

## Chief Minister credits people for the war on drugs' success



Imphal, May 18:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today credited the general public for all the achievements and development in the government's War on Drugs campaign and said without the untiring support and positive response of the public, the government alone couldn't have achieved all the success.

Flanked by Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar and DGP P. Doungel, the Chief Minister conducted a press briefing today at the Chief Minister's Secretariat to highlight certain issues.

The Chief Minister said due to incessant rains in the last few days, the State is facing issues like floods in Jiribam, landslides in some areas, but the government is fully prepared for any eventuality. He explained the government is monitoring the situation 24x7, and required relief is being provided through the concerned DCs. Stating that this is a seasonal occurrence, he urged the people to face it together.

The Chief Minister further appealed to the people of the State to ensure that the

drainage around their homes isn't clogged.

N. Biren Singh said with the formation of the new government, we have witnessed tremendous success in the War on Drugs campaign. He said since April 20, the State has been able to seize illegal drugs worth 182 crores 29 lakhs and 43 thousand in the international market and at the same time destroyed 380 acres of poppy cultivation in the State.

He said what is even more encouraging for the campaign is that on May 6, the Poumai tribe which is the second-

largest tribe of the Nagas in Manipur declared its areas under a drug-free zone and to stand against poppy plantations. On May 9, leaders and CSOs of the largest Naga tribe, Tangkhul submitted a resolution to support War on Drugs and to stand against poppy plantations.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the resolutions supporting the War on Drugs campaign submitted by different CSOs including Impui, Liangmai, Ronmei and Zeme tribes on May 12, village chiefs of Saikul AC, Tengnoupal and Chandel on May 14.

Citing reports of destroying illegal drugs by youth and womenfolk in the valley, the Chief Minister said the momentum against drugs is also building up in the valley area.

Today we can see support and cooperation from almost all communities residing in the State, he said adding that for the first time in February 2021, in support of the War on Drugs, a village in Ukhrul, Peh (Paoyi) Village voluntarily destroyed poppy cultivation in their area, for which the village was rewarded with Rs. 10 lakhs. Now we have received reports that the villagers have already started alternative cropping and some plantations like ginger have already begun production, he added.

All these are encouraging, he said thanking everyone for their support and at the same time expressing hope that the collective campaign will start bearing fruit in the nearest future.

Regarding the arrest of so-called drug kingpins in the State, the Chief Minister said several drug traffickers have been arrested and named a few including one Monkhai, 19, from Myanmar. He said anyone convicted and lodged in jail for 14-15 years in drug-related cases is all kingpin.

Contd. on Page 4

## With the rising water level of Rivers in Imphal, some MLAs show serious concern

IT News  
Imphal, May 18:

Most of the places in Imphal valley area have been inundated due to the incessant rains during the last few days. As the rains continue and whether forecast warns of more rainfall in the coming days people have been alerted of flood with the water level of Iril, Imphal and Nambul Rivers running above the flood level.

Interestingly some of the MLAs have shown serious concern to the present situation. MLA Karam Shyam of Lanthabal Assembly Constituency today cancelled his trip to Moreh as the river water level runs at warning level at his constituency. Today morning the MLA along with his people inspected the condition of the river bank at Lilong area.

Some 100 meters down the Lilong Bridge, the water level runs above warning level. Imphal River and Iril River joins before the Lilong Bridge.

"In 1966 the river bank was breached and flood occurred almost at all places of Imphal.



Similar was witnessed in around 1997 and if the River bank is breached again than this will be the third times that the people will be facing flood", Karam Shyam told in social media. He said that if the River Bank has not been properly managed by fielding earth than there is a possibility of the River water breaching the bank. He appealed the government machineries to come on the ground and act in time.

"We are also helpless as we have no means to take the earth for filling in the River bank",

Karam Shyam said.

He said that he cannot left his people at this crucial hours and cancelled all is trips including his visit to Moreh Kondong Lairembe.

Meanwhile, MLA of Kshrigao Assembly Constituency, Sheikh Noorul Hassan, today inspected the bank of Iril River in his constituency. He used some of the water pump to pump out the water from residential area. He appealed the people to stay alert as there is no stoppage of the rainfall.

## 44 AR organises Cyber Security lecture

IT News  
Imphal, May 17:

An online lecture on Cyber Security was organised by 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector/ IGAR(East) at Tamenglong on 17 May 2022. The lecture was delivered by Naveen Kumar Singh, Founder of CTO (Digital Forensics & Intelligence). The speaker is a Member of Council of International Investigation and a registered International Private Investigator.

The Speaker highlighted the importance of safe handling of Computers, Smart Phones and

various internet devices. He dwelled on Cyber Terrorism in relation with Armed Forces and ways to counter them. He also spoke on the tactics employed by financial fraudsters to get into your banking services, safe usage of social media, how to protect sensitive and confidential data from Cyber Criminals. He also educated the troops on legal procedures available on becoming a victim of Cyber Crime. Later on a live interactive session with troops was organised and expert advice given.

Commandant, 44AR speaking on the occasion highlighted the

role of cyber warriors in Armed Forces. He asked everyone to exercise more caution as a uniformed person as it may compromise National Security. One negligent act of us may be disastrous to the Country. He thanked the Speaker for his expert advice to the troops. He further said that there are nearly three attacks every minute. Anybody who uses the internet for any reason can be a victim, so it is important to be aware of how to stay protected while online. Internet is a boon for people and at the same time it can be a bane if not used judiciously and securely he added.

## DFO sends out warning to illegal Saw Mill owners

IT News  
Imphal, May 18:

Kangpokpi Forest Division conducted multiple raids across T. Waichong Range and seized timbers and sealed Sawmills. The Division has also confiscated the stray timbers lying along the IT road.

