

Manipur High Court dismisses writ petition by Lokayukta in connection with MSPCL case

IT News
Imphal, May 24:

Division bench of the Manipur High Court comprising of Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, Sanjay Kumar and Justice Jamir had dismissed the writ petition filed by the Lokayukta, Manipur challenging the Manipur High Court order which directed the Lokayukta to stop proceeding in connection with the MSPCL issues.

On May 19, Justice Bimol Singh of the Manipur High Court had directed the Manipur Lokayukta not to proceed with the connected cases pending before the Manipur High in connection with MSPCL issues till Monday (May 23, 2022). However, on May 21, the Lokayukta filed a petition challenging the Court verdict. On the day of the hearing on May 23, the division bench of Chief Justice of

Manipur High Court, Sanjay Kumar and Justice Jamir had dismissed the petition saying that there was no merit in the case.

On the other hand, judgment for the case WP© No. 161 of 2022, at which the MSPCL had challenged the recommendation of the Lokayukta in connection allegations to Managing director of the MSPCL has been reserved by the Manipur High Court.

ULFA (I) using social media tools to recruit youths

Courtesy: NE Now
Dibrugarh, May 24:

The ULFA (I) has been recruiting youths from upper Assam through various social media platforms, said a police official.

Recently, many youths have joined the rebel outfit after they were brainwashed through various social media platforms.

According to information, under the supervision of ULFA-I leader Aiseng Axom, the youths have joined the rebel outfit.

"The rebel outfit used several social media platforms to lure the youths to join the rebel group. They searched the profiles of the youths and if they find that they can be influenced, then they start brainwashing them to join the rebel outfit," said a police source.

Sources said ULFA (I) has become active in the Jagan

area of Tinsukia district and silently started extortion drive.

The ULFA (I) leaders have become media-savvy and very frequently they connect to the media houses.

"Extortion activities yet again started in some of the pockets of upper Assam. They have targeted the businessmen and in a very secret manner they are collecting ransom," said a source.

Tinsukia district of upper Assam is known as the hotbed of ULFA (I). The district shares boundaries with Arunachal Pradesh and it is very easy for the insurgent group to sneak into the upper Assam districts from Myanmar.

Sources said ULFA (I) has been targeting the unemployed youths of upper Assam to join them.

Recently a Youth Congress vice present of upper Assam's Tinsukia district stunned everyone when he announced on a Facebook

post addressed to his pregnant wife that he has joined the banned ULFA (I).

The 44-year-old Janardan from Uday Nagar in Tinsukia district's Sadiya town wrote to his wife Reema on Facebook that he "couldn't wait to see our own people being destroyed since they are helpless in their own state... Our culture, our language and identity are being erased systematically".

During the last few years, it has been seen that many of the rebels who joined ULFA (I) have returned to the mainstream.

Some of the youths who had joined ULFA (I) and subsequently returned to the mainstream still don't know why they had joined the insurgent group.

According to sources, ULFA (I) has also engaged many underground workers to influence youths for joining the outfit.

Government turned a blind eye? Furious Lamsang Bazar residents collect donations to repair roads on their own

IT News
Imphal, May 24:

After repeated appeals to government authorities to repair the dilapidated roads of Lamsang Bazar fell on deaf ears, residents of the locality resort to collecting donations from the vehicles plying on the streets in a bid to fix the road on their own.

"The government has turned a blind eye," a resident says. "We have no other choice but to ask for donations as road conditions have affected the road traffic, vehicles, and most importantly, all the residents residing along the roads."

"The roads in our locality have been turned into muddy pools when it rains. Gravel and dust cloud the area on other days, causing breathing problems. As this problem simmers with no government interven-



tion, the locals have to do something to solve the issues."

The issue has also taken a toll on business owners and street vendors, primarily the eateries.

"On rainy days, it is challenging for customers to reach our shop as the roads are slippery and there is a high chance they might fall. Now that the road is dry, the dust has affected all the food items," a shopkeeper narrates.

"We are even compelled to cover their eyes, let alone our noses, if a vehicle goes by."

Venting his ire at the government, a resident says: "The road has been in this bad shape for many years. Still, the government and related departments shied away from repairing it. As a result, the situation has triggered many road accidents; thereby, locals and commuters suffer greatly."

The Imphal Times has learned that the roads at Lamsang Bazar, which is at the heart of the Lamsang Assembly Constituency, have been full of dust, dirt, and muddy potholes for many years. The commuters of this Uripok-Kangchup route have faced these challenges every day. In addition, with the beginning of the monsoon, the crisis has soared.

IBSD organized Brainstorming on Medicinal Plants for Rural Livelihood and Drug Development in North East Region of India

IT News
Imphal, May 24:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal organized Brainstorming on Medicinal Plants for Rural Livelihood and Drug Development in North East Region of India under the programme on Bioeconomy from Bioresources in connection with the International Biodiversity Day celebration under the leadership of Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director, IBSD jointly with CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat and Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata. During the programme, Chief Guest, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Govt. of India joined virtually and addressed the gathering about various research initiatives and outreach ac-

tivities of IBSD for the societal upliftment and livelihood generation in NER under the leadership of Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Director, IBSD, Imphal.

