

## Manik Saha sworn-in as 11th Tripura CM day after Biplab Deb's sudden resignation

IT News  
Agartala, May 15:

Dr Manik Saha, the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rajya Sabha MP, on Sunday was sworn-in as the 11th Chief Minister of Tripura, a day after he was elected as party's legislature leader following the sudden resignation of his predecessor Biplab Kumar Deb.

The oath was administered at the Raj Bhawan in Agartala by Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya.

Deb, who once enjoyed the trust of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, resigned abruptly on Saturday, two days after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah BJP national president JP Nadda in New Delhi amid rumours of infighting within the party's Tripura unit.

Later, the BJP in a hurriedly meeting appointed Saha as its



legislature leader, clearing his way to become the next Chief Minister of Tripura. Deb congratulated Saha and thanked the BJP top brass for giving him the opportunity to serve the people of the state.

"I thank Central leadership and people of Tripura for giving me the responsibility to

serve Tripura as a Chief Minister. I have wholeheartedly served my State and will always work for the betterment of my State. Tripura shall definitely march ahead in the path of development. Jai Hind," he tweeted.

"Congratulations and best wishes to Dr Manik Saha ji on

being elected as the legislature party leader. I believe under PM Narendra Modi Ji's vision and leadership Tripura will prosper," he added.

Later, Saha - also a professor at the Tripura Medical College and BR Ambedkar Memorial Teaching Hospital in Agartala - thanked the top BJP leadership for announcing him as the next Tripura Chief Minister.

"I would like to thank and express my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, BJP National President JP Nadda ji, Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji and BJP top leadership for giving me an opportunity to serve the people of Tripura state," he tweeted.

A former Congressman, Saha had joined the BJP in 2016. In 2018, he was appointed as BJP's Tripura president. Later, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha in the biennial elections held earlier this year.

## Heavy rainfall spate Jiri river, wash away 4 houses at Kamranga Muslim village



IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, May 15:

Due to the incessant rainfall of last few days, Jiri river flows above the danger mark, various low-lying areas in Jiribam district have been flooded, which hit life and throwing life out of gear.

The water of Jiri river submerged vast area of Kamranga and Leingangpokpi village of Jiribam by breaking its embankment in a number of places.

59 houses of Kamranga villages were submerged under flood water and wash away 4 houses. The flood affected people were shifted in the relief camp at Kamranga Muslim Youth Club.

The rising water level of Jiri River has completely cut off the road leading to Khutchoi Khup of Kamranga Muslim village of Jiribam Hilghat Gram Panchayat and it is now surrounded by water on all sides.

It might be recall here, if the Jiri river cut off Khutchoi khup of Kamranga Muslim village, vast area of Manipur will cutoff from the State and include into the neighbouring State of Assam.

Affected villagers have shifted their key belongings and moved to safer locations till the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, Hilghat GP Pradhan L Samarendra visited the flooded village and made arrangement for providing re-

lief materials to affected villages.

There is possibility of flooding more villages in Jiribam if the rising water level of Jiri River does not recede and heavy downpour continues.

On receiving the information today, District administration along with MLA representative, local Panchayat and members reached to the spot and provided relief materials at the relief camp.

On the other hand, four houses at Leingangpokpi areas under Hilghat Gram Panchayat of Jiribam District were submerged under flood water. The affected people were also shifted to the safer areas with their belongings.

## Rajiv Kumar assumes charge as Chief Election Commissioner ahead of President, VP polls

Agency  
New Delhi, May 15:

Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar took charge as the 25th chief election commissioner (CEC) on Sunday and the first major task before him will be to hold the President and the Vice President elections, which are due shortly.

Kumar said the Commission will follow the time-tested methods of consultations and consensus building in bringing about any reforms and will not shy away from tough decisions, according to an Election Commission (EC) statement.

The elections to the post of President and Vice President are to be held in July-August. The 2024 Lok Sabha polls and several assembly elections will also conducted under the watch of Kumar, whose tenure is till February 2025.

Kumar was part of the poll panel as an election commissioner since September 1, 2020 and was appointed the CEC on Thursday. He succeeds Sushil Chandra, who demitted office on Saturday evening.

According to the EC statement, after assuming charge as



CEC, Kumar said he is honoured to have been given the responsibility to lead one of the finest institutions gifted by the Indian Constitution - the institution that reinforces our democracy.

He said that a lot has been done during the last seventy years by the EC to give citizens free and fair elections, ensure the purity of the electoral rolls, prevent malpractices and enhance the quality of elections.

"The Commission will follow the time-tested and democratic methods of consultations and consensus building in bringing about any major reforms," he said.

He asserted that the EC will not shy away from tough decisions.

Kumar also said that technology will further be made the major instrument for simplification of processes and practices for bringing about transparency and ease of voter ser-

vices for better election management and operations.

Kumar is known among his colleagues and juniors as a hard taskmaster with a practical approach and penchant for honesty and integrity.

In his previous assignment as the Financial Services Secretary and Finance Secretary, he worked for promoting transparency, technology and protection of hard-earned money of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society, two senior officials who worked with him said.

An official recalled that many wrongdoers in the financial sector space faced the wrath of the law in his pursuit to clean up the banking system struggling with NPAs.

Some of the big names who faced the heat were Chanda Kochhar, Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Kapil Wadhawan, Rana Kapoor and Dheeraj Wadhawan among others.

Kumar proved his mettle even during the most challenging times of COVID-19 when he was appointed chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) in April 2020.