DFO quoted that only HPC

Cleared Sawmills are to be operated in the District. And all the HPC cleared Sawmill are to be housed within the Industrial Estate only. Stacking of illegal timbers in Sawmill is an offence under section 41 and 42 of Indian Forest Act, 1927, and is also against the Wood Based Industries Regulation guidelines and orders of the

Supreme Court.

He further stated, timber transit should be accompanied by a valid Transit Pass issued by the Government. All vehicles carrying timber without valid TP will be liable to be confiscated under the Indian Forest Act.

The Division has planned to raid more sawmills in other Ranges in the coming days.

## The State of Inequality in India Report released

"The State of Inequality Report is a stock-taking of both inclusion and exclusion"

New Delhi, May 18:

The State of Inequality in India Report was released today by Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The report has been written by the Institute for Competitiveness and presents a holistic analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India. The report compiles information on inequities across sectors of health, education, household characteristics and the labour market. As the report presents, inequities in these sectors make the population more vulnerable and triggers a descent into multidimensional poverty.

Dr Bibek Debroy has stated, "inequality is an emotive issue. It is also an empirical issue, since definition and measurement are

both contingent on the metric used and data available, including its timeline". He further adds, "to reduce poverty and enhance employment, since May 2014, Union Government has introduced a variety of measures interpreting inclusion as the provision of basic necessities, measures that have enabled India to withstand the shock of the Covid-19 Pandemic better". The report is a stock-taking of both inclusion and exclusion and contributes to the policy debates.

The panellists for the launch included Dr Poonam Gupta, Director General, NCAER and a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Dr Charan Singh, Chief Executive at Foundation for Economic

Growth and Welfare (EGROW) and Professor Suresh Babu of IIT Madras. The panellists made several poignant remarks on the issue as they discussed the report.

Consisting of two parts – Economic Facets and Socio-Economic Manifestations – the report looks at five key factors that influence the nature and experience of inequality. These are income distribution and labour market dynamics, health, education and household characteristics. Based on the data derived from various rounds of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) and UDISE+, each chapter is dedicated to explaining the current state of affairs, areas of concern, successes and failures in

terms of infrastructural capacity and finally, the effect on inequality. The report stretches the narrative on inequality by presenting a comprehensive analysis that shapes the ecosystem of various deprivation in the country, which directly impacts the well-being of the population and overall growth. It is a study that cuts across the intersections of class, gender, and region and highlights how inequality affects the society.

The report moves beyond the wealth estimates that depict only a partial picture to highlight estimates of income distribution over the periods of 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. With a first-time focus on income distribution to understand the capital flow,

the report emphasises that wealth concentration as a measure of inequality does not reveal the changes in the purchasing capacity of households. Extrapolation of the income data from PLFS 2019-20 has shown that a monthly salary of Rs 25,000 is already amongst the top 10% of total incomes earned, pointing towards some levels of income disparity. The share of the top 1% accounts for 6-7% of the total incomes earned, while the top 10% accounts for one-third of all incomes earned. In 2019-20, among different employment categories, the highest percentage was of self-employed workers (45.78%), followed by regular salaried workers (33.3%) and casual workers (20.71%). The share of

self-employed workers also happens to be the highest in the lowest income categories. The country's unemployment rate is 4.8% (2019-20), and the worker population ratio is 46.8%.

In the area of health infrastructure, there has been a considerable improvement in increasing the infrastructural capacity with a targeted focus on rural areas. From 1,72,608 total health centres in India in 2005, total health centres in 2020 stand at 1,85,505. States and Union Territories like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Chandigarh have significantly increased health centres (comprising of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, and Community Health Centres) between 2005 and 2020. The results of NFHS-4 (2015-16) and

NFHS-5 (2019-21) have shown that 58.6% of women received antenatal check-ups in the first trimester in 2015-16, which increased to 70% by 2019-21. 78% of women received postnatal care from a doctor or auxiliary nurse within two days of delivery; and 79.1% of children received postnatal care within two days of delivery. However, nutritional deprivation in terms of overweight, underweight, and prevalence of anaemia (especially in children, adolescent girls and pregnant women) remains areas of huge concern requiring urgent attention, as the report states. Additionally, low health coverage, leading to high out-of-pocket expenditure, directly affects poverty incidences.

Contd. on Page 4

# India to offer one lakh drone jobs

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



The life of common people has already changed in India with the advent of smartphones and internet connectivity.

Now get ready for a drone revolution, which is set to have a huge impact on the lifestyle of urban and rural people and the economy of the country. The drone revolution has begun and toy helicopter-like drones (flying objects) are ready to be a part of everyday life. The government has simplified the policies for the manufacture and flying of drones so that their commercial use can be made accessible. Drones were already being used for military operations and professional photography, and now they are being applied in agricultural work as well. Drones will prove to be helpful for the farmers in the same way as the tractors changed the fate of agriculture. Since independence in India, if any area has been neglected, it is farming. Besides the use of tractors, threshers, tube wells, and pumping sets, not much technology has been applied in agriculture so far. Except for large farms, agriculture has stayed away from modern machinery. In such a situation, the formal launch of 100 Kisan Drones, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, assumes significance. This is the beginning of the drone era in Indian agriculture.