He appreciated the efforts of IBSD to establish "Science Museum" in Chandel Aspirational District of Manipur to inculcate scientific temperament among students. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Scientist, DBT, New Delhi highlighted about the unique biodiversity available in NER which can be harnessed scientifically for boosting the bioeconomy of this region. He mentioned various initiatives of Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India under DBT, CSIR, DST, ICMR for documentation of traditional knowledge and medicinal plants of the region. He emphasized to focus on translating knowledge to practice in the form of tangible products/ processes/ technology from

bioeconomy perspectives.

During the programme, Dr. G. Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Dr. Mohd Aslam, Consultant, NERPBMC-DBT, New Delhi, Prof. Ashis K. Mukherjee, Director, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, Dr. Vaishali Panjabi, Scientist E, DBT, Govt. of India, Indraneel Das, Vice President, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata, Dr. Subhash C. Mondal, Secretary, Society for Ethnopharmacology, India, Dr. Pallab Kanti Halder, Director, School of Natural Products, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Dr. H. B. Singh, Dr. Jatin Kalita, Scientist, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Dr. Junie P. Lyngdoh, Scientist, BRDC, Shillong, Govt. of Meghalaya shared their ideas on the use of medicinal plants for livelihood generation and drug development.

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ONE FESTIVAL ONE FLOWER

UNIFYING COMMUNITIES & INVIGORATING
MANIPUR'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Making a career based on a hobby is a wise step

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



In my first few years in journalism, my mind was so engrossed in the work that it seemed like fun to me. I was amazed at the thought that "I am fulfilling my hobby and

the newspaper management is paying me money also, that too every month. The realization came when I got married and I had to support my family and fulfill some domestic responsibilities. Then I focused on what I was giving and what getting in return. But, overall I was happy. It is a pleasure of following your passion or doing the work of your choice. Even now, I love my work, which involves writing news stories, articles, and my daily column (Talking Points). Content creation is my favorite job, and enjoy the whole process. Often it is said that a person should do the work of his choice so that he doesn't have to work for a single day. Such people don't even require a vacation. Their work is their vacation (like mine). Such people continue to climb the ladder of progress. But if you think that all the hobbies that you have can be turned into a career, then one thing is to be noted that not every hobby can be made a career.

Harvard School professor John Jachimovicz says that it is not necessary that your hobby will become your career and success can also be not guaranteed in this case. Because you may not be prepared for the other roles associated with the job of your choice. For example, if you love cooking, that doesn't mean you can be a good chef too because a chef has to handle a lot of pressure, he needs to work hard, and spend a lot of time in the kitchen. You may not be able to take that kind of pressure and that career may prove to be a hazard for you. That's why some of your hobbies should be allowed to remain hobbies only. It is not necessary that you turn every hobby into a career. With the advent of social media and the Internet, the world has changed so rapidly that there are many work opportunities in front of the youth, which their parents do not know much about. In such a situation, they are not able to give the right advice to their children. This problem is being felt all over the world.

Parents admit that they don't know enough about the new types of jobs, so they are unable to guide their children properly. If you ask for a percentage, 75% of parents feel that it is becoming impossible for them to give the right career advice to their wards in the rapidly changing job market. There may be many shortcomings in the new generation, but the merits are also not diminished. Whatever progress is being made in today's era and new technology is coming, behind it is the new thinking of the new generation. Google CEO Sundar Pichai is very impressed with this quality of the youth and says that the new generation is leading the changes in the world. Google has a young workforce and a positive-minded environment, where all it takes is what is possible.

World must follow 'Bangladesh's footprint of providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan'



By: Abantika Kumari

As unemployment and poverty grip Afghan families, economists have warned that the country could face a catastrophic economic disaster if prompt action is not done to address the problem. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Humanitarian Food Assistance to Afghanistan will drop from 38% to 8%.

We urgently call on the international community to use an effective and practical way of ensuring financial aid and supplies can be transferred to Afghans. Millions of Afghans could suffer disaster if humanitarian aid is not supplied properly and timely, according to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). In Afghanistan, millions of people are facing a food shortage. Malnutrition affects 3.1 million children worldwide. The country is in the midst of a horrific humanitarian crisis. Afghanistan's economy is completely reliant on foreign assistance. Foreign aid accounts about 40% of the country's GDP.

Foreign aid to Afghanistan has almost completely stopped since the Taliban took control of the country

in early August. Prior to the Taliban's ascension to power, international assistance – including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, foreign governments, and humanitarian organizations – accounted for about 75% of Afghanistan's public expenditure budget, putting the country on the verge of collapse.

In a crisis that has worsened substantially since the United States withdrew in August, ending two decades of military presence, an estimated 19 million Afghans – roughly half the population – are facing serious food insecurity.

