

## Nation gives thumbs up to government's decision to cut price of Petrol by Rs 9.5 per litre and diesel by Rs 7

**AIR**  
**New Delhi, May 22:**

Prices of petrol has been reduced by 9 rupees 50 paise per litre and diesel by 7 rupees per litre across the country. The move comes after government reduced the Central excise duty on Petrol by 8 rupees per litre and on Diesel by 6 rupees per litre yesterday.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made the announcement yesterday evening in a series of tweets. The new rates came into effect at 6 this morning.

Ms Sitharaman said, it will have revenue implication of around 1 lakh crore rupees per year for the government. She exhorted all state governments, especially the states where reduction was not done during the last round in November last year, to also implement a similar cut and give relief to the common man.

She also announced that this year, government will give

a subsidy of 200 rupees per gas cylinder upto 12 cylinders to over 9 crore beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. This will have a revenue implication of around 6100 crore rupees a year.

Government is also reducing the customs duty on raw materials and intermediaries for plastic products where country's import dependence is high. This will result in reduction of cost of final products.

Ms Sitharaman said similarly, customs duty is being calibrated on raw materials and intermediaries for iron and steel to reduce their prices. Import duty on some raw materials of steel will be reduced.

Export duty on some steel products will be levied. She said measures are being taken up to improve the availability of Cement and through better logistics to reduce the cost of cement.

She said the world is passing through difficult times due to

Covid and Ukraine conflict has brought in supply chain problems and shortages of various goods. This has resulted in inflation and economic distress in a lot of countries. But despite the adverse economic conditions, Narendra Modi government is committed to ensure that prices of essential items are kept under control.

She stressed that government is devoted to the welfare of the poor and has taken a number of steps to help the poor and middle class. She said that as a result of these initiatives, the average inflation during this government's tenure has remained lower than during previous governments.

The Minister said even a few developed countries could not escape some shortages and disruptions but asserted government has ensured that there is no shortage of essential goods.

She said even during the pandemic, NDA government

set a paradigm of welfare, especially with PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. She added that this is now acknowledged and appreciated the world over.

Despite rising fertilizer prices globally, the Minister highlighted that the government has protected farmers from such price hikes. In addition to the fertilizer subsidy of 1.05 lakh crore rupees in the budget, an additional amount of 1.10 lakh crore rupees is being provided to further cushion country's farmers.

Ms Sitharaman stated that Prime Minister Modi has specifically asked all arms of the government to work with sensitivity and give relief to the common man.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that financial decisions, especially the one relating to a significant drop in petrol and diesel prices will positively impact various sectors. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, it will provide relief to our

citizens and further 'Ease of Living'.

On the announcement of providing a subsidy of 200 rupees per gas cylinder to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the Prime Minister said the decision on Ujjwala subsidy will greatly ease family budgets. He said, Ujjwala Yojana has helped crores of Indians, especially women.

Home Minister Amit Shah has said that even in this challenging global situation, the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided a huge relief to the common people. In a tweet, Mr Shah said that many such steps have also been taken for other sectors, which will bring down the price of the products.

BJP President JP Nadda has demanded that the opposition ruled states should also reduce petrol and diesel rates so that common people can get some more relief amid

inflation.

Mr. J.P. Nadda has lauded the government's decision to slash the excise duty on petrol and diesel. He said, it shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the welfare of the common man.

BJP President demanded that the opposition ruled states should also reduce petrol and diesel rates so that common people can get some more relief amid inflation.

Yesterday, the government announced several measures including reduction in the excise duty on petrol by eight rupees per litre and on diesel by six rupees per litre.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that Central excise duty cut on Petrol and Diesel is a major step towards easing prices. He said, gas cylinder subsidy to over 9 crore Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries will bring a smile on the faces of our mothers and sisters.

Confederation of All India

Traders, CAIT has welcomed the Central government's decision of reducing the prices of petrol and diesel. Talking to AIR News, CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said that with the reduction in fuel prices the transportation cost will come down and the manufacturers should also cut the prices of various commodities.

In Rajasthan the common people are happy with the reduction in the prices of diesel and petrol by the central government.

Premraj, a resident of Borkhandi in Bundi district, said this reduction will bring relief to the common man. He says this will give relief from inflation.

Nation gives thumbs up to government's decision to cut price of Petrol by 9 rupees 50 paise per litre and diesel by 7 rupees Hussain of Sawai Madhopur said that due to reduction in prices, the general public will get some relief from inflation.

## Chakka hits vehicular movement in Imphal East district Bandh imposed against abduction of Drivers

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 22:**

Vehicular movement along the Imphal-Ukhrul roads and in areas of Khurai Assembly constituency have been severely hits today as locals of Khurai area imposed chakka bandh since early morning today in protest against the abduction of two truck drivers by suspected cadres of ZUP from Khoupum area on May 18.

As the two drivers are still not release, the Khurai Social Youth Club (KSYC) spearheaded the Chakka Bandh on Khurai-Ukhrul Road.

The chakka bandh was declared after the two truck drivers were kidnapped by the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) and were not immediately released.

The two drivers abducted are identified as Thangjam Pal (42) from Khurai Puthiba Leikai and Maibam



Mani (45) from Khurai Chingambam Leikai.

KSYC advisor Munindrokumar Waikhom told the media at Khurai Lamlong Bazar yesterday that if the demand is not met, the club may launch additional agitations in addition to chakka bandh.

He also urged the State Government to intervene and free the two drivers who have been imprisoned since May 18.

Thangjam Anantakumar, the elder brother of one of the abducted drivers, stated that his brother Thangjam Pal was hired by

one Takhelmayum Robin from Khurai to transport fertiliser from Jiribam.