## Nagas want solution but some against it: Patton

Courtesy: Nagaland Post  
Kohima, May 15:

The two-day get-together-cum-cultural programme of the Central Nagaland Tribes Council (CNTC) held at Tihi Hall, Wokha on May 13 to 14 where various Central Nagaland Legislators Forum (CNLF) members ventilated their views of common interest to CNTC and Nagas in general.

Speaking on the occasion, state deputy chief minister and also treasurer of the Central Nagaland Legislators Forum (CNLF) Y. Patton stressed CNTC should play a role in

strengthening unity among Nagas for securing settlement of the Naga political issue.

Asserting that he was speaking for the Nagas, Patton said Nagas have to speak up boldly and that time has come for Nagas of Nagaland to unite and exclude those who were not in favour of solution to the Naga issue. He said "enough is enough", as Naga political solution can no longer be delayed.

As a member of the Core Committee, headed by chief minister Neiphiu Rio, Patton said they will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Home minister Amit Shah in Delhi in a day or two. Patton said he will bluntly tell the two leaders that if Naga solution cannot be achieved then impose President's Rule.

Patton also said when the committee meets with NSCN (I-M) and WC, NNPGs delegation at Delhi, he will also call a spade, a spade. He said there was no point in talking behind or backout in fear but ask them directly whether they want solution or not. Patton said those who don't want solution want to continue living comfortable life by extorting from people.

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## Workforce being crushed between inflation and joblessness Modi Govt's wrong policies may further aggravate the situation

By Dr. Gyan Pathak  
New Delhi, May 15:

Workforce in India is being crushed between inflation and joblessness chiefly on account of wrong policy stance of the Narendra Modi government and the pandemic may be just an additional excuse. Retail inflation (CPI) in April soared to a 8-year high, ie the entire period of Modi Raj, and touched 7.79 per cent as against 8.3 per cent in May

2014, which he had strongly criticized during his election campaign. In place of the promise of providing one crore job every year, his government actually delivered unprecedented level of joblessness in decades, further exacerbated by the pandemic.

High taxes on petrol and diesel, high administered prices, and high GST rates have all along fuelling the rise of inflation, apart from the rising food prices, the downturn

in labour market started with the policy experiment of demonetization in November 2016, could never been stopped. Job situation has never been worse. Both unemployment and labour force participation suffered historical decline during Modi Raj. The pandemic and other domestic and external factors did have it impact and the government seemed to be stupefied. Rethinking on its old wrong priorities was required but the

centre continued with them, and in several cases vigorously followed them.

The worsening market condition with price rise and inflation and labour market deterioration with large number of job loss, declining opportunity of jobs, and rising unemployment has become the characteristic features of the entire Modi rule. No money in hand and little opportunity of getting jobs have made the life of four workforce miserable.

The month of April 2022 though witnessed substantially increased activities in the labour market, the additional jobs that became available were inadequate compared to the demand. A large number of the frustrated people who have left the labour market and had stopped even searching for jobs resumed their search, though the search has become costly, the unemployment rate has increased compared to 7.88 per cent in April compared

to 7.57 per cent in March, according to the latest CMIE assessment.

The labour force increased by 8.8 million from 428.4 million in March to 437.2 million in April. It was a substantial increase in the recent months, especially after a fall of 12 million in the preceding three months. This increase was far below the loss which should be taken into consideration.

Employment expanded by only 7 million in April, which

was less by 1.8 million increase in the labour force. The increase in employment had also come after three consecutive months of decline in employment, according to CMIE data, which also reveals that employment had fallen by 10 million from 406 million in December 2021 to 396 million in March 2022. In April, it reached to 403 million, only to recover a part of the fall.

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# Challenge to Save The Earth (Need a clean environment for survival of living beings on earth)



By: Vijay Garg

India is one of the one hundred and seventy-five countries that passed a resolution to reduce plastic pollution. This resolution brought to the United Nations was weak because it gave freedom to each country to set its own goals. It was also said that no other legally binding treaty would be implemented in the light of development policies.

The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Crisis (IPCC), which came some time ago, clearly shows that we have failed in the measures that were to be taken to prevent further warming of the earth. According to the Paris Agreement, steps were to be taken to ensure that the temperature of the earth does not increase further by one and a half to two degrees. For this, many countries had to take such measures that could stop the rise in temperature.

But so far no significant progress has been seen in this direction. According to the Paris Agreement, this goal was to be accelerated by 2025 and to cut greenhouse gas emissions by forty-three percent. Yesterday's delay in taking meaningful steps in this direction has surrounded us with difficult challenges today. Like turning net-zero emissions into reality soon in the industry. An important step towards this goal is to use such materials or substances in construction work which are helpful in reducing pollution.

Recently, most of the countries of the world passed a resolution in the United Nations, taking a pledge to reduce plastic pollution. There is a close link between the climate crisis and plastics. Plastic alone accounts for 3.8 percent of global emissions, which has become a serious problem today. In this short journey from 1907 till today, the journey of plastic has turned from a miraculous discovery to a poisonous truth. Just a glance at the countless proofs of this fact makes one think more clear.

It is that the earth is suffocating with this poison. Plastic pollution has spread to such an extent that in the coming three decades (by 2050) there will be more plastic waste in the ocean than fish. A terrible truth is that ninety nine percent of the plastic produced in the world remains in the world, and only twenty one percent of the plastic waste is recycled.