In Afghanistan, hunger and food insecurity have reached critical levels. According to the World Food Program, about 20 million people, or roughly half of the country's population, are food insecure. Drought conditions, the pandemic, and the Taliban's decision to cut all foreign help have left the country in desperate difficulties. The conflict in Ukraine is putting a strain on global food aid and driving up costs. International charity workers warn that millions of Afghans are on the verge of hunger, with at least a million children at risk of death.

Several countries, groups are striving to provide support, aid, and food in the country. International community must ensure prompt help them by donating.

The healthcare sector has been impacted especially hard, with \$600 million in international healthcare aid currently suspended. The economic collapse that has been unfolding since August 2021 has increased humanitarian needs while also making relief response difficult. We observe

the negative impact on disadvantaged populations firsthand. Many families are unable to eat because they cannot afford essential health and education costs.

Humanitarian money is critical, and we want donors to go above and beyond to help Afghans. Furthermore, we must see the international community make concrete policy commitments to assist in addressing the economic fundamental causes of the humanitarian catastrophe and stabilizing the economy. Donors must continue to fund temporary measures to ensure humanitarian aid has access to cash in the country until the economy recovers. Finally, donors must step up and ensure that Afghanistan's needs are met. A little but great example can be drawn in this regard. A tiny South Asian country has established an unprecedented example in this regard.

The Bangladesh government has decided on May 22 to donate Bangladeshi Tk1 crore (0.11 million USD) in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, which is facing a number of challenges, including a severe food shortage. According to recent media reports, the donation would be distributed to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) budget. Bangladesh's foreign ministry has taken the appropriate steps to transmit the money to the UN OCHA with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's assent and direction.

Although the amount of relief supplied by Bangladesh is tiny in comparison to the required funds, their rapid response is commendable. Their initiative is great. Qualitative approach is higher than

quantitative approach in this regard. Right now, the world needs to work with Afghanistan to save millions of people who are dying of starvation and poverty.

This time, Bangladesh, an overpopulated South Asian country, has taken the initiative to help Afghanistan. Bangladesh, a South Asian country, displays bravery by providing financial assistance to Afghanistan. Despite its many shortcomings, Bangladesh sets an excellent humanitarian example. Bangladesh's imprint can be followed by the world (international society). If such support (little or large) can be provided, it will undoubtedly assist Afghans in overcoming the disaster.

This donation demonstrates South Asia's integrated growth and policy of cooperation with all, it also reflects Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's regional fraternity.

The grant will be sent to a special fund set up by the UNOCHA for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan by Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. The grant application process is currently underway. The UNOCHA will use this money to help Afghanistan's most vulnerable citizens.

Media reports say, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasinawajed's objective of regional brotherhood, integrated development of South Asia, and co-operation with all is reflected in the donation. Bangladesh's international image is expected to improve as a result of the grant provided by the government of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has already established itself as a donor country!

Bangladesh's assurance of assistance: The member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) agreed to initiate urgent aid for this worst-affected country at their 17th meeting in 2021.

Bangladesh, one of the organization's most prominent members, quickly announced that it will provide food and medical assistance in response to the resolution. Many people, both nationally and internationally, praised Bangladesh's fast response from a humanitarian standpoint.

Although Bangladesh does not have official relations with Afghanistan, it donates to the country on humanitarian grounds. Bangladesh can teach the rest of the world. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is a global issue. In this case, foreign politics should be avoided. As Bangladesh does, the international community must give humanitarian relief. The issue should not be whether or not to recognize the Taliban; rather, it should be how quickly humanitarian relief is delivered to Afghanistan to avert a humanitarian crisis.

However, Afghanistan should use economic diplomacy to expand aid. The international community and international organizations must fulfill their humanitarian obligations to Afghanistan.

According to economists, various countries throughout the world are affected by the continuing Ukraine-Russia conflict, raising the issue of food security. This issue has struck developing countries the hardest, such as Afghanistan. If the situation continues like this, there is a risk of humanitarian catastrophe," and advised the Afghan government take fast action to address the issues.

In this case, Bangladesh example can be a dream light for the world community. Every country, every international community should do something as per their capability as Bangladesh shows it.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at the History Department of Allahabad College, Uttar Pradesh, India. She is also a researcher particularly focused on South Asia. She can be contacted at abanthikakumari@gmail.com)

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The Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language



By: Vijay GarG

languages.

There is no age for learning a new language and learning a new language at any age can be an enormously rewarding experience in many ways. There are a lot of rewards associated with learning a new language. While language learning is an enriching experience for all ages, children have the most to gain from this wonderful adventure, also learning a new language at a young age is quite easy. Quite simply, starting early offers the widest possible set of benefits and opportunities. Besides having a new learning experience, we also get to know more about the culture of other people when we study their language. We also become aware of other civilizations and every culture has something or other for us to offer, which is beneficial for us.

The Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language

We all go to school with something or other in our minds. Our parents send us to school to learn new things that will help us become a learned personality which would help us in some way or the other. Education never goes wasted, and all that we learned to remain with us for our lifetime and we do use that information in some place or the other. In the same way, learning a foreign language also brings in with it a lot of advantages of its own. Learning a new language is not very easy, though learning a foreign language takes time and dedication but still learning involves a lot of fun. Different people have different reasons to learn a new language, some reasons are practical, some inspirational, some intellectual and others sentimental, but whatever your reasons, having a clear idea

of why you're learning a language can help to motivate you in your studies and makes the job a lot easy.

There are a number of reasons why you should learn a foreign language. Some may opt for a new language as a hobby class while for some people it is necessary because of job purpose or business. In our world today, only one-fifth of the population speaks English. So, learning another language is important for both works as well as if you travel to a country like Brazil etc. where about 80% of the population does not speak English. It is also important for making real connections with people, and lastly, it can give you a greater understanding of your own language.

Benefits of Foreign Language in Job

There are a lot of countries that have huge economies and are quite lucrative for seeking jobs but those nations do not speak English, in this case, a candidate with knowledge of their language can easily score a job in that particular country. China, for example, is one of the most populous countries in the world and is continuously growing in importance both economically as well as politically. Since most of the people speak Chinese there; it can be difficult for tourists as well a candidate who wants a job in that country. Learning a language like Chinese would definitely enhance your chances of getting a job, and not just in China. Chinese is a language that is spoken all over the world. Almost every country in the world has a Chinatown, from the United States, to Canada, Australia, London, and much of Europe. Throughout Asia – in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia – people speak Chinese.

Benefits of Foreign Languages in Business

If your work involves regular contact with speakers of foreign languages, being able to talk to them in their own languages will help you a lot to communicate with them. It may also help you to make sales and to negotiate and secure contracts though you may have an interpreter to translate your thoughts it gives a much better impact when you explain things yourself. Knowledge of foreign languages may also increase your chances of finding a new job, getting a promotion or a transfer overseas, or of going on foreign business trips. A lot of English-speaking business people don't bother to learn other languages as they believe that most of the people they do business within foreign countries can speak English, and if they don't speak English, interpreters can be used. The lack of foreign language knowledge puts the English speakers at a disadvantage. It is also a fact that during any kind of socializing after the meetings, the locals will probably feel more comfortable using their own language rather than English. Hence if you travel a lot for business or work, then learning their language is a must.

Benefits of Foreign Language during Traveling

You may think of travelling outside your country for a vacation. Many English speakers seem to believe that wherever you go on holiday you can manage by speaking English, so there's no point in learning any other languages. Well, this is not always true; there are a lot of countries in this world where people do not speak English. If people don't understand you all you have to do is speak slowly and turn up the volume. You can more or less get away with this, as long as you stick to popular tourist resorts and hotels where you can usually find someone who speaks English. However, if you want to venture beyond such places, to get

to know the locals, to read signs, menus, etc, knowing the local language is necessary. Sometimes the situation can get really fussy when you do not know the local languages of the country you are travelling to. A lot of countries which are really famous among tourists like Brazil, China, and Spain etc. are the examples of countries where people do not speak English.

Foreign Languages Enhance Confidence

It is also believed that more you learn, more confident you tend to become of your personality. Learning one or more than one language may give you a great sense of self-confidence and you tend to become confident in your abilities. Learning a new language gives your brain a boost. Many scholars, authors, artists, poets, and other people of professions that require an excellent grasp of their own language, study another language as well. This is often because learning another language helps to improve your English as well as gives a boost to your brain which further improves your confidence.

Advantages of Learning at Early Age

It is always believed that the child is the best time to learn anything, and even in the case of learning a new language, it is the same. Starting at young has many advantages. Children understand intuitively that language is something to explore, to play around with and to enjoy. During younger times, there is a lot of enthusiasm for learning new things; their enthusiasm is both infectious and effective. Their brains are really quick and sharp; the quickness with which they pick up their first language is nearly miraculous. There are a lot of other reasons to get started at a younger age. There are a lot of benefits associated with learning another language at a young age.

A foreign language can be defined as a language that is indigenous to another country. A foreign language is also a language not spoken in the native country of the person referred to, i.e. a person living in India and speaking Indian languages can say that Chinese is a foreign language for him. These two characterizations do not exhaust the possible definitions, however, and the label is occasionally applied in ways that are variously misleading or factually inaccurate. The definition of the foreign language is vast, and cannot be confined into one single definition.

There are also students who learn more than one language from birth or from a very young age, they are bilingual or multilingual. These children can be said to have two, three or more mother tongues and neither language is foreign to that child, even if one language is a foreign language for the vast majority of people in the child's birth country. For example, a child learning English from her English father and Japanese at school in Japan can speak both English and Japanese, but neither is a foreign language to him. Learning a new language can be a lot of fun and rewarding experience and at the same time, it is also not a very easy job to do. There are a lot of benefits associated with learning new

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Monkey Pox causes alerts at Airports, Sea Ports



The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. (Inset): Monkeyvirus.