At present, drones will be used to spray pesticides, chemical fertilizers, seeds, water, etc. in the fields. Gradually, they will also be used in the work of survey of agricultural land, measurement, taking the produce like fruits and flowers to the market, and sending essential medicines and vaccines to the villages. At present, more than 200 Indian startups are engaged in drone manufacturing, whose number will be in thousands in the coming years. The seeds of a new tech revolution have been sowed with Agri Drones and Kisan Drones, whose growth will be felt rapidly. According to the Drone Federation of India (DFI), the drone industry in India can grow ten times to Rs 50,000 crore in the next five years. The industry can employ 10,000 people in the next three years and double this in the next five years. According to a July 2021 report by BIS Research, the global drone market, currently dominated by the US, China, and Israel, is estimated to reach \$ 28.47 billion in FY 2011-22, with India likely to hold 4.25 percent.

Apart from rare photography, drones can be used in many areas and tasks like spraying pesticides on crops, delivery of medicines in remote areas, land survey, monitoring wildlife, law and order and traffic management by police, photography of impossible places, wedding photography, filmmaking, disaster management, construction activities, and journalism, etc. Himachal Pradesh's first Drone School will open in Kangra, where youth willing to take up drones as a career will get training. New career options are emerging for the youth as drone pilots or drone operators. Drones are also called Unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAVs) or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Now the rules and regulations related to drones have come into force in the country, which has made their manufacture and use accessible. Jobs are available in this field like software development, assembling, repair, drone pilot, and drone operator. In the coming months, India is likely to offer one lakh drone-related jobs to trained youth.

# Environmental Impact of Sand Mining

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh  
Asst.Prof. JCRC Global College, Babupara, Imphal.

Illegal and indiscriminate sand mining will become threat to the worldwide environments. "Sand mining is a practice that is used to extract sand, from various environments, such as beaches, inland dunes and dredged from ocean beds, and river beds of deltaic regions. The mining is in operation in all the continents of the Globe. Environmental problems occur when the rate of extraction of sand, gravel and other materials exceeds the rate of deposition. Sand budget of a particular environment shall be observed before sand mining. Specific hydrologic and hydraulic information are necessary.

The sand mining has several impacts on the river environment. Sand mining disturbs and completely remove the habitat from the mined zones. It leads to changes in its channel form, physical habitats and food webs – the river's ecosystem. It also increases the velocity of flow in river which destroy flow-regime eventually erodes the river banks. Channel widening causes swallowing of the streambed, producing braided flow or subsurface inter-gravel flow in riffle areas, hindering movement of fishes between pools. Riverbed becomes dry due to exposure to solar radiation, thus decrease the surface and groundwater. Depletion of sand in the streambed causes the deepening of rivers and estuaries, and the enlargement of river mouths and coastal inlets. It leads to saline-water intrusion. Removal of vegetation and destruction of the soil profile destroys habitat above and below the ground and faunal population decrease. Fall in riverbed and removal of sand from beneath top soil at the river embankment resulted caving into the river in many places. Beach formation begins with erosion of continental material. It forms sand, gravel, and cobble fragments, which transport to sea by Rivers. Mine sediment is suspended in sea water and transported along the coast by the long shore current. Sand dunes are

present on shorelines where fine sand is transported landward by a combination of wind and waves and stabilized with vegetation. Dunes can help protect coastal property from the destructive forces of storm surges and tsunamis. However manmade had severe impacts on coastal sand dunes. Sand dunes are part of the beach system and provide reservoirs of sand that feed the beach during tropical storms and hurricanes. If they destroyed, coastal lands are vulnerable to flooding. Sand dunes play an important role as barriers against like heavy storms, erosion through waves or floods. Destruction of picturesque beaches causes tourism to dissipate. They serve as habitat for many small animals and plants that are part of the marine and coastal food web and whose loss implies a threat to other species as well. Beach erosion takes place because of sand mining and effect homes and livelihoods. The process of sand mining has accelerated coastal environmental degradation to an alarming rate.

Sand mining is one of the main threats to the rich biodiversity alongside our perennial rivers and ephemeral water courses. It can destroy riverine vegetation, cause erosion, pollute water sources and reduce the diversity of animals. The beach and dune system habitat along the coastal zones also victims. Off-shore sand mining pumping biota with sand and damaging coastal ecosystem. Many species of trees and shrubs in dry riverbeds are supported by groundwater retained by the river sand at varying depths will disappear. Operation of heavy equipment in the channel bed can directly destroy spawning habitat for fish and macro invertebrate habitat, and produce increased turbidity and suspended sediment downstream. The sediment in the mining site, if contains toxic material due to long time accumulation, will cause a second time pollution. Physical disturbance of the habitat caused by dredging activities includes noise, which can interrupt nesting/ breeding activities. Hydrological Environment On the river bed the sand acts as a spongy, natural carpet and as a good aquifer. Sand aquifer helps in recharging the water table and sand mining causes sinking of water tables in the nearby areas. Apart from threatening bridges, sand mining transforms the riverbeds into large and deep pits; as a result, the groundwater table drops leaving the drinking water wells on the embankments of these rivers dry. Turbidity increase at the mining site due to resuspension of sediment, sedimentation due to stockpiling, organic particulate matter, oil spills or leakage from excavation machinery and transportation vehicles. Saline water intrusion takes along the coastal aquifers. Acid mine drainage also dissolves toxic metals, such as copper, gold, silver, molybdenum, aluminum, cadmium, arsenic, lead and mercury, from the surrounding rock. Even in very small amounts, metals can be toxic to humans and wildlife. If uncontrolled, the acid mine drainage may runoff into streams or rivers or leach into ground water. Plants, animals, and fish are unlikely to survive in such streams. Large quantities of dust enter into the atmosphere during sand mining cause respiratory disorders. Noise is an issue in the mining areas because mines normally operate 24 hrs. day and sound levels fluctuate widely. The noises pollute the environment and disturb sleep. Roads and other structures Movement of heavy vehicles cause damage to roads and bridges and sometimes cause traffic hazards. Sand mining has many negative impacts on the society. It affects livelihood of the people, health, scenic beauty, climate and damage infrastructure. The beaches and backwaters of coastal areas are famous for their scenic beauty. Beach and backwater tourism is one of the main areas for economic development. There are pockets along the coast with harbors and commercial centers. We can't see the beauty in near future. People live in the coastal areas are under the constant threat and fury of nature wherever the sand mining carried. Coastal erosion causes damage to the properties leading to social discontent. Extraction of beach sand exposes coastal areas to the ravages of erosion. The residue of the radioactive mineral such as monazite and zircon, detrimental to local biota. Problems are not the least in Manipur too. It's a well-known fact about the problems caused by sand mining in Sekmai River, Thoubal River, Serou River and even in Lokchao in Tengnoupal district and many other places of Manipur.