Anantakumar stated that Thangjam Pal left his house on May 18 to complete the task, but that his brother was kidnapped by an armed group for monetary demand.

## PM Modi to leave for Japan tonight to take part in Quad Leaders' Summit

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, May 22:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said strengthening of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership will be the aim of his visit to Japan. In his statement ahead of his two-day visit to Tokyo Mr Modi said he will also participate in the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit, which will provide an opportunity for the leaders of the four Quad countries to review the progress of Quad initiatives.

Prime Minister said all Quad Leaders' will also exchange views about developments in the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with US

President Joe Biden, where both the leaders will discuss further consolidation of multifaceted bilateral relations between the two countries.

The newly-elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will be joining the Quad Leaders' Summit for the first time. Mr Modi said he looks forward to a bilateral meeting with Anthony Albanese during which the multifaceted cooperation between India and Australia under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and global issues of mutual interest will be discussed.

Economic cooperation between India and Japan is an important aspect of Special Strategic and Global Partnership. During the 14th India-Japan

Annual Summit in March 2022, Prime Minister Kishida and Mr Modi had announced their intention to realize Japanese Yen five trillion in public and private investment and financing over the next five years from Japan to India.

During the forthcoming visit, Prime Minister said he will meet with Japanese business leaders with the goal of further strengthening economic linkages between the two countries, in pursuit of this objective.

Japan is home to nearly 40,000 members of the Indian diaspora, who are an important anchor in the relations with Japan. Mr Modi will also interact with the Indian diaspora in Japan.

Modi is visiting Japan at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Mr. Fumio Kishida.

## Amit Shah says under the leadership of PM Modi NE is being known for tourism, development and good infrastructure

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, May 22:**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given priority to the development of the North-east Region and in these 8 years has given a new image to the region. Mr. Shah said this after inaugurating and laying foundation stones of various infrastructure projects worth Rs.1180 crore in Arunachal Pradesh during a

public meeting at Namsai today.

Mr. Shah said that earlier the North-east Region was known for disputes and insurgency, but today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the region is known for its tourism, development, good infrastructure and its diverse culture. He said today there is 79 percent decrease in insurgency-related incidents in the whole region.

Mr. Shah said BJP government

has initiated the process of joining difficult places of the state, like Tawang and Aalo, by train. He said Parsuram Kund in Lohit District will soon be connected by train which will give a boost to tourism.

Shah appealed people to keep faith in the double engine government, the Modi government in the centre and Pema Khandu govt in the state and added that very soon Arunachal will become the most developed state in the country.

## International Biodiversity day observed

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 22:**

International Biodiversity day was observed by District Legal Services Authority, Thoubal under the aegis of Manipur State Legal Services Authority through the JITS MEET Video Conferencing today.

Chairperson, DLSA Binny Nangom spoke on why we celebrate biodiversity day and

elaborated on this year's slogan "Building a shared future for all life". She stressed on the diminishing butterflies, fireflies and frequent migratory birds in our surroundings which was a stark difference from her childhood days and is a cause for concern due to the rapid human activities which are detrimental to the earth's ecosystem.

Bineshwori Maibam

elaborated on why do we celebrate this year's biodiversity day on the theme of "we are part of the solution" as improving biodiversity gives the solution to the problems faced with sustainable development, extreme climate change such as the high rainfall during the April-May month this year, extreme summer temperature etc. She further gave all the participants a message that

"we need to conserve and equitably contribute to improve our biodiversity"

W. Jiban Singh, Coordinator, LAC, Heirok and M. Sanahal Singh, OA, DLSA, Thoubal gave the Welcome Address and Vote of Thanks respectively.

The event was participated by the PLVs and Panel Lawyers, Remand Lawyers under the aegis of DLSA, Thoubal.

## Promoting Coaching Institutes



By-Vijay GarG

Commercialisation of education has reached brazen levels of exploitation. A few Delhi University colleges stand accused of tying up with private coaching institutes to allow them access to the college premises to conduct classes for various examinations. A college promotes private coaching classes for UPSC examinations. Another recommends on-campus classes for this year's Common University Entrance Test (CUET). Students taking admission to undergraduate courses are the targeted "clients". A three-year coaching session can cost up to Rs 1.5 lakh per person. It is big money at no cost. These private centres gain legitimacy too, thanks to the collusion with colleges of repute. A group of students and teachers is protesting the tie-ups. Shockingly, public-funded institutions supposed to give subsidised education are involved in this commercial activity. The University Grants Commission and the Union Ministry of Education must nip this exercise in the bud. Private coaching classes for IAS aspirants have been around for decades, propagating the myth that cracking the exam is impossible without coaching. It is nothing but a myth, an expensive one because in recent years many candidates have made it to the IAS and other services without private coaching. A candidate from rural Bihar secured 10th rank last year with no coaching. The son of a cloth seller got into IAS with self-study. A girl from Haryana cleared the UPSC in her final attempt without attending coaching classes. A majority of successful candidates who hail from the countryside are clearing the examination on the strength of their fortitude.

This is not to say coaching classes should be avoided. Those who can afford the fees can go ahead. However, colleges cannot join the business by teaming up with private coaching centres. That is not their remit. The bane of the Indian education system is two-fold. One, the formal system of education is affected by an unsystemic, even controversial, approach to selecting the curriculum and teaching and evaluation methods. Two, as a result, private tuitions are now a necessary evil, running a parallel system that is gradually eating into the core of formal education. The tie-up experiment deliberately undermines institutional education. China recently found out how deeply entrenched the malaise of private coaching is when it banned the expensive private tutoring industry; parents merely turned to the black market for tutors. This is not the only facet of commercialisation that plagues education in India. The Department of Education recently intervened in the money-making methods of private schools by warning them not to force parents to buy books, uniforms and even shoes from shops on the school premises or specific private vendors at expensive rates. It also asked schools not to change the colour or design of school uniforms for at least three years to plug an additional source of easy profit. Most private engineering and medical colleges exist for profit in the form of high capitation fees.