India is also not immaculate in this matter. Pre-pandemic 2019 reports suggest that this problem is not new. It can be guessed that after the epidemic, the problem would have become even more serious. A 2020 report clearly states that India is also a major country in the matter of throwing plastic in the oceans. A statement by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Parliament says that plastic waste has doubled in the last five years and only a quarter of the waste produced is recycled. With these facts, does India deserve to be the voice of developing countries, as claimed in the House?

What is very strange in the light of all these facts and reality is that although India is among the one hundred and seventy five countries that passed the resolution to reduce plastic pollution. This resolution brought to the United Nations was weak because it gave freedom to each country to set its own goals. It was also said that no other legally binding treaty would be implemented in the light of development policies. Adopting this approach is completely against its own earlier establishment, as India had highlighted this fact in the International Environment Conference held in 2019.

After all, India agreeing to a legally binding treaty is no big deal. But given the fact that both our legislature and executive have a hesitation to act, this year's budget looks blatantly anti-environmental.

Such as permitting mining in Chhattisgarh's vast Hasdeo reserve, knowing it would result in huge loss of forest; To introduce legislation in the House in the interest of horse-trading after five decades of ban; construction of a portion of the Konkan Railway at the cost of heavy forest damage; The widening of the Char-Dham road, despite the threat of landslides, naturally raises the question of where India will reach, when, like all these, the long-term interest of reducing plastic is driven by development or ease of doing business. Will you have to bow before the interests of

Many more such questions come to mind. India is the second most populous country in the world. In such a situation, when the effects of the climate crisis are coming to the fore fast, then surely many of our cities will be in more danger. So what option will we be left with? When there is a target of five lakh crores for the economy, will the environment be given importance in this growth, where it is equal to human desires, aspirations and not less than them? Will India be a full participant in the efforts to save the environment?

On the IPCC report, the UN Secretary-General said that it is a huge indicator of the suffering of humanity and a symbol of the failure of the climate crisis. So it is imperative to think about how to change these situations. This change will start from our thinking, where it has been established that the environment is second and human desires are first. Whereas the truth seems to be the opposite. It has to be understood now that a clean environment is needed for the survival of the creatures on the earth.

If the problem is with the law or its enforcement, then the reason is the learning and learning being imparted. Research also revealed that the generation born after 1997 is very aware of the climate crisis. Therefore, it is very important to create an awareness about the environment, especially the policies that the governments are making, there is a need to be educated too.

Economic necessity and political advantages have been outweighed by one-dimensional development. Experts and critics have come to the conclusion that the climate crisis is now almost catastrophic. And it is clear that at the international level, weak policies are being promoted by us under the pretext of being a progressive country. Facts have come to the fore on reducing the use of plastics, which justify the contributions made at the national level insufficient.

In such a situation, the question to be asked is simple that if our focus is not on the processes to adapt to the climate crisis, then what is this economic development for? What does this situation say about the priorities of humanity when the very possibility of survival is in question? It seems absolutely necessary to warn people of this direct or indirect truth of the danger of life, but when it comes to the fore again and again that everything is weighed in terms of profit and loss, then everything is a loser. Looks like a war.

We are living in an internet era where social media updates us with news from nooks and corners of the world. We are also striving in building a meta world. There is such a thing which can be amended and vice versa. Remember that anything that takes place influence us in one way or another. Here is a little surprise for us. Irrespective of the safety rules enacted, a data shows that in every four minutes a person died of road accident. There are 53 road crashes per hour. We care very little on trivial matters such as looking after our safety while driving however it is a fact that it only takes a second to lost a life. Therefore it is very worth to invest our effort to bring changes.

Your safety is our safety and your safety can save the life of others. It is very important to apply those important basics we learned. Probably every children may know that while crossing the road we should look into the left and the right and to observe the traffic signs where red indicates to stop, green to go and yellow to wait. These are some basic things but they are of

# Safe Drive, Save Life

By: Themneivah Sidhoo

ten disregarded. There are numerous classification of road accident. Some may involve another vehicles such as collision while others not. What we could also see is lost of life of an innocent or common people due to careless driving. Life is so much worth just to lost as a cause of our recklessness. You may recover your health but don't we ever dare think that we can redeem the lost of life. It is very unfortunate that news are flourished with accidents nowadays. Above all, youths are mainly the victim. It is a blessings that our life standard increases that qualify us to live the life of Riley such as owning a motor. However, some consequences has turn our blessings into a curse. Therefore it is worth our effort to cease the unnecessary turnout of our boon into our disadvantage.

Government of India target to reduce road accident by 50% in 2025 and zero by 2030. How so and with what measures? Motor vehicles Act 1998 increases the violation of road related rules but our legal system is sleeping. Do you ever witness a traffic police in every intersection or a

busy road? It is very obvious that there is shortage of traffic police in our country when they should be the one enforcing the law. This is a no laughing issue. We should not accept anything as it is because it is the time to speak out against the drawbacks and it is the time to move towards betterment. Do we have a good road to begin with? Do our political leaders fulfill their bucket list which include proper construction of road if they get elected. Not really. There is very limited speed limit signs which is so dearth. When we have such an upright goal before us, do we have a different pathways for vehicles atleast in a metropolitan cities? Setting a target is the first step of improvement. Likewise we also need special measures and resources to implement them. With all the above scenario let us ponder, are we competent enough to attain our ambition?