Minerals are part of a nation's natural wealth. The nation is to advance industrially and economically by the proper development and exploitation of these resources. It has to be remembered that the sand once removed cannot be replaced in the next generation. It will take centuries for replacement. Sand sustains the rivers and the percolation of water to far off distances both for the growth of trees to sustain drinking water and raise cultivation. It is almost a lifeline to the human existence. Without considering the precise gift provided by nature, commercial exploitation for short term gains by pumping out the sand indiscriminately from the rivers, dunes and beaches will destroy whole environment. People employ huge machineries like cranes and other pumping mechanism causing untold natural calamities and loss to the society. *In order to maintain the balance between the environment and sand mining, the Governments should regulate the mining.*

(The writer can be reached to: [sjgushwor7@gmail.com](mailto:sjgushwor7@gmail.com))

# Grading System

*The grading system was invented by the William Farish, a teacher in the Cambridge University, England in 1972. He actually wants to know that what is going in the mind of the students, whether they got the topic or not.*



By- Vijay GarG

Nowadays, every field of work has become advanced, so as the educational sector. The educational field has diverse change as compared to the gone times. New techniques are introduced into the system and this advancement is going on day by day. The grading system is also one of the techniques which are used in the education.

Generally, the grading system is the process by which educators evaluate the performance of the pupils in exams on the standard particular scales which is based on the points entirely and consist of the grades like A-F or range like 1-10; generally, letters and numbers are used to describe the grades of the scholars. In past times, marks and percentage were the only ways of assessing the students in their exams but today, mostly all the nations adopted this

system of marking the students in the exams.

## What is GPA?

GPA stands for the Grade Point Average. It is a method to find out the student's average grade in a specific time period i.e. in one semester/six months. It is calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total credit attempted where total points find out by multiplying the grade value to the credit attended and total credit attempted is the sum of all the credits attempted.

## What is CGPA?

CGPA stands for the Cumulative Grade Point Average. It is a method to find out the overall performance of the candidate throughout the year. It is calculated by adding up the grades of all subjects and divided it by the total number of the subjects.

## What is the purpose of the Grading System?

The main purpose of the grading system is to give clearance to the learners and educators about the performance of the pupils in the respective subjects and field of study so that both can able to do work on the weaknesses and achieve good results. It is the important factor through which teachers determine the efforts of the students in

studies. The primary purpose of the grading system is to determine the achievements of the student achieved in the study. Also, to motivate the students, grades put into the practice as students make efforts to improve their ranking.

## What is the History of Grading System?

The grading system was invented by the William Farish, a teacher in the Cambridge University, England in 1972. He actually wants to know that what is going in the mind of the students, whether they got the topic or not. So grades help him to find out this thing. Actually, the grading system originated in the factories to rate up against the production quality whether the product which was made is of good quality or not.

## What are the Advantages of Grading System?

There are numerous merits of the grading system as listed below.

## Determination of Weakness and Strengths:

With the help of the grades the weaknesses and strength of the students will be identified and they will work on the weakness and turn the weakness into the strengths. Also, they will polish their strengths and take it to next level.

Low Score Pressure: The grading system lower the pressure of getting high marks as the students because in the grading system the actual marks obtained

by the student are not written on the report cards so that they don't have to target for good marks, their main target is to achieve good grades.

## The pattern of Grading:

It relies upon the advanced pattern, as grades are not given according to the academics only; other things are also considered while making the decision like achievements, assignments, attendance etcetera. Students can perform a little in all modules for getting good grade instead of getting good marks only by performing well in academics.

## Simple Studies:

Grading make the study easier as the students with intention of getting pass marks only can easily achieve their target whereas the learners with the motive of achieving high grades can split their study into different sections and perform well.

## Classification of Students:

With the grading system, teachers are able to classify the students into the different groups like bright students, average students and below average students so that teachers can pay more attention towards the average and below average students and make the concept clear to them in a better way because every individual have his own understanding capability.

## Parent's Attention:

By knowing the grades of the child, parents also get aware about the capability of their child and

provide better resources to the child so that he can perform well like some students require extra coaching so at that time parents can arrange that if they know about the standard of the child.

## What are the Disadvantages of Grading System?

There are some demerits of this system also as discussed below.

## Decreased Performance:

Decrease in the performance of learners is one of the drawbacks of the grading system. As students know that they can easily get the targeted grades so they don't put the much efforts in the studies and also if the student's target is the A grade, he knows that if he gets 90 marks he will be put under A grade so he doesn't target for the 100 marks.

## Accuracy in Result:

The grading system fails in showing the accurate performance of the students. We can only get to know about the grade achieved by students instead of the actual ability of the student.