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 24:

Although not a single case of monkey virus has been detected in India, based on the direction of the Union Health Ministry, the surveillance has been stepped up across the country including Maharashtra. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has issued instructions to states and Union territories to keep an eye on people who show symptoms associated with monkeypox and have a history of travelling in the last 21 days, to a country that has recently reported confirmed or suspected cases of monkeypox. The suspected cases will have to be isolated at designated healthcare facilities until all lesions have resolved and a fresh layer of skin has formed or until the treating physician decides to end isolation.

According to the advisory, the patients have to be reported to the district surveillance officer of an integrated disease surveillance program. Additionally, laboratory samples of suspected cases consisting of fluid from vesicles, blood, sputum, etc have to be sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) located in Pune in Maharashtra for diagnosis. Given the Health Ministry's advice, the thermal screening of international passengers with any history of travel to monkeypox affected countries in the last 21 days has been made compulsory. In Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), has issued an advisory to the Mumbai International Airport Limited managing the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, to check all patients arriving from the countries where

Monkeypox has been detected. The Maharashtra Government has also issued an advisory about the steps to be taken. The BMC has also advised the staff at the airport to refer the suspected case to Kasturba Hospital for Infectious Diseases located at Chinchpokli in South Mumbai. The Kasturba Hospital was the main centre for detecting Covid-19 cases. The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has directed the Dr. Naidu Hospital, a Multi Speciality Hospital located in Sangamvadi, Pune to remain on standby. Dr. Sanjeev Vavre, Assistant Health officer of the PMC said that other hospitals have also been asked to remain on standby and they are equipped with all facilities. Monkeypox is a viral infection that is more common in West and Central Africa. As of now 92 patients, have been de-

tected in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Israel, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. Besides 28 patients are under observation. Dr. Ishwar Gilada, a Mumbai-based Infectious disease expert, and consultant said that "Monkeypox is Zoonotic. Such viruses spread in animals, but take a jump to humans. For example, HIV is Zoonotic. Initially, it came as a monkey virus called simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), and then it became HIV. Fortunately, India hasn't reported a single case of the non-human virus so far. Initially, a Smallpox vaccine can be used for the treatment of infected patients, although nothing much can be said at this stage. But the Monkey virus is not contagious, he added. Some scientists think that the monkeypox outbreak will not evolve into a pandemic like Covid-19 as this virus does not spread as easily as SARS-COV-2. **Monkeypox Symptoms and Signs** The first symptoms that occur are nonspecific—fever, sweating, malaise, and some patients may develop a cough, nausea, and shortness of breath. About two to four days after fever develops, a rash with papules and pustules develop most often on the face and chest. The other body areas may eventually be affected, including mucus membranes inside the nose and mouth. These skin and mucus membrane pox lesions can ulcerate, crust over, and then begin to heal in about 14-21 days.

44 AR renovated Kahulong Primary School



IT News
Imphal, May 24:

Kahulong village is approx 12 kms away from district headquarters at Tamenglong. The primary school is the only one present in the village & has a total of five rooms. The rooms were not in a very good condition requiring urgent repairs. The roof had become rusty and building required painting. 44 Assam Rifles under the aegis of 22 Sector AR/ IGAR (East) has initiated its Jan Bagidhari campaign where in the battalion assists in repairing and renovation of government school buildings. The school building have been re-

paired, completely repainted. Besides renovating the school an extensive cleanliness drive with landscaping and beautification of the surrounding area has been completed. The renovated school building was handed over to school authorities in presence of the village authorities by Commandant, 44AR. He, while addressing the audience expressed that the renovation would hopefully reduce the school dropout rate and increase the footfall in the school. He added that the newly placed posters, cut-outs & quotes of world famous individuals are sure to inspire & motivate students to attend & actively participate in the

school's daily activities. The Commandant also conveyed that the ultimate aim of the efforts undertaken by the battalion was to mould the budding talents of Kahulong into a capable & efficient generation of bright minds. True to its motto come to learn and go to serve, the school would be able to mould these future civilised citizens. As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the battalion in collaboration with locals has renovated eight different government school buildings till date. With better and improved teaching learning space the battalion aims at improving the education standards in far flung areas of the Tamenglong and KPI district.

Assam flood: Death toll rises to 25, 6.5 lakh hit

Agency
Guwahati, May 24:

The flood situation in Assam has slightly abated even though the death toll rose to 25 as one more person died and over 6.5 lakh people remained affected by the deluge across 22 districts, an official bulletin said.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person in Silchar of Cachar district was lost to floodwaters.

With this, the total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood and landslides has gone up to 25 across the state, it said on Monday.

ASDMA said more than 6,50,400 people are hit due to floods in Bapeta, Cachar, Darrang, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi Anglong West, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur and



Udalguri districts.

Nagaon is the worst hit district with over 3.51 lakh people in distress, followed by Cachar (nearly two lakh people) and Hojai (more than 44,500 people). Till Saturday, over 7.2 lakh people were affected by the deluge across 22 districts in the state.

At present, 1,709 villages are under water and 82,503 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, ASDMA said.