## Learning poverty in India to induce huge loss of jobs and GDP

By Dr. Gyan Pathak

COVID-19 crisis triggered school closure in India has induced learning poverty to such an extent that the country is set to suffer the worst in South Asia in absolute terms both in respect to jobs loss and decline in GDP, which in turn may accelerate each other creating together a vicious circle of shrinkage in both.

Jobs for skilled labour in India will decline by 1 per cent while it would be 2 per cent for unskilled labour on account of this single factor, says a recent ADB Economics Working Paper titled "Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19 related School Closures". Due to largest populated country in the region, it would be translated into greatest number of jobs loss in absolute terms.

As for the GDP, India will also suffer the highest decline in South Asia at about \$98.84 billion in terms of absolute change in 2030. In percentage terms its GDP will decrease by 0.34 per cent in 2023, 1.36 per cent in 2026, and 3.19 per cent in 2030. Due to the largest size of the economy in the region, it would translate into worst loss in absolute terms.

However, in percentage terms, the effect will be deepest in Nepal in this region, where GDP is forecast to fall by 0.48 per cent in 2023, 1.42 per cent in 2025, 4.34 per cent in 2028, and 4.97 per cent in 2030. The share of unskilled labour employment in Nepal is well

above other South Asian economies, so the impact looks more pronounced. Nepal will experience the highest decline in the employment among both skilled and unskilled labour in terms of percentage. Employment of skilled labour in Nepal will decline by 1.15 per cent in 2025 and by 3.84 per cent in 2030, while declines for unskilled labour will be 1 per cent in 2025 and 3 per cent in 2030.

Decline in skilled labour employment in India will be around 0.214 per cent next year in 2023 which will increase over three times to 0.731 per cent in 2026, and about five times to 1.015 per cent in 2030. For unskilled labour the decline in employment will be 0.243 per cent in 2023, which will further deteriorate to a decline of 0.853 per cent in 2026 and 2.016 per cent in 2030.

The study says that the labour productivity loss calculated for closures in secondary education is taken in this model as a shock to the unskilled labour for the period 2023-2030 as it takes at least three years for secondary school graduates to enter the unskilled labour force. The loss in primary education is fed into unskilled labour for 2026-2030 as primary school students would take more time to enter the labour force. The loss in tertiary education is also passed into 2026-2030 as college students will need to extend their time in study to compete higher education and join the skilled labour force.

When calculated on this basis, the study puts the annual average shock to labour productivity in India for unskilled labour \$408.43 million and for skilled labour \$72.65 million which combined earning loss of about 4.7 per cent. The annual average shock to labour productivity for those in primary education will be 0.343, in secondary education 2.145, and in tertiary education 6.657 per cent.

The study estimates that earning losses from school closures lead GDP to fall in almost all economies, including the sub-regions of Asia. Globally, the decline amounts to 0.19 per cent of GDP in 2024, 0.64 per cent in 2028, and 1.11 per cent in 2030. In absolute terms, school closures during COVID-19 would cost the global economy \$943 billion in 2030. Overall, economies with significant population of school children and college-going youth in rural areas—and in the poorest and second wealth quintile—have been worst-hit as they lack access to stable internet connections needed to study online. Also, if the share of unskilled labour employment in the labour force is high, learning and earning losses are significant. That is because a notable portion of the impacted population will migrate to the unskilled labour force.

Considering skilled labour, global losses to employment amount to declines of 0.05 per cent in 2024, 0.25 per cent in 2026, and 0.75 per cent in 2030. The study estimates that school closures will deny about

5.44 million people around the world employment in the skilled labour force by 2030. Also, in terms of absolute costs, lost wages to the baseline scenario total \$94.86 billion.

For unskilled labour, the global contraction in employment is estimated to be 0.22 per cent in 2025, 0.51 per cent in 2027, and 1.15 per cent in 2030. Around 35.69 million people around the world would have made into the unskilled labour force had the pandemic did not lead schools to close. In terms of cost, lost wages amount to \$121.54 billion in 2030.

The study has found that in economies with significant student populations from rural areas, those in the poorest and second wealth quintile have been the worst hit. This is because a lack of access stable internet connections and online education hampers their learning opportunities. Learning and earning losses are also significant in economies where the share of unskilled labour employment in the overall labour force is high. This is because school closures will push a notable portion of the impacted students into unskilled jobs.

In this backdrop, the study has made three policy recommendations about actions to mitigate these impacts while building a more resilient education system. These recommendations are: Support learning recovery; Invest in education and skills; and Embrace the digital transformation in education. (IPA Service)

## Supreme Court stress on cooperative federalism a slap on centre GST verdict strengthens cause of states in fiscal management

By K Raveendran

The decision by the Supreme Court this week that the powers of the Centre and the States to legislate on GST-related issues are equal debunks the idea that the Centre can ride roughshod over the states, as it has been happening to a large extent. The court's judgment also strengthens the cause of the states, which have been complaining about the Centre's unfair practices.

Stressing the importance of 'cooperative federalism' for the wellbeing of democracy, the Supreme Court held that Union and State legislatures have "equal, simultaneous and unique powers" to make laws on GST and the recommendations of the GST Council

are not binding on them.

The court held that according to the Constitution Amendment Act of 2016, parliament intended for the recommendations of the GST Council to only have a persuasive value, particularly when interpreted along with the objective of the GST regime to foster cooperative federalism and harmony between the constituent units.

The bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath pointed out that the 'recommendations' of the GST Council are the product of a collaborative dialogue involving the Union and States and therefore considering these as binding edicts would disrupt fiscal federalism, where both the Union and the States are

conferred equal power to legislate on GST.

The court further asserted that it is not imperative that one of the federal units must always possess a higher share in the power for the federal units to make decisions. Indian federalism is a dialogue between cooperative and uncooperative federalism where the federal units are at liberty to use different means of persuasion ranging from collaboration to contestation.

Many states, particularly the opposition-ruled states of Kerala, Bengal, Delhi and Punjab, have been complaining about the Centre's high-handedness in the fiscal issues related to GST. The compensation to be provided to the states for loss of tax revenue on account of the adoption of the new GST regime has been a

constant irritant between the Centre and the States.

The Centre is committed to compensate states bimonthly for any shortfall they incur in the first five years of the implementation of GST considering a 14 per cent growth in subsumed indirect taxes. But the Centre has been defaulting on payments on various pretexts, including blaming them for resorting to ways and means route or market borrowings to manage their acute fiscal pressure.

A joint statement of the finance ministers of opposition-ruled states had pointed out that GST revenues accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the states' tax revenues and the delay in the central payments was causing deficits of up to 50 per cent of the total GST dues. The Centre has virtually

been arm-twisting the states on their borrowings on the issue.

In fact, the Centre has been hardening its stand even on the payment of compensation already due to them. It is said to be even toying with the idea that the states no longer deserve central compensation as the GST revenue collections have been showing robust growth in recent months and as such do not need compensation.

Apparently, there has been a growth of 20 per cent in GST revenue collections in April as opposed to 14 per cent backed by GST compensation from the Centre. This is in the wake of a significant recovery in the private consumption expenditure to pre-pandemic levels, boosting tax revenues.

The landmark GST verdict has described many of the central government's assertions as farfetched and unreasonable. It pointed out that the provisions of the IGST Act and CGST Act to the effect that the Union government is to act on the recommendations of the GST Council must be interpreted with reference to the purpose of the original enactment, which is to create a uniform taxation system. The GST was introduced since different States could earlier provide different tax slabs and different exemptions. Merely because a few of the recommendations of the GST Council are binding on the government, it cannot be argued that all of the GST Council's recommendations are binding, the court emphasised. (IPA Service)

## Gyanvapi Mosque dispute seems poised to be a Babri Masjid redux

By Harihar Swarup

After three decades of relative calm post the Babri Masjid demolition, events in the Gyanvapi Mosque dispute have taken a swift turn. The latest development is the apparent 'manifestation' of a 'shivling' during a court-mandated survey, following which the local Varanasi court has ordered for that portion of the mosque to be sealed.

The Supreme Court has removed the restrictions on offering Namaz imposed by Varanasi Civil Court, while protecting the spot where the plaintiff claimed a "shivling" was found. Three years before, in the Babri Masjid case, the Supreme Court had delivered an ambiguous judgment, trying to

balance competing claims of faith, history and law. While it acknowledged that Muslims were wrongfully deprived of their 450-year-old mosque, and condemned its destruction as a 'serious violation of law', it concluded that Hindus have a 'better' possessory claim of the title of the land. Among other arguments, SC took into account the faith of Hindus in the birth place of Lord Rama and need to ensure 'peace and tranquillity'.

Even though the SC judgment in the Babri Masjid dispute left many Muslims disappointed, there was little overt protest. One reason was that SC treated Babri Masjid dispute as a special case, while making it absolutely

clear that the Indian state protects all existing Muslim places of worship. It categorically rebuffed the notion that a court of law in a secular democracy could be instrument for correcting perceived "historical wrongs" against Hindu temples. Further, it reaffirmed the validity of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, that prohibits the religious character of a place of worship to be changed. The only exhibition contained in this was the Babri Masjid.

Thus, case against tinkering with the Gyanvapi Mosque is clear. But, of course, the Gyanvapi dispute, like Babri Masjid dispute, is essentially not about law, nor even history, but about the need of contemporary politics.

The motor fuel of Hindutva is imagined grievance. As BJP has taken office in most of the Hindi belt, the

wellspring of present day Hindu grievances has been substantially drained. The charge of Muslim appeasement does not carry the same resonance as the political power of Muslims. It has declined precipitously. Laws on subjects such as cow slaughter and 'love jihad' have eased and sentiments of Hindus are already seen to command political primacy.

In this respect, BJP is even more dependent on history to provide an extensive to provide and inexhaustible reservoir of Hindu grievances. The mosque in Varanasi and Mathura, among other places, are sought to be presented as disputed areas.

BJP's constraints as a governing party also explains its hesitancy to raise the political stakes by repealing the places of Worship Act. After all

the BJP had opposed the passing of the Act and hasn't given up its ideological claims on correcting 'historical wrongs'. Nothing prevents Parliament from repealing the Act, except, perhaps, BJP's own interested, dread at the hard to manage consequences of opening the Pandora's Box.

Thus, RSS and BJP are content to lie in the shadows, encouraging Hindutva proxies to gradually soldier on with the next frontier of historical claims — Varanasi, Mathura and beyond. Petitioners in the current iteration of the Gyanvapi dispute are linked to the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh. The ultimate goal of this organization, according to its President Jitender Vishen, is establishment of 'Hindu Rashtra', much like the goal of RSS. But these Hindutava surrogates, coughed as

devotees, help the political establishment to maintain a plausible distance.