We know that rights and duties are coin sided. We have the right to access to good road likewise we have our duty to maintain good environment. Not to use our government as a scapegoat, we should

know that they are our guardian who will help us in paving our way but it is also us who will go along with them. Change in attitude of people is a basic requirement for implementing any law in the society. Just ask yourself if you wear helmet while driving, if you drive with the average speed, if you give sidelight in every turn and if you ever drive while consuming alcohol. Every small gesture from our side is strong enough to change the whole story. It is very regretful to bring up that people are reluctant to help the victims of road accident due to law charge, no compensation etc. It is a very good initiative by the government of Delhi and Karnataka where anyone can help the victim with zero charge but with rewards. Not to waste any minute, this little time can also save the victim life which is on the edge. This is a very good example. Let us promote safety by taking care of ourselves first. Be an example by bringing awareness in the eyes of others. The life you save today may be mine or the life I save today may be yours. Reminder, fast drive could be a last drive.

# North-East India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh's exchanging of regional strategic advantage



By: Mehjabin Bhanu

The northeastern part of India, as well as the surrounding countries of Southeast Asia, is a fascinating seismotectonic zone. The region is bordered on the north by the eastern and northeastern Himalayas, on the east by the Indo-Burma ranges/Myanmar, on the south by Bangladesh, and on the southeast by the Andaman-Sumatra region.

Bangladesh's southeast has a land border with Myanmar of 210 kilometers (130 miles) and India of 330 kilometers (205 miles). According to an analyst, insurgents such as Myanmar's Arakan Army have slipped through the porous borders, attacking Bangladeshi border police on at least one occasion.

The three bilateral ties have enough content and context to begin working on potential trilateral cooperation initiatives. This would not only benefit all three nations participating, but it will also encourage increased cooperation in broader setups like BIMSTEC or BCIM-EC, as these three countries serve as the geographical fulcrum for the other frameworks.

Bangladesh and Myanmar are two of India's most important potential economic partners, but non-trade obstacles such as connectivity, investments, infrastructure, logistics, and technical capacity have prevented them from realizing their potential.

In recent years, there has been a lot of talk in Indian policy circles about expanding regional cooperation with India's eastern neighbors. Although politically difficult, the concept of more commerce, investment, and connection among Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India's North-Eastern states is worthwhile to pursue, especially given that this region, one of the least integrated in the world, is home to some of the world's poorest people.

The recent economic and political changes in Myanmar, as well as the Modi government's 'Look East'

economic policy, highlight the critical need to integrate one of South Asia's least developed regions, namely India's north eastern states, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, which share borders.

According to media reports, Bangladesh has already announced that a road-building project in the remote Chittagong Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar will be extended until 2024, claiming that the increased infrastructure would assist combat illegal smuggling across the nearby Myanmar and India borders, among other things.

The amended proposal for the road system in the steep and generally inaccessible southeastern region was approved by the National Economic Council Executive Committee, led by the Bangladesh prime minister.

The roads and highways department plans to construct a 317-kilometer (197-mile) border road in three Chittagong Hill Tracts districts - Rangamati, Khagrachhari, and Bandarban - as well as Cox's Bazar district, which will run along Myanmar's and northeastern Indian states' borders.

Border Guard Bangladesh's operations are hampered by the region's hills and dense vegetation. For the first time in 2020, the government purchased two helicopters for the BGB along the southeastern border.

The construction of the border road would make it easier for our soldiers to get from one outpost to another, making border patrol more efficient. Arms and narcotics smuggling would be prohibited.

Improved communication linkages in the districts of Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Cox's Bazar, as well as "government control in the bordering areas through increased security measures." Can help to tackle some common regional problems amongst India-Bangladesh-Myanmar. Border smuggling of illegal weaponry, narcotics, and human trafficking would be combated with such methods.

The rugged and inaccessible terrain has been exploited by separatist movements. A group of Arakan Army militants from the Myanmar side attacked BGB in Bandarban area on Aug. 25, 2015, wounded two soldiers.

The terrain in Chittagong Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar along the border has been extremely difficult



and impassable. Cross-border criminal syndicates use this rugged hilly terrain to smuggle arms, narcotics, and other goods, while different separatist factions travel freely between countries.

The Arakan Army frequently enters Bangladesh territory from Myanmar because BGB members are unable to patrol all of the time, and anti-Bangladesh forces readily cross into Myanmar. Once the route is finished, criminals and separatist organizations will be unable to move.

India suggested the pipeline in the early 2000s, but the Bangladeshi government rejected it. In 2015, during talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a pipeline was once again suggested. It was included in India's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 plan, which was published in 2016. India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan, claimed in December 2018 that India was still looking on ways to expand its gas network to Bangladesh via Myanmar. However, no updates on the resuscitation of this trilateral pipeline arrangement are publicly available as of August 2021, hence the project is presumed canceled. But this trilateral project will benefit India-Bangladesh-Myanmar if the project can be implemented successfully. Thus, all need to think about the revival India-Myanmar-Bangladesh Gas Pipeline project.

Bangladesh always shows interest in joining the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) trilateral expressway to improve connectivity with South-east Asia, which would usher in a new age of Indo-Pacific trans-border corridors. During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's virtual summit with her counterpart Narendra Modi in 2020, Dhaka showed interest in joining IMT, despite the fact that

BCIM has made little progress. According to the joint statement issued at the end of the summit, she requested India's assistance in enabling Bangladesh to join the effort. The higher connectivity of India's North-Eastern states with Bangladesh and Myanmar can benefit the region.

Rohingya refugee crisis destabilizes the whole sub-region which needs to be resolved as soon as possible. India should and must help solve this long-pending refugee crisis for the greater interest of the three sub-regional countries. It is unnecessary to quote that India would be one of the beneficiaries if the fruitful and sustainable solution of Rohingya crisis could be found. India should make Myanmar understand about this issue.

