.

Online work in digitised government departments is recommended. The situation eminently suits half-day work timings. Routine activities in courts like date extensions, submission of documents, and bail arguments, especially related to petty crimes, can be online. However, what about the daily-wage labourers, agricultural labourers, and civic workers of the public works departments?

Millions spend their days under the unrelenting sun with barely any protection or nutritious supplements. The civic works have not been stopped

or postponed anywhere. Big projects related to national highways, track-laying, and construction of bridges and buildings have no systems to allow for reduced working hours. In some states, the governments make arrangements for cool drinking water, buttermilk sachets, and medical camps. Most states have first-aid kits at the primary health centres in rural areas. But all these efforts miss the point. They essentially deal with basic resuscitation measures for labourers and workers suffering heat strokes. We are witnessing a definite, recurring pattern of extreme summer heat.

The pattern is already an intrinsic part of summers, and climatologists fear things may become worse in the coming years. So, we should be talking about more than the basics. The focus should be on tweaking working hours without affecting productivity but sparing the workers from heat

fatigue. Proposals for the work hours to begin earlier than usual or shift to the late afternoons and early evenings are worth examining. Implementing them is not easy without backup infrastructure, including the provision of power and, possibly, transport and arrangements of creches, temporarily in 'anganwadis', for the children of the labourers.

By now, the National Disaster Management Authority could have met to discuss a summer public works protocol roping in organisations from the Centre, the States, and the non-governmental sector. The Authority's website does recognise the threat that extreme summers pose. The homepage lists the criteria offered by the weather office for heatwaves and spells out first-aid and stroke-prevention measures. It also acknowledges that India is also feeling the impact of heatwaves. But that is all.

## Delhi in grip of another severe heatwave, Temperature may soar to 47 degrees

Agency  
New Delhi, May 14:

The India Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for Delhi as a heatwave spell scorching the national capital for the last two days is predicted to worsen on Saturday. The IMD department has warned that the mercury may soar to 46-47 degrees Celsius in parts of the city.

The maximum temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's base station,

is predicted to settle at 44 degrees Celsius as against 42.5 degrees Celsius on Friday.

Delhi on Friday saw the mercury rise to 46.1 degrees Celsius at Najafgarh. The weather stations at Jafarpur and Mungeshpur had recorded maximum temperatures of 45.6 degrees Celsius and 45.4 degrees Celsius, respectively, six notches above normal for this time of the year.

Pitampura also reeled under heatwave conditions, recording a maximum tempera-

ture of 44.7 degrees Celsius. A 'yellow' alert has been issued to caution people about a heatwave on Sunday. The IMD uses four colour codes for weather warnings — green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action).

Cloudy skies and thunder may provide some relief from the intense heat next week. This is the fifth heatwave — one in March and three in April — in the capital this summer season.

# Heavy rains to lash Northeast on Saturday and Sunday

Agency  
Guwahati, May 14:

The MET department has predicted widespread rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning and heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over the Northeast.

Extremely heavy rain is expected over parts of Meghalaya, while very heavy rain is likely to lash parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim on Saturday.

On Saturday, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura may witness heavy rains.

Widespread rain with thunderstorms is likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim.

Similarly, on Sunday, very heavy rain is expected over parts of Assam & Meghalaya, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura.

Widespread rain with thunderstorms is likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim.

The Met department's alert for Saturday in Assam said heavy (7-11 cm) to very heavy (12-20 cm) is very likely over South Salmara, Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Barpeta, Dima Hasao, Karimganj, Cachar and Nalbari districts in Assam.

There is also a warning of

heavy rainfall over Guwahati on Saturday.

The department has stated that moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal is taking place over to northeast India due to strong lower-level southerly and southwesterly winds between May 13 and 17.

According to MET, under the influence of this system, widespread rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning and heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places are very likely over the Northeast.

# Hyderabad-based CCMB develops India's first mRNA vaccine candidate to fight SARS-CoV-2

Agency  
New Delhi, May 14:

The Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has announced the development of country's first potential mRNA vaccine candidate to

fight SARS-CoV-2.

CCMB Director Dr Vinay Kumar N. informed that the indigenously developed mRNA vaccine candidate is undergoing pre-clinical studies to evaluate its efficacy to protect against live virus infection.