Yet some official support for Hindu petitioners was amply clear from the UP deputy CM K P Maurya's exulting tweets in the wake of 'discovery' of the shivling. One may recall that Maurya had also raked up the issue of Varanasi and Mathura temples during the UP election campaign.

It is a fraught task, even in western countries, to disentangle politics from faith and history. But it is the mark of advanced nations that justice is not beholden to majoritarian sentiments or historic grievances. As the Supreme Court expressly noted in the Babri Masjid judgment: "For any person who seeks solace or recourse against action of any number of ancient rulers, the law is not the answer." (IPA Service)

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# Have the spirit to serve the needy people: Minister Dr. Ranjan Singh

IT News  
Imphal, May 22:

Health & IPR Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has said that doctors need to have the spirit to serve the needy people. They should be blessed by the sincere and noble service they rendered to the patients.

Minister Ranjan was speaking on the occasion of Graduation Ceremony, 2022, of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, RIMS, Imphal held at the Jubilee Hall, of the institute. He said that there are big responsibilities of a doctor ahead after graduation from a medical college. During the students' period, one can learn a lot of things. They also experienced many different lessons. All the knowledge they gained should be dedicated for the service of the humanity, he added.

Minister maintained that everybody faces a lot of challenges in life. To overcome the challenges should be the objective of an individual.



Being in medical profession, the trust of the people should not be let lost. Sincere and dedicative service is very much required. Medical students and young doctors should not forget that the medical profession is a noble profession, he stated.

Ranjan also maintained that life is full of struggle and it never stops. Minister congratulated all the passed

out MBBS and PG students of RIMS for the year 2022. Degree certificates were also distributed to those successful students.

Speaking as president Director, RIMS, Prof. A. Shanta said that for learning even sky is not the limit. He urged the young doctors to learn as much as possible so that one can perform, transform and reform the

society.

Dr. Nalin Mehta, Director NEIGRIHMS, Shilong, Dr. Lalit Kapoor, Chief Cardiac Surgeon, Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences, Kolkata, Dean Academic, RIMS, Imphal, Prof. Brogen Singh Akoijam, Medical Superintendent, RIMS also shared the dais as Guests of Honour.

# PPFA demands a correct NRC with 1951 cut-off year

IT News  
Guwahati, May 22:

Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA), while expressing worries at a police complaint lodged by National Register of Citizens (NRC) Assam coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma against his predecessor Prateek Hajela for deceitfully including names of suspected individuals in the NRC with software tempering, urges both the governments in New Delhi and Dispur to support a complete re-verification of NRC with the national cut-off date.

The forum of nationalist citizens termed the development where as a senior government officer lodged an FIR with the criminal

investigation department against the former NRC State coordinator as disturbing. The specific allegation regarding the entry of illegal individuals in the list of Indian nationals through an error-driven technical process must be investigated for a correct NRC under monitoring of the Supreme Court. Everyone, who was allegedly involved with the unethical practice, should also be scanned, stated the forum.

"We demand a complete re-verification of NRC Assam with 1951 as the finished year. But even if we have to recognize the cut-off date (24 March 1971) mentioned in Assam Accord, the identification of the individuals in those

years should be made for the government record," said a PPFA statement, adding that the indigenous population must come forward raising their ultimate demand for an accurate (in true to its term) NRC.

The forum argues that for any reason a State cannot have a different year to identify the illegal migrants from the national cut-off year. The issue must be debated in the Parliament to make a final resolution that Assam will continue to have a delayed cut-off year to identify the foreigners. Subsequently, the original inhabitants of the State must be protected under legal provisions, it concluded.

# Asnikumar attends national workshop on wetlands

IT News  
Imphal, May 22:

M. Asnikumar Singh, Chairman, Loktak Development Authority (LDA), Manipur today took part in 'SABHAGITA' (Participatory) National Workshop for Conservation and WISE-USE of Wetlands at Anna University campus (a 220 years old university, one of the oldest universities of the country).

It was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India funded by Global Environment Fund (a global body for conservation of Environment throughout the globe). The workshop was graced by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ashwani Kumar Choubey, Union Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EF & CC), Leena Nandan, Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Prof. Dr. R. Velraj, Vice Chancellor, Anna University.

Exchanged ideas and valuable suggestions were made by renowned figures in the field of wetland conservation during the workshop. In the context of the State's Loktak lake and its associate wetlands, Asnikumar Singh highlighted the present condition, remedial measures, integrated action plan, wise use policy, short- and long-term visions for the State's wetlands, etc. taken up by the State Government under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

He also sought the help and contributions from the MoEF&CC (Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change), renowned conservationists, scientists and corporate houses in the conservation mission of the national treasure Loktak lake. Wetland experts who took part



in the workshop stressed on the role and importance of community participation in the conservation journey.

M. Asnikumar said, "At the conclusion of the workshop, Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav Ji spoke eloquently on the significance of wetlands; their cultural value, core value of traditional practices etc. He stressed on their significance; highlighting how wetlands are the kidneys and forests are the heart of our

environment and the vital role of local Communities/ dwellers of the wetlands in conservation measures, keeping in mind the alarming changes taking place in the global environment."

He added, "What struck each and everyone the most during the course of the workshop was Bhupender Yadav Ji's eagerness to personally interact one on one with each and every representative of all the States; inquire on their activities in their responsibilities as well as listen through and patiently to

their grievances and suggestions."

M. Asnikumar Singh also had the profound opportunity of presenting the Union Minister with a book on the Loktak lake titled, "Loktak, the Distorted Mirror".

Different stakeholders related to the conservation of wetlands, senior Govt. officials, scientists, representatives from renowned corporates houses (FICCI, TATA, Godrej, Adani, etc.), Wetland Mitras, etc. also took part in the workshop.