After coming to power in January 2009, Sheikh Hasina adopted the policy of regional peace and stability and is taking action against Indian insurgents' groups who have been using Bangladeshi territory. It is Sheikh Hasina (of course) who would never allow any kind of support towards the extremist and separatist groups from Myanmar and India. Thus, it is India and Myanmar's responsibility to cooperate Bangladesh to keep the region peaceful. India, Myanmar and Bangladesh must work trilaterally in combating these common threats.

In the case of Myanmar, after 1962, there was some confusion in Indo-Myanmar ties. Myanmar responded by allowing Indian militants to operate on its soil. Furthermore, India's border with Myanmar is largely forested, and rebels exploit it without Myanmar authorities' knowledge. However, the Myanmar government has recently made various moves to combat Indian rebel groups.

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# Assam flash floods: Three dead, 94 villages in six districts affected, Assam Rifles carry out rescue operation

Agency  
Guwahati, May 15:

Incessant rainfall followed by flash floods wreaked havoc in Assam and affected 24,681 people in 94 villages in six districts.

Cachar, Dhemaji, Hojai, Karbi Anglong West, Nagaon and Kamrup (Metro) have been affected due to floods, according to Assam State Disaster Management Authority and three people including a woman died in landslide incidents in the Haflong area in the Dima Hasao district on Saturday.

Torrential rains washed away a portion of a road in the Haflong area in Dima Hasao district while the PWD road connecting Hojai and West Karbi Anglong districts submerged under floodwaters in Hojai district yesterday.

Several villages were inundated as the flood situation remains gloomy in the district.



Cachar Deputy Commissioner said that after water levels kept rising in the Borkhola area, the district administration immediately contacted Assam Rifles and together they managed to rescue people stuck in the floods to relief camps

where general relief was also distributed by the district administration with the help of Assam Rifles.

Troops from the Indian Army's Spear Corps including the Srikona Battalion of Assam Rifles conducted flood rescue

operations in the Balichara and Borkhola areas of Cachar District Assam yesterday.

Northeast Frontier Railway has cancelled and partially cancelled several trains due to heavy rainfall causing water-logging and landslides in the Dima Hasao district.

**Centre releases Rs 125 crore for flood control in Assam**

Meanwhile, the Centre has released Rs 125 crore from its Flood Control Fund for the current fiscal for Assam on Friday.

Minister for Water Resources Pijush Hazarika called on Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi on Friday and thanked him for the assistance.

Hazarika also requested Shekhawat to release more funds under the scheme in the coming days for facilitating projects that could make Assam free of flood menace.

# Chief of Staff, Eastern Command visits HQ IGAR(South)

IT News  
Imphal, May 15:

Lieutenant General K K Repswal, Sena Medal, Vishist Seva Medal, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command visited the Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South), Mantripukhri, Imphal yesterday.

During the visit, the Chief of Staff was briefed in detail by IG Assam Rifles (South) about the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness. The General Officer expressed his satisfaction on the security measures and op-



erational preparedness of the security forces.

He complimented the troops of the Assam Rifles for carrying out a commendable job with regards to efficiently managing the security situation in

the State.

The General Officer also appreciated the untiring efforts of the forces in difficult conditions and complimented them for carrying out people friendly operations.

## GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER - I

Dated, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Manipur for and on behalf of the Governor of Manipur invites tenders under "Two Cover System" from eligible contractors/firms through open tender (physical submission) for the works as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Component Works/Sub Heads	Period of Completion
1	Repairs/ Renovation of Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium, construction of gate, drainage, statue, culvert, ground development etc.	i. Repairs/Renovation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Repairs to Doors/Window & Railing) ii. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Construction & Installation of Statue inside Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium and side wall) iii. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Repairing/Construction of Drainage inside Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium) iv. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Construction of Culvert at Gate No. 1, Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium) v. Repairs/Renovation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Repair to flooring) vi. Upgradation of Luwangpokpa Multi Sports Complex, Luwangsangbam, Imphal East, Manipur. (SH: Repairs/Renovation of Boundary Wall for Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium) vii. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Luwangpokpa Multi Sports Complex, Luwangsangbam, Imphal East, Manipur. (SH: Construction/Installation of Gate for Luwangpokpa Multi Sports Complex) viii. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Luwangpokpa Multi Sports Complex, Luwangsangbam, Imphal East, Manipur. (SH: Installation of ACP Cladding to exposed column and beam of Luwangpokpa Southern Gallery) ix. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Luwangpokpa Multi Sports Complex, Luwangsangbam, Imphal East, Manipur. (SH: Ground Development of Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium) x. Repairs/Renovation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Repair to Electrification) xi. Repairs/Renovation of Western Gallery, Luwangpokpa Cricket Ground. (SH: Repairs to Toilet & Bathroom) xii. Repairs/Renovation and upgradation of Luwangpokpa Multi Sports Complex, Luwangsangbam, Imphal East, Manipur. (SH: Installation of Pipe Culvert)	45 Days

Details of the documents will be available in the office of the Executive Engineer, QCMD, WRD with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. The last date of submission of the tender documents is 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

All correspondences/communications shall be made to the Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Manipur.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
Water Resources Department  
Manipur

# Supreme Court order on Sedition Law is a significant forward movement

By: Harihar Swarup  
New Delhi, May 15:

In a Batch of petitions challenging the law of sedition, contained in section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, the Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a slew of interim directions. Things came to a head because the Central Government, instead of defending the constitutionality of the provision, proposed to reconsider the law purportedly because the Prime Minister wanted it to be reviewed in the spirit of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav." Just to provide more context, the court had first heard the petitions in July 2021 where the principal line of challenge was that the earlier judgment of the Supreme Court in Kedar Nath vs State of Bihar (1962) which has upheld validity of section 124A IPC was not good law anymore. The Central Government was asked to file its response to the petitions. If it failed to do so by that time, the matters were taken up in April 2022.