## Competition Decreased:

Students just focus on attaining the passing marks instead of putting their main focus on

getting highest marks, this result into the decreased competition among the learners which make them lazy and drop their intellectual level.

## Demotivation:

The grading system demotivate the bright students as the grade A range is between 90% to 100%, so the student who scores 90% get grade A on the same hand the student getting 95% also get grade A due to which brighter student lose his confidence.

## Increased Lethargy:

As we know that assignments, projects and attendance are counted in the grades. So, students perform well in these activities and got grades instead of performing well in exams which results in the increased lethargy.

Every coin has two faces, so there are some merits of the grading system and some demerits. For some reasons this system is good for the education sector and for some reasons, it is unfit. We hope that in the coming days there will be beneficial amendments make in this system so that it will be helpful for the education sector in all aspects.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com).

For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.



# Defence Minister Launches Two Indigenous Frontline Warships in Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, May 18:

In a historic milestone, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh simultaneously launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy—'Surat' and 'Udaygiri' at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) in South Mumbai on Tuesday.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command (WNC), Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant, Maharashtra Assembly Opposition leader Devendra Fadnis, Shiv Sena MLA Yamini Jadhav, former MLA Sachin Ahir, MDL CMD Vice Admiral (Retd) Narayan Prasad, other senior officers from the Indian Navy, Ministry of Defence and MDL were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

'Surat' is the fourth Guided Missile Destroyer of the P15B class. The warship is a significant makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) Destroyers. She is named after the commercial capital of Gujarat. The first ship of this class was commissioned in 2021. The second and third ships have been launched and are at different stages of



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the launch of the Frigate-'Udaygiri', on Tuesday. (Inset: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh).

outfitting/trials.

The 'Udaygiri' is the second Stealth Frigate in P17A class. She is named after a mountain range in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The ship is follow on of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors, and platform management systems. It is the reincarnation of erstwhile 'Udaygiri', the Leander Class Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) Frigate, which saw numerous challenging operations in its illustrious service to the country spanning over three decades from Feb 18, 1976, to Aug 24, 2007.

"Surat" was launched by float launching method with a launch weight of approximately 3000 MT while "Udaygiri" was launched with a launch weight of approximately 3510 MT. Both warships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at MDL.

In his address, Singh said that these warships will add might to the Indian Navy's arsenal and represent to the world India's strategic strength as well as the power of self-reliance. They are the shining examples of India's growing indigenous

capability and they will be among the most technologically advanced missile carriers in the world. In future, we will not only fulfill our own needs but will also meet the shipbuilding requirements of the world. We will soon realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Make in India, Make for the World," he added.

Singh appreciated that the Indian Navy has always been at the forefront in ensuring self-reliance through the manufacturing of indigenous ships, submarines, etc. "Joining hands with initiatives like 'Make in India', the Navy

has given 76% Acceptance of Necessity (AON), and 66% cost-basis contracts to Indian vendors in 2014, and indigenous of about 90% Naval ammunition has taken place. In addition, over two-thirds of the Navy's Modernisation budget was spent on indigenous procurement in the last five financial years. Of the 41 ships and submarines ordered by the Navy, 39 are from Indian shipyards. This is a testament to the Navy's commitment to achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliance India), he added.

He also praised the Indian Navy for playing a crucial role in carrying forward the Government's policies such as Act-East, besides strengthening relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries. He recalled his recent visit to the

Headquarters of United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) in Hawaii and said that "they expressed their willingness to work with India, which symbolizes the competence of the Indian Armed Forces, especially the commendable work being carried out by the Indian Navy".

Singh made special mention of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 'INS Vikrant', terming it as a major milestone in the Indian Navy's path of 'Aatmanirbharta'. He hoped that the carrier will increase India's reach from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean. The commissioning of 'INS Vikrant' will be a golden moment in the Indian defence history, he added.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar in his speech appreciated the role of the Director of Naval Design and MDL staff dedicatedly involved in the production right from laying the keel of a

ship to its completion. The naval ships worth over Rs 1.75 lakh crore are in the pipeline and the Indian Navy is at the forefront of defence production and has also been maintaining liaison with an allied group of nations.

In keeping with the Naval traditions, President NWWA (Western Region) Smt Charu Singh (spouse of Vice Admiral Ajendra Bhadur Singh) and Smt Jaishree Prasad (spouse of MDL CMD Vice Admiral (Retd) Narayan Prasad) blessed and named the ships 'Surat' and 'Udaygiri' respectively.

The launching was carried out in tandem with the rising and receding tides. The DND and MDL teams have once again demonstrated their capabilities for designing and building quality warships. This launch also marks the commencement of the next phase involving extensive outfitting activities by the Shipyards readying these ships for delivery.

## Awareness on cluster facilitation project held

DIPR  
Chandel, May 18:

An awareness program on Cluster Facilitation Project under MGNREGS for village Authority, Chandel was held at Indoor Stadium Chandel yesterday. Speaking on the side of the programme State Project Officer- NRM (CFP) Shri Okram Basudev said that Cluster Facilitation Projects are being taken up as part of the Aspirational District Program in 117 districts and 250 blocks all over India. Chandel being the only Aspirational District in the state, out of four blocks in the district two blocks namely Chakpikarong and Chandel block had been selected for the Cluster Facilitation Projects (CFP).

The main objective of this project is to minimise the hindrances face during the planning of labour budgets for



a sustainable development. It aims to have a sustainable and GIS integrated planning in future by following all the parameters of government guide lines. Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) is targeted at specific blocks and will expand to all the other blocks in future.

He further added that today awareness programme for Chandel Block is being held for the village authorities, Chairmen, village Chiefs, secretaries etc whereas block

and district level awareness programme will also be held after the completion of these programmes.