# Assam Rifles organises Ex-Servicemen & Veer Naris meet

IT News  
Imphal, May 20:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) organised Ex-Servicemen and Veer Nari Meet on 20 May 2022 at Modi Battalion Headquarter, Chandel District in Manipur.

The event saw overwhelming participation wherein 43 Veer Naris and more than 200 Ex-servicemen, families and children from in

and around Chandel district attended the event.

The event included lecture on perks and benefits entitled for Veer Naris and Veterans, grievance cell, medical camp, Pipe and Jazz Band display which was followed by lunch.

A token of appreciation was presented to all attendees as humble gratitude for their selfless service to the Nation.

On the other hand, the Shangshak Battalion under

the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted a medical camp at Semasong village, Kangpokpi district on 21 May 2022.

In continuation with the efforts of Assam Rifles to reach out a helping hand for the local population and assist them in humanitarian aid, a medical camp was organised to provide basic medical checkup, first aid and essential medicines to local populace including children.

# PWF awards Rs 2,80,000/- as Medical Assistance to 6 Journalists; invites application for MFA 2022-23

IT News  
Imphal, May 22

Completing its fifth year in existence and four in the service of the journalists, Paomee Welfare Foundation (PWF) on Saturday disbursed Rs 2,80,000/- as assistance under the Medical Financial Assistance (MFA) Phase II for the 2021-22, an annual scheme, offered in two phases interspersed by six months.

Alternatively, Paomee Welfare Foundation invites application for MFA (first phase) for the year 2022-23 for treatment expenditure incurred between, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The disbursement for which will be done in Oct-Nov 2022.

PWF's team, led its chairman, Wangkhemcha Shamjai, Senior Trustees Aribam Balkrishna Sharma and Sunzu Bachaspatimayum handed over the financial assistance to the six beneficiaries of MFA 2021-22 at a simple distribution function held at the Manipur Press Club.

Altogether, six applications were received, seeking assistance under the Medical Financial Assistance scheme (second phase) for 2021-22. Subsequently, the applications were all forwarded to the PWF Medical Board, consisting doctors from RIMS, JNIMS and Shija Hospitals.

After the high-powered Medical Board deliberated and gave its recommendations, the Board of Trustees in a meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, with the chairperson of

the Trust, Wangkhemcha Shamjai, in the chair, approved the recommendation of the Medical Board in totality.

Khumukcham Rajen Singh of Sanaleipak, who is undergoing Chemotherapy for his cancer treatment received the maximum assistance with Rs. 90,000/- awarded to him. Sinam Pinky Devi of Pandam was awarded the second highest assistance of Rs. 70,000/- for her mother's kidney stone case. While Paonam Robert Singh of Poknapham was awarded Rs. 40,000/- as assistance for his son's genetic ailment, Babie Shirin of Imphal Free Press was given Rs. 35,000/- as assistance for her gallbladder stone case. Loushigam James Singh of Paonikhon received Rs. 30,000/- as assistance towards his mother fracture treatment and Ningombam Noren Meitei as former member of AMWJU was given Rs. 15,000/- for his chronic liver treatment expenses.

MFA scheme of PWF is an annual financial assistance offered in two phases interspersed by six months. Paomee Welfare Foundation came into being in 2017 to independently managed AMWJU's corpus Funds of over Rs 85 lakhs, raised by way of a Mega Lottery organized in 2017. The Foundation offers one-time medical financial assistance to its retired and present members. Present members who may also nominate one of their immediate family members as beneficiary. PWF funds its medical assistance scheme out of the interest earned from the corpus fund kept as fixed deposit with State Bank of India.

# Assam Rifles recovers arms and ammunitions

IT News  
Imphal, May 22:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police apprehended two arms dealer including one Myanmar National and recovered arms and ammunitions from Torbung village, Churachandpur district on May 20.

Based on specific input, troops of Assam Rifles along with Manipur Police launched an operation which led to the apprehension and recovered five pistols of 0.32 caliber, eight magazines, five live rounds and three mobile phones.

The arms dealers along with recovered arms and ammunition were handed over to Moirang Police Station for further legal action.

# Assam Rifles conducts security meet

IT News  
Imphal, May 22:

Phundrei Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(South) organised a Security Meet at Khambhathel village, Chandel district on May 20.

The meet witnessed participation of more than 15 Village Chiefs. The meet provided a platform for brainstorming various security issues prevailing in the area and to gauge the pulse of the locals. Various issues related to career, growth prospect including recruitment in armed forces were also discussed. The need to insulate youths from drug menace was also adequately covered during the meet.

During the meet locals were sensitised and updated on current security situation existing in the area and were encouraged to align their efforts towards a common goal of peace and prosperity in the area.

# Day after mob torches police station in Nagaon, homes of 'culprits' demolished

Courtesy-Indian Express  
Gwahati, May 22:

Authorities in Assam's Nagaon Sunday demolished the homes of several families who were allegedly involved in setting fire to a police station in the district the previous day, the police said.

A mob of about 40 people from Salanabari village had set fire to a part of the Batadrava police station in the Dhing area on Saturday afternoon, following an alleged case of custodial death of a local resident. The Nagaon district administration on Saturday ordered a judicial probe into

the death and the police suspended the officer in charge of the Batadrava station.

On Sunday morning, bulldozers reached the village, about 6 km from the station, and demolished homes of "those who were involved in setting fire to the police station," police officers said.

"There were 40 people in the mob. We have identified and arrested seven... and 21 have been picked up," Assam special DGP (law and order) G P Singh told The Indian Express. "We will take strong action against the police officers connected to the

alleged custodial death. But such an allegation does not mean you set fire to a police station. Arson cannot be allowed," he said. He added that video footage was being analysed to identify the others involved.