It further said authorities are running 656 relief camps and distribution centres in eight districts, where 90,597 people, including 19,555 children, have taken shelter.

The bulletin said the Army, paramilitary force, National Disaster Response Force, SDRF, civil administration, trained volunteers, and fire & emergency services personnel have evacuated 110 people from various

flood-hit areas.

The authorities have distributed 4,278.45 quintals of rice, dal and salt, 2,555.97 litres of mustard oil, 1,232.41 quintals of cattle feed and other relief items.

Massive erosions have been witnessed in Bapeta, Biswanath, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by floodwaters in Nagaon, Bapeta, Cachar, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Karimganj, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Hojai and Udalguri, ASDMA said.

A total of 2,27,529 domestic animals and poultry have been affected in the deluge across nine districts, ASDMA said.

Brahmaputra's tributary Kopili at Dharmanul and Kamrup are flowing above the danger marks, the bulletin stated.

India logs 1,675 new COVID cases, 31 deaths in last 24 hours, positivity rate dips to 0.41%

Agency
New Delhi, May 27:

India reported 1,675 new cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed on Tuesday morning. The fresh infections were 17.16 per cent lower than the number of cases logged on Monday.

On Monday, the health ministry informed that the country recorded 2,022 new coronavirus cases. India's COVID-19 case tally has now to 4,31,40,068 (4 crore 31 lakh 40 thousand and 68).

The COVID-19 daily posi-

tivity rate is now at 0.41 per cent, lower from 0.69 per cent registered on Monday. The weekly positivity rate is at 0.49 per cent.

India now has 14,841 active cases of COVID-19. However, there has been a slight rise in the active caseload. As per the health ministry, active cases stand at 0.03 per cent of the total infections.

As many as 1,635 patients got recuperated from COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, increasing total recoveries to 4,26,00,737 (4 crore 26 lakh 7 hundred and 37).

The country's recovery rate is currently at 98.75 per cent.

There has been 31 fatalities due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, all reported in Kerala. Total coronavirus deaths in India has now climbed to 5,24,490 (5 lakh 24 thousand 4 hundred and 90).

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 4,07,626 (4 lakh 7 thousand 6 hundred and 26) samples were tested for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 84,74,99,852 (84 crore 74 lakh 99 thousand 8 hundred and 52) samples have been tested across the country for coronavirus.

The nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive was started in the country on 16 January, 2021, since then more than 192.52 crore vaccine doses have been administered.

The health ministry on Tuesday said that in the last 24 hours, 13,76,878 (13 lakh 76 thousand 8 hundred 78) doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given out to the beneficiaries.

More than 193.53 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have been provided to states and Union Territories so far through the government of India (free of cost channel) and through direct state procurement category.

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The Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language

Learning a foreign language at an early stage gives a great boost to confidence. Children are always discovering new things, but learning a new language can be a uniquely rewarding experience for the student of any age. For children, the feeling of accomplishment that comes with their first steps toward a second language can spur them on to a deeper and broader passion for learning in general. And because children are at a special "window of opportunity" in which language learning is intuitive and natural, the ease and pleasure of the experience may boost their confidence and their desire for new discoveries. Some other benefits of learning a

foreign language at a young age are:

Gives Brains a Boost: Learning a new language opens the horizons of your brain and acts as a gateway for the healthy brain. The mind is much more like a muscle than we've ever realized. Our mind needs to get cognitive exercise and it is not like a piece of clay on which you put an indelible mark. Research into the effects of bilingualism on children suggests that exposure to more than one language is an excellent way of flexing those brain muscles and building them up, too. Bilingual children in one study reported in Nature showed a significantly larger density of grey matter

in their brains which is a very good sign. And those who had been exposed to a second language from an early age proved to have the most grey matter of all. Grey matter is an important part of the human brain that is responsible for processing information, including memory, speech, and sensory perception. And if it can be increased by exposure to a second language, then language learning would be just like taking your brain to the gym.

Greater Opportunities at College: Competition these days is increasing day by day. Colleges now place an increasingly high value on knowledge of more than one language. As the admissions

process becomes more competitive across the board, knowing a second or a third language adds a new dimension to an applicant's resume. And as the economy becomes more and more globalized, English-only becomes less and less of an option. Knowledge of a third language can also help you get an on-campus placement and this quality will always make you shine bright always different from the rest of the crowd.

Conclusion Learning new things has always attracted humans. Curiosity is the human's biggest quest. While some people learn a different language because of a practical need,

many others learn a language because of interest or because they want a challenge or just out of a hobby. Every language is unique in itself, some languages can be extremely hard to learn, but once they are learned they benefit you greatly. Language is what makes us human. It is how we share our thoughts with the world. It is really difficult to imagine a world without language, without it there would be no way to communicate and express ourselves. The more languages you know, the more ways you have to communicate and express yourself. This is why learning many languages should be important, and why one language simply won't do.

AR foils Narcotics Smuggling

IT News
Imphal, May 24:

Keithelmanbi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) in a joint operation with Manipur Police foiled narcotics smuggling in Churachanpur district on May 22.