The court ultimately granted it time till May 5, but government sought additional time again. Notably on this

date, the attorney general of India differed on the stand of the central government (which was being represented by the Solicitor General) and stated that while the law was constitutional, it would be necessary to lay down guidelines to prevent misuse of law. The Central government, on the other hand, orally argued the law was fine as it is.

The court granted central government time till May 10 to file its response, failing which it intended to decide the question of whether there was a requirement to refer the challenge to a seven-member bench. Instead the Central Government filed an affidavit stating that it will reconsider the law and requested that the challenge proceedings be kept in abeyance. It appears that the court's oral observations in the matter, where it disapproved of the misuse of the law, had a bearing on the government's decision.

The petition took objective to this approach mainly because such a proposal didn't factor in pending cases and continued misuse of provision while the law would be under the government's consideration. The Central government

sought a day's time to take instructions on interim measure to ally the petitioner's fears. On Wednesday it proposed to establish a mechanism where sedition cases would be filed only after an officer of SP rank justified in writing and such a justification would be open to judicial review. The petitioners, on the other hand, insisted on suspension of law in totality. In fact, Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan submitted proposed consequential directions of an absolute suspension of the law which inter alia included explicit stay of pending proceedings and bar on registration of new cases.

After some deliberations, the court refused to confine itself to the suggestions proposed by government and passed directions hoping and expecting the state and central governments to restrain themselves from registering new FIRs, continuing pending investigation or arresting people under section 124A IPC. It is clear the order does not have an effect of absolute stay as it states that if a fresh case is registered the accused would have the liberty to approach appropriate courts and seek relief on the basis of its order.

However, it left to the discretion of subordinate court by recording that such courts are "requested" to examine such cases after taking into account its order and the stand taken by the central government.

By issuing such "request" instead of absolute directions, the order may have left room open to the state and central governments to continuing filing as the only consequence of not complying with the request would be that the accused would be again left to the mercy of the court to seek bail or stay of arrest. The order should have been more assertive and explicit in this regard and should have provided penal consequences for its non-compliance.

The only absolute direction passed was staying all pending trials under section 124A IPC where a charge sheet has been filed. However, the language used by courts is trail appeals and proceedings which would then be put in abeyance even such appeals where convictions are under challenge. The court should have granted liberty to the appellate courts to grant appropriate relief in cases where the accused is incarcerated the pendency of appeal.

Contd. from Page 2

## North-East India, Myanmar....

Bangladesh shares a land border with India, which is strategically located in the Bay of Bengal. Greater connectivity amongst India, Bangladesh and Myanmar via India's north east and Bangladesh would be strategically. Any trilateral initiatives to strengthen links will benefit the North East, and it will be interesting to see how the region evolves.

The improvement of political relations between Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar, as well as the resolution of long-standing maritime territorial issues in 2012 and 2014 respectively, present an ideal op-

portunity to explore trilateral co-operation in resource sharing, inter-linking connectivity, and combined security measures.

Even though bilateral security cooperation has grown over time, new forms of collaborative security activities between the three countries can be explored. Similar to the trilateral maritime security cooperation between India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka, India can establish trilateral naval security cooperation with Bangladesh and Myanmar. India already conducts joint military exercises with Bangladesh and Myanmar, which might be expanded into

trilateral drills to counter transnational security issues in the Bay of Bengal region. All three stake holders should ensure proper utilization of blue economy collectively.

Collaboration between the three countries can maximize the region's abundant natural resources. The BoB's maritime border disputes between Bangladesh and India, as well as between Bangladesh and Myanmar, provide an opportunity for the three nations to begin collaborative natural resource development.

Bangladesh shares a border with the five Indian states of

West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura and Myanmar. This provides the three countries a number of interesting opportunities to work closely together. As the world 'pivots to Asia' and the Indian look East policy transforms to the Act East policy, Bangladesh, Myanmar and India have the potential to be an important part of the great endeavor of greater trade in the region.

(The author is a female school teacher in Bangladesh. She is a resident of Rajshahi City Corporation in Bangladesh)

## STATE HANDLOOM EXPO 2022-23

### NOTICE

The 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

No. 16/AWAS/NOTICE/2010-11: Applications are invited from the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies/Awardees/Individual Weavers/SHGs/Handloom Entrepreneurs/Producer Company/NGOs who have already to **Handloom Mark or India Handloom Brand or undergoing for registration** to either of the above that the Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Artisans C.S. Ltd. (AWAS), Governor's Crossing, Paona Bazar, is organising a State Handloom Expo 2022-23 under the sponsorship of the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India from 17/05/2022 to 30/05/2022 at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi, Imphal East. Eligible and interested ones are informed to submit the filled in application forms on or before 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to the office of the undersigned during office hour. Forms are available at the AWAS office during office hour.

Sd/-  
(Ch. Mandakini Devi)  
Managing Director, AWAS  
# 9612006199

# Half of Covid survivors show one symptom even 2 years later: Lancet study

Agency  
Beijing, May 15:

More than half of people hospitalised with COVID-19 still have at least one symptom two years after they were first infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to the longest follow-up study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal.

The research followed 1,192 participants in China infected with SARS-CoV-2 during the first phase of the pandemic in 2020.