The awareness programme was attended by Project Officer MGNREGS, Shri L. Stephen Modar, State Project Officer—Livelihood(CFP) Shri Tab Khan, State Project Officer—GIS (CFP) Shri Vickyson Naorem, other official and experts and all the village authorities, Chairmen, Village Chiefs, Secretaries of different villages of Chandel Block.

## Rahul Gandhi has damaged the cause of opposition unity with Udaipur statement

By Nitya Chakraborty

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has struck a big blow to the efforts of the opposition parties towards forming a combined front to take on the ruling BJP in the Lok Sabha polls in 2024. Gandhi said in the Congress Chintan Shivir in Udaipur that the Congress is the only alternative to the BJP and the regional parties cannot be the face of the opposition. His view is that the regional parties have no ideology and the only the Congress, with its strong ideology, is in a position to fight the BJP.

Rahul's comments are not only politically ill-timed but also factually wrong. Already, the regional parties like the RJD, Trinamool Congress and the JD(S) have reacted angrily. Others like NCP, DMK and Shiv Sena are also feeling the same way. At a time when the Congress president Sonia Gandhi is talking of an alliance of the political parties who are opposed to the BJP rule and underlining the importance of removing the Narendra Modi government from power in the coming Lok Sabha polls, Rahul Gandhi has created a mess. His comments have generated an unnecessary rift between the Congress and the regional parties which are fighting the BJP.

The Congress is the largest opposition party in the country in the anti-BJP camp. Nobody disagrees to that, but the ground reality is that in the last eight years since Narendra Modi took over as the prime minister, the Congress strength has declined steeply, while the regional parties have emerged stronger. Different political parties have varying ideologies, but these parties have fought BJP and defeated them, while the Congress has been defeated

in most of the direct fights with the BJP.

Let us look at the facts. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress and the BJP were contestants in 374 seats the Congress lost in 92 per cent of the seats where it fought the BJP. As against the Congress, other regional parties did much better by fighting the BJP in their respective states. As of now, the Congress runs the state governments on its own in two — Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh — and is a partner in the ruling coalition in three states, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The party lost Punjab to AAP in the latest assembly elections and witnessed its worst performance ever in the crucial Uttar Pradesh assembly polls getting only two seats out of the total of 403.

Rahul Gandhi may feel that only the Congress has the ideology to fight BJP, but in all the states which went to polls in the last two years, the regional parties fared much better in defeating the BJP compared to the 'ideology-driven' Congress. In Bengal, in the 2021 assembly elections, the BJP mobilised all its muscle power and huge financial resources to dethrone the Trinamool government, but it faced its worst defeat. Trinamool got more seats — 213 out of the total of 294 — while the BJP got only 77 seats. The Congress could not secure a single seat.

How will Rahul Gandhi explain this victory of Trinamool in the assembly elections? The Congress certainly needs more ideological push and that is welcome if Rahul takes the lead, but that does not mean the Congress can undervalue the ideology of the other regional parties which are

fighting the BJP and winning. In Kerala, the CPI(M)-led Left Front is fighting to keep BJP out and has been successful. In Tamil Nadu, the alliance under the DMK supreme MK Stalin is doing a fantastic job in keeping the BJP and its ally AIADMK at bay. In fact, the substantially weakened Congress has seats in Lok Sabha in 2019 polls from Tamil Nadu, courtesy DMK, its alliance partner.

In 2019 Lok Sabha polls, there were 250 direct fights between the Congress and the BJP, and the Congress won just six seats. This itself tells the real story of the preparedness of the Congress in taking on the BJP. In Uttar Pradesh, out of 80 Lok Sabha seats, the Congress got only one in direct fight against the BJP; in Bihar, the party got one out of 40; in Madhya Pradesh, one out of 28; in Chhattisgarh, it got two out of 11; and one in Jharkhand out of 14. In other states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Himachal, the party got zero seats in 2019 elections. However, last year, the Congress got one Lok Sabha seat in Himachal by-election.

An analysis of the Congress seats in Lok Sabha now shows that out of its 53 members, 28 are from southern states alone. 15 are from Kerala, 8 from Tamil Nadu, three from Telangana and one each from Karnataka and Puducherry. In two states, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the Congress got seats due to combined strength of its alliance partners; otherwise, the 2019 tally would have been much lower. This stark reality that the Congress is not the natural party of governance anymore and it has to treat its alliance partners, especially the powerful regional parties with respect, should be recognized by Rahul Gandhi if he really

means to work with the regional parties to take on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Udaipur Chintan Shivir has laid no clear line on alliances to face the challenge of the BJP in the coming Lok Sabha elections. The poll strategist Prashant Kishor in his recent presentation to the Congress Party underlined the immediate need for finalising the alliance strategy taking into account the strength of the party in the respective states. This can be a three-point strategy. First, there are states where the Congress is the main party contesting the BJP like Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh. In these states, the Congress will be the arbiter and it will depend on the Congress to choose small allies if any. Second, there are states where the Congress is dominant along with another strong ally, like Karnataka. Here the Congress and the other ally have to come to some understanding. And the third category is where the Congress is minority partner like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Jharkhand where the participating parties will have to decide on the basis of actual strength of the parties at ground level.

There will be states also where the Congress will have to fight with the regional parties, like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and West Bengal. The party will have to do that, but the objective should be to form an understanding in the post Lok Sabha election scenario. The Congress leadership has to show maximum flexibility in dealing with the regional parties if the GoP really wants to emerge as the front runner of the opposition alliance. Rahul Gandhi cannot do that with his latest approach.