Following the demolition, Congress MP from Barpeta Abdul Khaleque hit out at the government. "We never support attack on police station. But bulldozing houses of attackers by police is direct violation of human rights," he tweeted.

According to the police, Sofikul Islam, a fish trader from Salanabari village, was on Friday night brought to the

police station on the basis of a complaint that he was "drunk."

The events that led to his death the next morning are contested. While the police claimed that he died after his wife picked him and took him to the hospital, his family alleged that she found him dead at the hospital.

According to the police statement from the office of the director general of police Assam, Islam was released and handed over to his wife on Saturday morning. "His wife even gave him some water/food. Later he complained of sickness and he

was taken to two hospitals, one after another. Unfortunately he was declared dead," it said.

On the other hand, family members of Islam claimed that the police at the Batadrava station demanded Rs 10,000 and a duck as a bribe for his release. According to news agency PTI, Islam's wife visited the police station with a duck on Saturday morning. "When she returned with the money later, she learnt that her husband had been taken to Nagaon Civil Hospital. After reaching there, she found him dead," said PTI, quoting the villagers.

# Ukhrul has potential to host Mountain Biking (MTB) World Cup

Courtesy - NE Today  
Imphal, May 22:

The Shirui Lily State Festival 2022 is all set to witness the 4th Edition of the MTB Downhill Race, unique to Ukhrul. 22 Cyclist from across India has confirmed participation, who will go head to head in a stiff competition from May 25 till 28 in Manipur's beloved hill destination, Ukhrul.

MTB Downhill was first introduced in Manipur during the Shirui Lily State Festival 2017 by team Chiko Adventures. Chiko Adventures team is based in Ukhrul District of Manipur working on promoting adventure and Eco tourism in the state since 2016.

There are different types of MTB races and out of which the most popular ones are MTB Downhill, MTB Enduro and MTB Cross country. All these races are apt only for mountains and rough terrains wherein the cyclists are tested for fitness, endurance, speed and high level of cycling skills, which is why, MTB cycling is considered as one of the toughest and most popular cycling competitions.

The MTB Downhill race organized by Chiko Adventures has grown from a district level to a National level race in terms of participation. During the 3rd Edition of the race in 2019, participation from 10 different states of India arrived and competed. The cyclists are very happy with the race track and the quality of the race.

Chiko Adventures team is confident, with support from all the stakeholders, locals and the government, Ukhrul can become one of the next destinations for MTB races and events in the country, in the sub-continent, and has the potential to host an event, such as MTB World Cup in the future.

So far, Chiko Adventures has not received enough support or funding despite the high potential MTB Downhill Race has, given how Ukhrul is uniquely and strategically placed in the sporting event.

Thousands of visitors flock to Jorcheng, Lunghar to witness the race during the festival. The team is all prepared to host a successful race this year.

The 4th Edition of the MTB Downhill Race 2022 will have three categories this year and the races track will be busy everyday from May 25-28 during the festival.

# PM Modi says 'Yes, we can do it' attitude of sportspersons has become new strength of India; Interacts with Thomas Cup winning Indian badminton team

Agency  
New Delhi, May 22:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the 'Yes, we can do it' attitude of the sportspersons has become the new strength of India. The Prime Minister said this while interacting with the Indian men's badminton team who scripted history by winning the Thomas Cup and the women's team of the Uber Cup. Mr Modi lauded the Indian team, of Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty for winning the first-ever Thomas Cup for India.

The Prime Minister mentioned that this team has infused tremendous energy in

the country by winning the Thomas cup and a long wait of seven decades finally came to an end. He added that whoever knows Badminton, must have dreamt of this feat and it has been realized by this team.

Modi said that such successes inject great energy and confidence in the entire sporting ecosystem of the country and this victory has done something that cannot be accomplished by greatest of the coaches or the powerful oratory of the leaders.

He said now pressure of expectation will increase which is alright and the players should not cave under the pressure of the expectations of the country. He said, we need to convert

pressure into energy and should treat it as encouragement.

Referring to Uber Cup, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the present women's team will soon get better results as it has shown their class time and again.

Prime Minister added that mindset of sportspersons is changing and a new atmosphere is emerging. He said, this is like a golden chapter in India's sporting history and champions like you and players of your generation are the authors of this and we need to keep this momentum going.

During the interaction the Prime Minister assured of providing all support to the sportspersons of the country.

The players also expressed gratitude to the country and prime minister for the motivation and said that they were determined to win the medal during the finals.

HS Prannoy said, it has been a happy moment for all as the Thomas Cup has been won for the first time in 73 yrs.

14-year old Unnati Hooda said that the favourite thing about PM Modi is that he never differentiates between a medalist and a non-medalist and celebrated the achievements in sports.

Kidambi Srikanth said players will always be proud to say that they have the backing of the Prime Minister. He said, this is unmatched and will motivate all players to do well.

Last Sunday, India Men's badminton team won the Thomas Cup title for the first time in 73 years with a stunning 3-0 win over powerhouse Indonesia in the final. Prime Minister Modi had a telephonic conversation with the Indian team, immediately after they emerged victorious in the final.

Indian men reached the Thomas Cup semi-finals in 1952, 1955 and 1979 while the women's team made it to the Uber Cup top-four in 2014 and 2016.

The Indian team, featuring Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty and others, have given a good account of themselves at this year's tournament.

# Dome of newly new Meghalaya Assembly building collapses

Courtesy - NE Now  
Shillong, May 22:

In a shocking incident, the dome of the new Meghalaya Assembly building in Mawdiangiang, New Shillong Township collapsed on Sunday.

As per reports, the dome was installed recently.

The incident took place at midnight and there were no casualties or injuries reported.