While physical and mental health generally improved over time, the study suggests that COVID-19 patients still tend to have poorer health and quality of life than the general population.

This is especially the case for participants with long COVID, who typically still have at least one symptom including fatigue, shortness of breath, and sleep difficulties two years after initially falling ill, the researchers said.

The long-term health impacts of COVID-19 have remained largely unknown, as the longest follow-up studies to date have spanned around one year, they said.

"Our findings indicate that for a certain proportion of hospitalised COVID-19 survivors, while they may have cleared the initial infection, more than two years is needed to recover fully from COVID-19," said study lead author Professor Bin Cao, of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, China.

"Ongoing follow-up of COVID-19 survivors, particularly those with symptoms of long COVID, is essential to understand the longer course



of the illness, as is further exploration of the benefits of rehabilitation programmes for recovery," Cao said in a statement.

The researchers noted that there is a clear need to provide continued support to a significant proportion of people who have had COVID-19, and to understand how vaccines, emerging treatments, and variants affect long-term health outcomes.

They evaluated the health of 1,192 participants with acute COVID-19 treated at Jin Yin-tan Hospital in Wuhan, between January 7 and May 29, 2020, at six months, 12 months, and two years.

Assessments involved a six-minute walking test, laboratory tests, and questionnaires on symptoms, mental health, health-related quality of life, if they had returned to work, and health-care use after discharge, the researchers said.

The median age of participants at discharge was 57 years, and 54 per cent were men.

Six months after initially

falling ill, 68 per cent of participants reported at least one long COVID symptom, according to the researchers.

By two years after infection, reports of symptoms had fallen to 55 per cent, they said.

Fatigue or muscle weakness were the symptoms most often reported and fell from 52 per cent at six months to 30 per cent at two years, the researchers said.

Regardless of the severity of their initial illness, 89 per cent of participants had returned to their original work at two years, they said.

The researchers noted that two years after initially falling ill, patients with COVID-19 are generally in poorer health than the general population, with 31 per cent reporting fatigue or muscle weakness and 31 per cent reporting sleep difficulties.

COVID-19 patients were also more likely to report a number of other symptoms including joint pain, palpitations, dizziness, and headaches, they said.

Around half of study participants had symptoms of

long COVID at two years, and reported lower quality of life than those without long COVID.

In mental health questionnaires, 35 per cent reported pain or discomfort and 19 per cent reported anxiety or depression.

Long COVID participants also more often reported problems with their mobility or activity than those without the disorder.

The authors acknowledge some limitations to their study.

Without a control group of hospital survivors unrelated to COVID-19 infection, it is hard to determine whether observed abnormalities are specific to COVID-19, they said.

The slightly increased proportion of participants included in the analysis who received oxygen leads to the possibility that those who did not participate in the study had fewer symptoms than those who did, according to the researchers.

This may result in an overestimate of the prevalence of long COVID symptoms, they added.

Contd. from Page 1

## Nagas want solution but some....

He insisted that solution to the Naga political issue should be arrived at before the 2023 assembly election and for which all should work towards that goal. He said "enough is enough. How long will Nagas continue to wait?"

He also asked CNTC to work towards resolving land acquisition issues that hamper development in their respective areas. Patton also said that along with the chief minister, he has been pursuing completion of Foothill

Road with the Centre.

Patton also pointed out that even if Doyang bridge project which is to be inaugurated within two weeks, the purpose will be incomplete without a proper road (Foothill Road). He suggested submission of a memorandum to the Centre for early completion of the road project.

Patton said that though he was part of the government, it was a fact that areas under CNTC- the three districts of Mokokchung, Wokha and

Zunheboto-were deprived of development while some districts were favoured.

CNLFC convenor and minister Kaito Aye urged upon CNTC to send a strong message to the Centre and the negotiating groups, to secure solution before the 2023 assembly election.

In his speech, CNLF convenor Imkong L. Imchen, MLA said reservation in the state needs to be revisited and was disinclined towards creation of districts just for the sake of it.

## Workforce being crushed between...

Thus the number of unemployed persons rose to 34.2 million, which includes the 1.8 million increase (increase in labour force minus expansion in employment) in the count of the unemployed in April 2022.

April 2022 also saw a 2.3 million increase in the count of those who stated that they were unemployed and were willing to work if work was made available to them but were not actively looking for employment. The count of these rose to 19.5 million in April 2022.

The agriculture sector shed 5.2 million jobs in April. Part of this decline in labour force was due to winding of rabi harvesting season, shrivelling of the wheat crop, and the consequent decline in wheat production. Wheat production is expected to have fallen by between 10 and 20 per cent this year because of intense heat wave. It is a very serious concern, and the Centre has already banned exports of wheat to avoid food insecurity of the country. Since the recent rise in CPI inflation was chiefly due to rise in prices of food articles, the wheat production fall indicates that its prices will increase in near future which may

push up the prices of rice also due to shift in demand. The further rise in inflation can thus not be ruled out.

Increase in employment in April was chiefly in industry and services. Industry added 5.5 million jobs while services added another 6.7 million. Within industry, 3 million jobs were added in manufacturing and nearly 4 million in construction. However, mining and utilities reported sharp decline in employment which coincided with the coal shortage and the consequent power sector crisis, which again impacting overall performance of the business, industry and agriculture. Within manufacturing, it was heavy industries such as metals, chemicals and cement that added jobs. Within services sector, the increases were in the retail trade, hotels and restaurants industries.