Based on specific input provided by Assam Rifles, a joint operation was launched with Manipur Police which led

to apprehension of one drug peddler along with 692 grams of Heroin concealed in 17 soap cases in Village Chairen, Churachanpur district.

The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth over Rs 3 crores in International market.

The recovered items along with the peddler were handed over to Kumbi Police Station for further investigation.

Quad's cooperation is encouraging free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, says PM Modi

Agency
Tokyo, May 24:

The Quad's mutual cooperation is encouraging a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. The Quad, a strategic international coalition, comprises India, the United States, Japan and Australia.

"And today, Quad's scope has become comprehensive and its identity became significant," the prime minister said in his opening remarks at the second in-person summit of Quad leaders in Tokyo.

Modi's comments came a day after India joined the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. The bloc led by the United States intends to offer partner countries an opportunity to counter China's rising commercial presence in the Asia-Pacific region. China has criticised the framework, saying it is an attempt to create a closed club.

Addressing Tuesday's summit, Modi said the Quadrilateral alliance had managed to deliver despite the adverse situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have increased our coordination for vaccine delivery, climate action, supply chain resilience, disaster response, economic cooperation and other areas," he said. "It has ensured peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

US President Joe Biden said that a free and open Indo-Pacific region will provide great opportunities for the next generation, PTI reported. "I am looking forward to continuing to work with all of you and to strengthen economic cooperation to deliver inclusive growth and shared prosperity," he said.

Australia's new prime minister, Anthony Albanese, said his government is committed



to working with the Quad countries.

"We will bring more resources and energies to securing our region as we enter a new and more complex phase in the Pacific strategic environment," Albanese said, according to Mint. "We will continue to stand with you, our like-minded friends and collectively stand for each other."

Biden and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida deplored Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Putin is trying to "extinguish a culture," Biden said, adding that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is not just a European matter but a global one.

Biden also said that the global food crisis may worsen if Russia blocks Ukraine from exporting wheat. Ukraine produces 7% of all wheat across the world.

"As long as Russia continues war against Ukraine, the US will work with its partners," the US president said.

Kishida said that the Russian invasion of Ukraine challenges the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, PTI reported.

Modi did not speak about Ukraine or Russia in his remarks. India has regularly abstained from voting against

Russia's military operation in Ukraine in United Nations Security Council due to its longstanding relationship with Moscow.

Modi-Biden bilateral meeting

After meeting Biden, Modi said that the US and India shared similar views on Indo-Pacific region at bilateral level, ANI reported.

"Our trade and investment relations are also steadily on the rise but they are below our potential," Modi said. "I am confident that with the conclusion of the US Investment Incentive Agreement we will see concrete progress in investment between our two countries."

Monitoring dark shipping

The Quad leaders will launch a maritime initiative called the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness to monitor "dark shipping" in Pacific islands, Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region, the White House said on Tuesday.

Dark ships are vessels with transponders switched off to avoid detection, according to ANI. The maritime initiative between the Quad members is expected to enhance dark ship tracking in the Indo-Pacific region.

"The benefit of this mari-

time initiative will allow tracking of dark shipping and other tactical-level activities, such as rendezvous at sea, as well as improve partners' ability to respond to climate and humanitarian events and to protect their fisheries, which are vital to many Indo-Pacific economies," said the White House.

STEM fellowship launched

The Quad leaders launched a fellowship programme to sponsor 25 students from every member countries to pursue advanced courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics academic discipline at universities in the US, reported the Hindustan Times.

"The Quad Fellowship Programme is a wonderful and unique initiative," Modi said. "This prestigious fellowship will offer our students great opportunities to pursue graduate and doctorate programmes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

The fellowship will include scholarships, mentorship, career-advancing programmes and cross-cultural exchange opportunities, the White House said.

Applications for the programme will be accepted till June 30. The classes will begin in 2023.

In 15-18 Years Age Group, Over 80% Got First Dose of Covid Vaccine: Mandaviya

Agency
New Delhi, May 24:

Over 80 per cent of people aged between 15 and 18 years have received the first dose of Covid vaccine, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. The total number of Covid vaccine doses administered in India exceeded 192.52 crore till Tuesday at 7 am, according to a provisional report.

The Covid-19 vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on March 16 and so far more than 3.30 crore adolescents in this age group have been administered the first dose. India began inoculating those in the age group of 15-18 years from January 3. Till now, 5.92 crore beneficiaries in this age

group have been given the first dose. "Young India is taking the world's largest vaccination drive to new heights! Over 80 per cent of youngsters between the 15-18 age group have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine," Mandaviya tweeted.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started on February 2 last year. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced on March 1 last year for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. Vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years began on April 1 last year. The govern-

ment then decided to expand the ambit of the vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 years to be inoculated against Covid from May 1 last year.

Inoculation of adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years commenced on January 3. India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10.

The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16 and also removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose of the Covid vaccine. India on April 10 began administering precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years.