PWD (Building) Executive Engineer, Ransom Sutnga speaking to the media said that the dome collapsed because of the design.

He said that the dome was heavy and the struck could not support it.

He further informed that the height of the dome is about 65 meters while the height of the minar was 13 meters.

With this size, the weight of the dome reaches 70 tonnes.

The official further added that now it will take two weeks to clear the debris and a new design, a lighter one

will be ready in eight to nine months.

BJP leader Bernard Marak said, "Construction of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly had started in June 2019."

He claimed that the building is being constructed by Uttar Pradesh-based Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd, and the total cost is Rs 127 crore.

"Initially, the Meghalaya government had prepared a budget estimate of Rs 145 crore for the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, but the firm that got the contract, quoted an amount of Rs 127 crore, about Rs 18 crore lower than the estimated amount", he added.

## Sports

# Australia's Titmus smashes Ledecy's 400m freestyle world record

Agency  
Adelaide (Australia):

Olympic champion Ariarne Titmus smashed Katie Ledecy's 400m freestyle world record at the Australian championships Sunday, touching in 3mins 56.40secs. The 21-year-old upset Ledecy in the Tokyo Olympic pool last year to claim gold and has now shattered the American great's world best of 3:56.46 set at the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

"Oh my God, I've just loved swimming the past six months, just going to training with no pressure and just enjoying the sport," she said poolside in Adelaide. "I never thought this meet, post Olympics, I'd be swimming faster than Olympic trials and the Olympic Games. I guess if you keep surprising

yourself it keeps the sport interesting." Titmus was under world record pace for the entire race, turning at the halfway mark in 1:56.99 before bringing it home to huge cheers from the crowd.

Ledecy won the 400 free at the US trials last month in 3:59.52. But Titmus is not expected to defend her world title against Ledecy in Budapest in June, opting to skip the event and focus on the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July.

It capped an impressive meet for Titmus who won the 200m freestyle in 1:53.31, the third fastest time ever, and clocked a personal best in the 100m.

It was the second world record of the championships after Olympic 200m breaststroke champion Zac Stubbely-Cook smashed the mark on Thursday, hitting the wall in 2:05.95.

Agency  
Paris, May 22:

Kylian Mbappe said he was "very happy" to stay at Paris Saint-Germain after the club's president announced on Saturday the World Cup winner was rejecting Real Madrid to remain in France until 2025. "I am very happy to stay in France, in Paris, in my city," Mbappe told supporters on the Parc des Princes pitch before PSG faced Metz in their final Ligue 1 match of the season.

Standing next to PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi, Mbappe said: "I hope I'm going to be able to continue to do what I like most — winning football matches and trophies with all of you." Mbappe marked his announcement by scoring twice in five minutes to take his total of league goals for the season to 27,

putting him on course to finish as Ligue 1's leading scorer for a fourth consecutive season.

Mbappe's decision ends months of speculation surrounding arguably the hottest property in world football.

Real Madrid had pursued Mbappe for months and had reportedly agreed a deal with him months ago for a switch to Spain which would have included a signing-on fee of 150 million euros (\$158 million).

Mbappe had made no secret of his desire to play one day for Real, who will face Liverpool in the Champions League final in Paris next weekend after securing a 35th Spanish title.

But PSG, who have won the Ligue 1 title for a record-equaling tenth time but angered their hardcore supporters with their limp exit to Real in the last 16 of the Champions League, have

battled to hold on to their biggest asset. The president of Spain's La Liga, Javier Tebas, complained bitterly on Saturday that the massive financial resources of PSG's Qatari owners had proved decisive in persuading Mbappe to stay in France.

"What PSG is doing by renewing Mbappe with large sums of money... after posting losses of 700 million euros in recent seasons and having a wage bill of over 600 million euros, is an INSULT to football," Tebas tweeted.

La Liga announced in a statement it was launching an official complaint about PSG's actions "to UEFA, the French administrative and fiscal authorities and the appropriate decision-making bodies of the European Union".

## Lost

I, the undersigned, Thingbajam Tanuja Devi, have lost my voter card, issued by the Election Commission of India on the way between Kwakeithel to Paona bazaar on March, 15, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Thingbajam Tanuja Devi  
W/o. Akham Ranjan  
Kwakeithel Akham Leikai,  
Imphal West, Manipur

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE (SR. DIVISION),  
IMPHAL WEST, MANIPUR

ORIGINAL (MONEY) SUIT NO. 10 OF 2022  
UNDER ORDER XXXVII OF THE CODE OF CPC

Ahanthem Anishkumar Singh, Sagolband Langjing Achouba

..... Plaintiff.

-Versus-  
Yendrembam Rajiv Singh, Moirangkhum Makha Loklaobung

..... Defendant.

## SUMMON

To,  
Yendrembam Rajiv Singh, S/o Y. Brojen Singh of Moirangkhum Makha Loklaobung, P.O. & P.S. Imphal West, Manipur.

Whereas, the Plaintiff, has instituted a suit against you under Order XXXVII of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 for recovery a sum of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh) only, you are hereby summoned to cause an appearance to be entered for you, within ten days from the service hereof, in default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled, after the expiration of the said period of 10<sup>th</sup> days to obtain a decree for any sum not exceeding the sum of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh) only, as the Court may order.

If you cause an appearance to be entered for you, the plaintiff will thereafter serve upon you summon for judgment at the herein of which you will be entitled to move the court for leave to defend the suit.

Leave to defend may be obtained if you satisfy the court by affidavit or otherwise that there is a defence to suit on the merits or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to defend.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

Sd/-  
Civil Judge (Sr. Division),  
Imphal West, Manipur.  
By: Advocate