A matter of more serious concern is that the increase in employment in industry and services was of low quality jobs. The CMIE says that it indicated the fact that the increase in employment was largely among daily wage labours and small traders. This type of occupation saw an increase of 7.9 million

jobs. Entrepreneurs increase by 4 million and farmers fell by 5.1 million. There was almost no change in salaried jobs which were close to 79 million during March and April 2020, much below 87 million before the pandemic in 2019-20. Big increase of 12 million was reported in non-farm jobs, two-thirds of which were daily wage labours and small traders.

In this scenario, Modi government needs to urgently redress the twin evil of inflation and joblessness by reviewing its entire set of policies that have been fuelling both. Alibi is a bad defence, and bad politics. Good governance with better policies may help reverse the trend. Relying solely on RBI intervention, such as raising interest rates, will not be sufficient. With factory output in terms of IIP remaining subdued, further interest rate hike may slow even economic growth which in turn will deteriorate inflation and labour market. The jumping of food price inflation to 17 months high to 8.38 per cent is too serious a matter in the face of disquieting levels of joblessness and unemployment.

(IPAService)

## Sports

## Triumphant Gokulam Kerala become first team to defend title in I-League era



Agency  
Kolkata, May 15:

Gokulam Kerala FC created history by becoming the first team in the I-League era to defend its title with a 2-1 victory over Mohammedan Sporting in a fitting finale on Sunday. Rishad PP, who plays as a defensive midfielder, put defending champions Gokulam Kerala ahead with his 49th minute strike to stun the partisan crowd of over 35,000 at the Salt Lake Stadium.

However, the home team was soon celebrating as it found the equaliser in the 56th minute, when Marcus Joseph's

terrific free kick deflected off Azharuddin Mallick and got into the net. The home fans' joy, though, was short-lived as the Malabarians regained the lead when Emil Benny, running into the final third after receiving a pass from

Majcen and with no defenders in sight, found the back of the opponents' net in the 61st minute. No club in the I-League era has defended its title. Kolkata side East Bengal had achieved the feat in the time of the National Football League, the predecessor of I-League, by winning title in 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons. Chasing a maiden I-

League title, local heavyweights Mohammedan Sporting entered the match optimistic of getting the better of the in-form side from Kerala, especially with plenty of fans backing them from the stands. However, the determined Malabarians did not let anything come in their way and deservedly won the title for the second straight season.

The defending champions have had a great campaign and entered the final round game just one win away from clinching their second I League title in a row. It wasn't an easy task taking on the home team that was undefeated in the five matches played in the

playoffs, but Gokulam Kerala showed a lot of character and courage to emerge winners.

Gokulam Kerala FC were playing possession based football as a draw was sufficient for them, while Mohammedan SC too moved quickly and looked to attack.

Mohammedan SC came very close in the 25th minute, but couldn't capitalise effectively as the ball was cleared by the Gokulam Kerala FC's defenders. In the 42nd minute, Zothanmawia came too far to defend but Gokulam's Jourdain Fletcher could not make use of the blunder by the MDSC custodian.

## India win first-ever Thomas Cup crown, hammer 14-time champions 3-0 in final in historic feat

Agency  
Bangkok, May 15:

It's as big as it can get for Indian badminton as the men's team won their first-ever Thomas Cup title, beating 14-time champions Indonesia 3-0 in a heroic effort in the final of the prestigious team championship in Bangkok, Thailand on Sunday, May 15.

India had never reached the final of the Thomas and Uber Cup in the tournament's 73-year-long history, but the Indian men not only broke the drought but went a step ahead and became only the 6th nation after China, Indonesia, Japan, Denmark, and Malaysia to win the Thomas Cup title.

Chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and the sound of Dhol were reverberating at the Impact Arena as the young Indian shuttlers came out all guns firing on the big day. The celebrations after the historic victory told how much it meant to the Indian badminton contingent as they flaunted the enviable team spirit that has been dominating headlines this week.

India did not need the second doubles match and the

third singles match as Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth made it 3-0 for the historic victory.

India were not the overwhelming favourites at the start of the team tournament but the young shuttlers from India had the firepower in them to take out the giants and they did exactly that over the last 7 days in Bangkok even as the women crashed out in the quarter-finals of the Uber Cup.

India won the gold medal while Indonesia finished with the silver. Denmark and Japan finished with the bronze at the prestigious team championship.

It all began when Lakshya Sen showcased why he is one of the highly-rated young shuttlers in the world. The 20-year-old, ranked No. 9, had headed into the final on the back of defeats to Viktor Axelsen and Lee Zii Jia in the semi-final and quarter-final, respectively.

It did not start well for Lakshya, the winner of the World Championships bronze medal, as he was blown away 8-21 in the opening game by Olympic bronze medalist An-

thony Ginting. Lakshya looked unsettled as he was hitting with the drift after Ginting won the toss and chose sides.

However, Lakshya, just 20, retained his calm and composure, helped by his coaches from the sidelines. The young Indian shuttler, who reached the All England final, upped his game and became more proactive, forcing errors from Ginting.

The first match was played a break-neck speed as Ginting, known as one of the fastest players on the tour, was undone by Lakshya's stunning defence.

Lakshya bounced back to win the opening match and give India a 1-0 lead. It was an incredible turn around as the young shuttler kept his calm, frustrating Ginting who loves to finish off rallies quickly. Lakshya's incredible defence was on display as he completed the comeback 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 in an hour and 5 minutes.

Gillian Clarke, the popular commentator, best described Lakshya's efforts in the decider, saying the shutter played "like a man possessed".