(IPAService)

## IN THE FAMILY COURT; MANIPUR AT LAMPHELPAT, IMPHAL

### MAT (Declaration) Suit No 22 of 2022

Km. Laishram Babina @Prabina Devi, aged about 30 years, D/o Late Laishram Meino Singh and Late Ahongsangbam Ningol Laishram Ongbi Ibemnungshi Devi of Sagolband Moirang Leirak, PO, PS. Imphal, District Imphal West, Manipur

.....Plaintiff

#### Versus

Smt. Laishram Ningol Kongbrailatpam Ongbi Babita Singha, aged about 44 years, D/o Late Laishram Meino Singh and Late Ahongsangbam Ningol Laishram Ongbi Ibemnungshi Devi and W/o K. Lalitkumar Sharma of Sagolband Tera Amudon Leirak near Kebol High School, PO, PS. Imphal, District, Imphal West, Manipur.

.....Defendant

To,

All the interested persons

Whereas, the above named plaintiff has filed a suit against you U/S 34 of the Specific Relief Act, 1963 read with Section 7 of the Family Courts Act, 1984 praying for declaring that the plaintiff is the unmarried daughter of the Late Laishram Meino Singh and Late Laishram Ongbi Ibemnungshi Devi; all the interested persons are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on 31.05.2022 at 10:30 A.M either in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all the material questions relating to the case and to file written objection, if any.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the mentioned date and time, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Sealed and signed by the order of this Court, this 13th May, 2022.

Seal:-

Sd/-

Sr. Sheristadar,  
Family Court, Manipur

By:-

Advocate

# Assam Flood: Over 4 lakh people affected in 26 districts; HM Amit Shah expresses concern and assures help

Agency  
Dispur, May 18:

Rescue and relief operations have been intensified by the Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and local administrations in flood-hit areas in Assam. Over four lakh people have been affected due to floods and landslides in 26 districts while eight persons lost their lives. About 40 thousand people have been shifted to relief camps. Dima Hasao, Hojai, and Barak valley are the worst-affected areas. District Administrations are disturbing food items in affected areas. Meanwhile, Northeast Frontier Railway is working on

war footing to restore rail connectivity in South Assam. Talking to AIR News, Chief Public Relations Officer of the Northeast Frontier Railway Sabyasachi Dey said that damage occurred at 50 to 60 locations in Dima Hasao district. Meanwhile, Home Minister Amit Shah has expressed concern about the situation in the wake of heavy rainfall in parts of Assam. He spoke to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take stock of the situation. In a tweet, Mr Shah said NDRF teams have already been deployed. He assured all possible help from the central government. The army, National Disaster Response Force, NDRF and

State Disaster Response Force, SDRF are pressed into rescue operations. The state government has also asked the Indian Air Force, IAF to airdrop essential food items in worst hit Dima Hasao district by tomorrow. Over four lakh people are affected due to floods and landslides in 26 districts while 8 persons lost their lives. About 40 thousand people are shifted to temporary relief camps. Dima Hasao, Hojai and Barak valley are the worst affected areas. Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah held a review meeting with senior officials in Guwahati mostly on the prevailing flood situations at Dima Hasao, Hojai and Barak valley. The meeting asked National Highways

Authority of India, NHAI to restore highway connectivity between Guwahati to Haflong. The Chief Secretary also asked Deputy Commissioners of affected districts to ensure availability of essential food items. Surging water hugely damaged roads, river embankments and crop lands. Meanwhile, Northeast Frontier, N.F. Railway said, massive land slide in over 50 locations spreading all over the Lumding - Badarpur hill section has completely disrupted the rail communication of the hilly states of Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and South Assam with rest of the country since last Saturday. The railway is working on war foot to restore rail connectivity.

## 3rd anniversary of LSPSL held



IT News  
Moreh, May 18:

Members of the Lainingthou Sanamahi Puya Santhok Lup (LSPSL) today observed its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary at the premises of the Ima Kondong Lairembi Haraobung at Moreh Ward No. 7. 40 people from Moreh area take

oath to the Sanamahi religion on the occasion. 2 persons were given certificate to perform rituals of the Sanamahi religion. Speaking on the occasion resource persons appealed the people to work hard for upholding of the Sanamahi religion. Members of

the Lainingthou Sanamahi Temple Board, Imphal, Meetei Council Moreh (MCM) All Community Development Organisation Moreh (ACODOM), Kha Nongpok Apunba Nupi Lup Moreh, All Manipur Students' Union Tpl. dist. Committee, etc. also attended on the occasion.

## DRDO & Indian Navy conduct successful maiden flight-test of indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile

PIB  
New Delhi, May 18

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted maiden flight-test of indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile launched from a Naval Helicopter from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on May 18, 2022. The mission met all its objectives. It is the first indigenous air launched anti-ship missile system for the Indian Navy.

The missile followed the

desired sea skimming trajectory and reached the designated target with high degree of accuracy, validating the control, guidance and mission algorithms. All the sub-systems performed satisfactorily. The sensors deployed across the test range and near impact point tracked the missile trajectory and captured all the events.

The missile employed many new technologies, including an indigenously developed launcher for the helicopter. The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation



system and integrated avionics. The flight test was witnessed by senior officers of DRDO and the Indian Navy.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and

associated teams for the maiden developmental flight test. He said, India attained a high level of capability in the indigenous design and development of Missile systems.

Secretary Department of

Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the efforts of the project team for successfully proving mission objectives. He complimented the Indian Navy and Naval Flight Test Squadron for their support to the project and said that the system will strengthen offensive capability of Indian Navy.