Health Camp

IT News
Imphal, May 24:

United People's Front (UPF) Manipur in hands with Directorate of AYUSH, Lamphelpat and Ayurvedic Doctors Associations of Manipur (ADAM) organized AYUSH free health camp and awareness programme at M. Ringman Village of Machi Block in Tengnoupal district under the supervision of the National Ayush Mission (NAM).



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IBSD organized Brainstorming on....

Many experts from industries, Dr. C. K. Katiyar, CEO (Technical), Emami Limited, Kolkata, Dr. Arun Gupta, Director, Ayu Swasth Pvt Ltd, Sh. Indrmeel Das, Declibac Technologies Pvt Ltd highlighted to establish value chain for products development. During the

programme, more than 30 traditional healers of Manipur interacted with experts about their traditional medicines' formulations. The programme was attended by scientists, scholars, staff of IBSD, CSIR-NEIST and other institutions. This brainstorming meeting was very ef-

fective for all the stakeholders and successful with the involvement of industrialists, scientists, students, traditional healers to promote Himalayan resources for the development of bioeconomy from bioresources through Himalayan Bioresources Mission.

Sports

India, Pak share honours in Asia Cup opener, colts show need for fine-tuning

Agency
Jakarta, May 24:

India-Pakistan hockey matches are always robust encounters, full of adrenalin, eye-catching individual skill and end-to-end action. But given the generally callow nature of both teams at the Asia Cup and lack of coordination among the two units, it had to be expected that the marquee contest wouldn't rise to any great heights.

It didn't look like a high-voltage fixture between two teams who have won the continental title six times between them.

India has had the upper hand in almost all the recent encounters. In that context, a 1-1 result against the traditional rivals would have been considered a bit of a disappointment. But with nothing tangible riding on the tournament for the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalists (spots are up for grabs for the next World Cup, but India qualify automatically as hosts), they can afford to look at the bigger picture.

SV Sunil and Birendra Lakra were the tenuous links with Indian teams of the recent past with the rest almost exclusively made



up of Junior World Cup winners and second-string reserves. Most of India's best chances came from penalty corners, but they had only one conversion to show for them - Karti Selvam's drag flick getting a deflection off Pakistan defender Muhammad Abdullah's stick, thus wrongfooting custodian Akmal Hussain in the first quarter.

It was the only time Hussain was beaten in the game, and was rightly adjudged player of the match as he kept his team in the contest before they snatched a

point at the very end.

Pakistan hockey, which has been in the doldrums for the last several years after not making a few major events in succession amidst a financial crunch, would dearly love to be at the World Cup but are taking a pragmatic view and treating the Asia Cup as part of a rebuilding phase.

They looked the more dominant team from open play and had their forwards been more clinical and accurate in front of goal, they wouldn't have had to wait till the penultimate minute

of the game for their equaliser - which came when Abdul Rana found the target from close range after the initial drag-flick had been blocked on the line.

It is former captain Sardar Singh's first formal coaching assignment as he assists BJ Kariappa in the dugout. They will need to refine co-ordination as well as enhance composure and clinical finishing before facing reigning Asian Games gold medalists Japan on Tuesday.

"It's a young team and they need to improve in penalty cor-

ner conversion and capitalisation of chances," Lakra, who was appointed captain after original skipper Rupinder Pal Singh pulled out due to injury, said after the game. "In a high-intensity match, one has to make use of the opportunities."

As far as match statistics are concerned, both teams were evenly matched on shots on goal (11) and circle penetrations (9). India enjoyed a slight upper hand in ball possession (55 per cent). But for a team which has been traditionally very strong in penalty corners, India will be disappointed in converting only one of eight such opportunities, double of what Pakistan earned.

In the bigger picture, for India this tournament could be a stepping stone towards the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games (regardless of when the latter is held and the players selected for the two events). Simranjeet Singh, one of the heroes for India in the bronze medal playoff against Germany at the Tokyo Olympics, made his much-awaited return from injury and could have won it for India with just a few seconds left if he had hit the target.

Request FIFA not to impose a suspension: Praful Patel writes to Gianni Infantino



Agency
New Delhi, May 24:

Former AIFF president and FIFA Council member Praful Patel has written a letter to FIFA President Gianni Infantino requesting football's apex body not to impose a ban on India.

"I would like to point out that the Supreme Court has expressed a sense of urgency in resolving all the issues by July 2022," Patel wrote in the letter to Infantino.

"I request FIFA and AFC to not impose a suspension at this stage, but instead to consider this important aspect of the Supreme Court order and enter into a dialogue with the

CoA to receive a commitment that the said timelines laid down by the Supreme Court would be respected and strictly followed without allowing for delays.

"I also appeal to the experienced legal teams of the AFC and FIFA to guide the CoA, if approached and need be, in the revision of the AIFF statutes," Patel added.

Earlier, Patel, in an interview with The Indian Express, had said that he'll speak with the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) and ask them to expedite the election process, underlining that 'dragging this issue can be very disastrous' for Indian football.