He said the mRNA vaccine

candidate and the technology, developed by a team of researchers from the Atal Incubation Centre-CCMB (AIC-CCMB), is fully indigenous and devoid of any technology contributions from elsewhere.

He further said they observed robust immune re-

sponse against SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein in mice, upon administration of two doses of the mRNA. The anti-Spike antibodies generated were found to be more than 90 percent efficient in preventing the human ACE2 receptor binding to the coronavirus.

Contd. from Page 1

# Art of Living, MNP+ join hands....

"Though the easy availability of ART (antiretroviral therapy) is helping infected people fight the battle with ease and attain a lower morbidity rate, there is an urgent need to address their mental health as they live in constant fear of death and the stress of the social stigma." She added the stress elimination and other holistic life-skills imparted by the Art of Living would play a very big role in this aspect.

Kshetrimayum Deepak, coordinator IT MSACS, highlighted the role of mind management in dealing with the health and mental issues faced by + people and welcomed the efforts to bridge the gap through Art of Living.

"Ever since the world got into an immunity crisis following the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Art of Living and IAHV have been working worldwide to help people boost their immunity in various ways. Apart from providing the Immunity Kits, the Art of Living has been teaching people various immunity boosting techniques and breathing exercises," explained Rajaque Rahman of the Art of Living. "This is helping people in coping with the emerging health challenges with ease and confidence. We are very happy to reach out to the people who are in need of stronger immunity," he added.

Explaining the uniqueness of the Immunity Kit, Laishram



Dixon, program coordinator of the Art of Living, said "the herbal concoction from the Art of Living is proven to be effective in improving immunity instantly and significantly." He highlighted the need for adopting a multi-pronged approach to maintain stronger immunity and stay fit to fight any invader, be it Coronavirus or HIV. He also shared the Art of Living's holistic philosophy about health and wellness. He assured the Immunity Kit and other interventions of the Art of Living will go a long way in boosting the immunity profile of Manipur.

President of MNP+ Leimapokpam Deepak acknowledged the initiative of the Art of Living to work with his network and help its members maintain a better health and wellness profile. He urged the members to integrate mind and

stress management as part of their lifestyle so that various challenges faced by them can be overcome with ease and calmness. He shared his desire to work more closely with the Art of Living on this front. Some of the beneficiaries also shared how their association within the Art of Living and adoption of its breathing techniques have helped them during their worst days. They urged the government to initiate some programmes for their mental health and wellness in collaboration with the Art of Living. Responding to the request, Dr Hemolata assured to look into it at the earliest.

Adventure sports Expert and Art of Living faculty Dr K. Romeo Meetei shared how Art of Living's breathing techniques shore up stamina, endurance and how it could be harnessed by + people.

# PCCF and CCF inspect catchment....

The idea of Participatory Plantation is also mooted, as Singda Dam is a lifeline of most Imphal based residents irrespective of community.

The Forest Department has

planned to initiate a "SAVE SINGDA; SAVE WATER" Campaign by means of Participatory Plantation. It is also appealed to all the people to take part in this Participatory Plan-

tation Drive at Singda Catchment Area from next Monday. The seedlings will be made available to all people coming to take part in this SAVE SINGDA Campaign.

# AR organizes Pipe Band Display at Khongjom War Memorial

IT News  
Imphal, May 14:

A Pipe Band Display was organised by 20 Assam Rifles for the locals at Khongjom War Memorial today to celebrate the 75 years of Independence under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The troops of 20 Assam Rifles gave a mesmerizing performance for the public and the gesture received applauses from the local people.



# Sports

# RoundGlass Punjab and NEROCA FC play 3-3 draw to end campaign

Agency  
Kalyani (West Bengal), May 14:

RoundGlass Punjab and NEROCA FC played a thrilling 3-3 draw to end their respective I-League seasons here in Kalyani on Friday. RoundGlass Punjab looked set to finish their season on a high, but the Orange Brigade had other plans as Juan Mera inspired a solid performance to get on the scoresheet.

In an eventful first half, NEROCA FC made the early running in the contest with territorial domination in the opponent's half. However, RoundGlass Punjab got the first breakthrough when Freddy Lalawmawma opened the scoring in the 14th minute. Robin Singh flighted in an innocuous-looking ball into the box from the left flank, which was not dealt with properly by Neroeca center-back Ben Nash. As a result, Kurtis Guthrie put his body about inside the box to win the physical duel and lay the ball off for Freddy. Freddy composed himself in a quick second and fired the ball into the near corner past Shubham Dhas to give RoundGlass Punjab the lead.