## IED disposed by Bomb Squad

IT News  
Imphal, May 18:

An IED was safely disposed by Manipur Police Bomb Squad rushed to the spot. An IED wrapped with a Black plastic was found at a bush near Nilakuthi bridge. The IED was disposed off at a safe place at Khonghampat Chingol by the Bomb Squad at around 1:00 am today.

around 10:30pm, where after receiving the information a team of CID(Tech) Bomb Squad rushed to the spot. An IED wrapped with a Black plastic was found at a bush near Nilakuthi bridge. The IED was disposed off at a safe place at Khonghampat Chingol by the Bomb Squad at around 1:00 am today.

Contd. from Page 1

## Chief Minister credits people .....

Further highlighting the State's achievement in regards to War on drugs, the Chief Minister said that altogether 719.25 kgs of contraband Ganja, 940 grams of Brown Sugar, 18.7555 kgs of Heroin Powder, 87 kgs of WY Tablets (Methamphetamine), and 20 kgs of Crystal Ice (Methamphetamine) will be disposed of at the earliest.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the issue of illegal occupants at government quarters and said unauthorized occupants will be dealt with severely under the law and even FIRs will be lodged, if found appropriate. He continued that if any government employee is found sub-letting their accommodation, then actions like suspension and disciplinary actions will be taken up.

He said on receiving information about the presence of illegal occupants and anti-socials even in the police barracks, an operation was conducted. Altogether 34 employees have been suspended in this regard so far, he added.

Further briefing the media, the Chief Minister also said that a special drive has been initiated to check the number of vehicles allocated to Ministers, MLAs and all officials including the head of departments, and to takeover additional vehicles found in their possession. Further issuing a strong warning against any police officer found utilizing uniformed personnel over

and above their assigned official duties at their residences, Shri N. Biren Singh said that an officer found doing so during a recent simultaneous raid at different locations has been put under suspension.

"I condemned and cannot tolerate such excesses", the Chief Minister warned further. Regarding the development of government quarters at New Checkon, the Chief Minister also said that the State government has taken a loan of Rs. 230 crores from HUDCO to construct a government residential complex in New Checkon, presently occupied by Tribal Colony quarters. This project was started to provide the needed accommodations to government employees.

## Sports

## Liverpool beat Southampton to take Premier League title race to final day

Agency  
Southampton, May 18:

Liverpool ensured the Premier League title race will go to the final day of the season as the under-strength quadruple chasers survived a scare to beat Southampton 2-1 on Tuesday.

After Liverpool defeated Chelsea on penalties in a gruelling FA Cup final just three days earlier, Jurgen Klopp took a gamble with nine changes at St Mary's.

Despite effectively fielding a reserve team and trailing to Nathan Redmond's early strike, Liverpool hit back through goals from Takumi Minamino and Joel Matip.

The Reds are just one point behind leaders Manchester City, with both teams having one game left.

A title race for the ages will go City's way if they win against Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

Klopp insisted at the weekend that he does not expect City to drop points against Villa.

But Liverpool would be crowned champions for the second time in three seasons if they beat Wolves at Anfield

and City fail to win.

Klopp's side will be expected to end their part of the equation against Wolves, especially now their refreshed key players can return to the team.

Sadio Mane, Luis Diaz, Andrew Robertson, Thiago Alcantara and Trent Alexander-Arnold were among those left out against Southampton, while Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk were sidelined with injuries suffered at Wembley.

City boss Pep Guardiola said he planned to watch the game on television and if he tuned in, it would have made for frustrating viewing as Southampton squandered the lead.

But it was Riyad Mahrez's missed penalty in the final minutes of City's 2-2 draw at West Ham on Sunday which had given Liverpool renewed hope of catching the leaders.

And the Reds, hoping to become the first English club to win all four major trophies in one season, will settle their history bid in the last two games of their incredible, marathon campaign.

First, Liverpool will try to avoid a repeat of 2019, when they beat Wolves on the last day but were still pipped to the

title by City.

Then they head to Paris to face Real Madrid in the Champions League final on May 28.

Southampton had lost seven of their previous 10 league matches, giving Klopp belief that his bold selection could pay off.

He might have had second thoughts when Armando Broja weaved unchecked into the area, forcing Alisson Becker to save with his outstretched leg.

It was a warning Liverpool failed to heed and Ralph Hasenhuttl's side took the lead after 13 minutes.

Redmond sprinted away down the left flank, cutting inside to the edge of the area and unleashed a fierce strike that took a deflection off James Milner as it flashed into the far corner.

Klopp complained furiously that Diogo Jota was fouled by Lyanno in the build-up but, although it did appear there was a trip, the German's protests fell on deaf ears.

With their title hopes in jeopardy, Liverpool showed the desire and character that inspired Klopp to label them "mentality monsters".

Minamino has struggled to break into the Liverpool team on a regular basis and was sent on loan to Southampton last season.

The Japan forward made the most of a rare Premier League start with a brilliant equaliser in the 27th minute.

Joe Gomez fizzed a pass into Jota and his perfectly weighted lay-off reached Minamino, who beat Alex McCarthy at the near post with a ferocious rising drive.

Liverpool turned the screw and Milner's long-range effort was pushed away by McCarthy before Roberto Firmino fired over.

Klopp's men monopolised over 70 percent of the possession in the first half and it was the same story after the break.

Jota shot just wide from Kostas Tsimikas's cross, while Harvey Elliott smashed into the side-netting from an acute angle.

Liverpool's relentless pressure was rewarded in the 67th minute.

Matip and Kyle Walker-Peters challenged for Tsimikas's corner and the ball looped in over McCarthy, forcing City to keep the champagne on ice for now.