RoundGlass Punjab came close to doubling their lead on a couple of occasions through



two-headed chances for frontman Kurtis Guthrie. In the 19th minute, Joseba Beitia showed a moment of the unique invention to scoop the ball into the path of Guthrie, whose headed effort over the onrushing Shubham Dhas hit the frame of the goal and bounced out of play.

Just a minute later, Robin Singh produced a delightful cross with the outside of his left boot to find Guthrie at point-blank range from goal, but this time the Englishman was denied by a fantastic save from Shubham Dhas. After threatening to double their lead earlier, RG Punjab finally delivered on their promise in the 28th minute. A corner kick from the left flank was flicked on at the near post by Robin Singh and met at the far post

by Travis Major, who was careful to head the ball into the roof of the net past the melee of NEROCA defenders trying to thwart the attempt at the goal line.

NEROCA FC countered with a response in the 36th minute, pulling a goal back through Vicky Meitei. After working the ball down the left-wing, Juan Mera used his quick footwork to create a yard of space and deliver the ball into the far post, which was met by an unmarked Vicky Meitei, who made no mistake with his first-time finish.

Juan Mera then had a golden opportunity to equalize for NEROCA FC in the 38th minute, but the Spanish playmaker fluffed his lines from inside the box after coming on to his favored left foot

and looking certain to score. The 2-1 scoreline at the interval reflected an attacking half of football, but the goal-scoring actions were by no means over.

On the other side of half-time, Robin Singh came to the fore and restored RG Punjab's two-goal cushion in the 48th minute. Maheson Singh carried the ball in midfield and waited for just the opportune moment to thread the ball through on the inside of the covering full-back, thereby playing Robin Singh through on goal. The delightfully weighted pass was just perfect for Robin Singh to sweep the ball home with a first-time finish at the far post.

Just as RG Punjab showed signs of pulling away and securing a win in the contest, NEROCA FC came right back and reduced the arrears once again in the 55th minute. It was Juan Mera this time who stepped up to take a penalty kick, and the Spaniard made no mistake from 12 yards as he cheekily dinked a Panenka penalty into the back of the net.

The draw confirmed a 5th place finish for RoundGlass Punjab, who end the campaign with 28 points, while NEROCA FC finished in 7th place in the league table with 20 points.

# 12th IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Lovlina Borgohain bows out, Pooja Rani advances to Quarterfinals

Agency  
Istanbul, May 14:

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain's IBA World Championship campaign in the 70 kg category came to an early end after a disappointing loss in the pre-quarterfinals, while her compatriot Pooja Rani (81kg) cruised to the last eight stages in Istanbul on Friday.

Lovlina, competing in her first international event since her podium finish in Tokyo last year, went down to Cindy Ngamba of Fair Chance Team (FCT) 1-4 in the pre-quarterfinals.

On the other hand, two-time Asian Champion Pooja notched a facile 5-0 win over Hungary's Timea Nagy in her opening bout.

Pooja, the 2014 Asian Games bronze medallist, who is also competing in her first competitive tournament since her disappointing Tokyo Olympics appearance last year, looked completely in control against Nagy.

The experienced Indian boxer blended defence and attack to out-punch the Hungarian, who is a two-time World Championships bronze medallist.



Two-time Asian Champion Pooja Rani (Left)

The Bhiwani boxer will take on Australia's Jessica Bagley in the quarterfinal on Monday. In the first Indian bout of the day, Lovlina started aggressively but looked far from being at her best.

The 24-year from Assam, going by her strategy of using her long hands to reach the opponent from afar, was unable to penetrate Ngamba's defence.

She fared better in the second round but the boxer from FCT defended tightly, avoiding Lovlina's punches while landing several sharp ones on the Indian.

Lovlina had defeated

former world champion Chen Nien-Chin in the first round.

FCT is a team run by the International Boxing Association (IBA), formerly AIBA, from last year's men's World Championships, mainly comprising refugee athletes.

The 2017 World Youth Champion Nitu (48kg) and 2019 Asian Championships bronze medallist Manisha (57kg) will play their respective pre-quarterfinal bouts on Saturday.

Nitu will face Spain's Lopez Del Arbol while Manisha will square off against Bulgaria's Svetlana Staneva for a place in the quarter-final.