

Manipur's Joyshree Devi wins Best Boxer Award at 2022 Sub-Junior National Boxing Championships

IT News
Bellary, May 28:

Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) and Haryana pugilists once again stamped their authority in the Indian boxing by clinching the team championship titles of the boys and girls' categories respectively at the 2022 Sub-Junior Girls and Boys National Boxing Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports in Bellary, Karnataka.

The reigning national elite men's champions, SSCB pulled off a sensational show on the final day of the com-



petition as all of their nine boxers emerged victorious by unanimous decisions to take home gold medals as well as the boys team championship trophy with 73

points, finishing at top of the table with 10 medals, including one bronze.

Aakash Badhwar was the most impressive among the SSCB boxers. He thrashed Haryana's Vinit Kumar in the boys 40kg final to win the gold medal. For his brilliant show throughout the tournament, Aakash was awarded with the Best Boxer Award.

Manashu (35kg), Harsh (37kg), Priyanshu (43kg), Devang (55kg), Jashandeep (58kg), Nakul Sharma (61kg), Prashant (64kg) and Hardik Panwar (+70kg) were the other gold medal winners for SSCB.

Haryana and Uttar Pradesh claimed second and third position with 58 and 24 points respectively in the boys' section. While Haryana won five gold and three silver medals, Uttar Pradesh ended their campaign with three silver and two bronze medals.

Haryana's Mahesh, who beat Girvaan Singh of Chhattisgarh in the boys 46kg final, was adjudged Most Promising Boxer while Jharkhand's Anish Kumar Sinha received Best Challenger Award for his brilliant display.

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Shirui festival: Minister Khemchem and his wife steal the show

IT News
Ukhrul, May 28:

MAHUD Minister Yumnam Khemchand and his wife Joymla steal the show of the Shirui Lily festival at Shirui Guest House today.

Minister Khemchand and his wife could no longer seat



as the chief guest as a Tangkhul singer performed with his melodious song today at Shirui guest House today. As the Tangkhul language song touched the feeling of the Minister Khemchand, he immediately called up his wife and went to the stage and dance to the tune of the song.

46 years old woman treated under Sheikh Noorul Hassan Health Protection Mission

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

One month after the launching of the Sheikh Noorul Hassan Health Protection Mission, a 47 years old woman who had been suffering due to Gall Bladder stone for the last 10 years become the first to get the facilities.

46 years old Memcha Begum of Kshetrigao Assembly Constituency, underwent surgery at Care and cure hospital, Lamphel Sanakeithel under financial support from the Sheikh



Noorul Hassan Health Protection Mission.

MLA Sheikh Noorul Hassan personally visited the hospital where the patient was undergoing treatment and expressed happiness on the success of the mission on the first kicks.

Noorul Hassan said that the patient had been suffering due to the Gall stone since the last 10 years as she had no money to perform the surgery. After the surgery she will be discharged soon and will continue normal life, the MLA said.

Miss Diva 2020 visits CRPF Group Centre Langjing, Imphal

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

Miss Adline Mewis Quardros Castolino, Indian model and beauty pageants title holder of Miss Diva Universe 2020, Representative of Miss Universe 2020 and 2022 with her team comprising Fashion Designer Kumarjit Laishram, Fashion Stylist Suraj, Models Sushna and Celena, visited CRPF Camp, Group Centre, Langjing, Imphal (Manipur).

Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, IGP, Manipur & Nagaland Sector welcomed her and her team and introduced them to the sacrificial Saga and various types of



duties performed by CRPF in toughest circumstances. During the short visit, she and her team showed a lot of interest and curiosity in the activities of CRPF and interactions with Jawans. She was surprised to meet the International/ National reputed play-

ers employed and serving in CRPF. CRPF women personnel, in particular, interacted and told their experiences as uniformed members of the force and the pride it has brought to them and their family members and how it has led to women empowerment.

Miss Adline appreciated the work of CRPF and assured to promote the exemplary work of CRPF through her Social Media handles and her speeches at relevant platforms. She thanked Mr. L. Lhoujem, CO, 143 Bn and Mr. Agrawal, IG, M&M Sector for curating her visit at a short notice. On the occasion, Shri Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, DIG, Madan Kumar, DIG, A.N. Roy, DIG (CH), felicitated the Diva and her team in a traditional manner by presenting shawl and CRPF memento. All Jawans and other ranks also expressed their happiness and joy to have among them celebrities and Miss Diva Universe 2020 in their midst.

37 artists from Regional Outreached Bureau performing in Shirui Lily festival



IT News
Imphal, May 28:

A team of cultural troupes from the Regional Outreached Bureau, Imphal, Bureau of Outreach Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India and Anouba Yaipha Thourang Marup and Manipur Thang-Ta Cultural Association is giving flavour

to the ongoing Shirui Lily Festival which begins from May 25.

Altogether 37 artists are performing various cultural programme such as Santhali dance, Lavni dance, Dandiya Raas, Action Song, Solo song, Group song, Thang Leiteng Haiba, Thang Ahum Yana-ba, Stick dance etc.

L. Bimolchandra Singh and G A Ghanapriya Devi of Re-

gional Outreach Bureau, Imphal, are leading the cultural troupes.

Talking to media G. A. Ghanapriya Devi, in-charge ROB, Imphal said that the cultural items are presenting to entertain the dignitaries & public audience by the way to highlight the theme of Azadi Amrit Mahotsav and Countdown to International Yoga Day, 2022.

Block level capacity building programme on cluster facilitation project held



IT News
Chandel, May 28:

A one day Block Level Capacity Building Programme on Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) under MGNREGS for block officials of Chandel and Chakpikarong blocks was organised by District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Chandel at DC office, Mini Secretariat Conference Hall today.

Delivering the opening remark Deputy Commissioner, Chandel, Mayanglambam Rajkumar highlighted the vision and deliverable targets for Cluster Facilitation Projects.

He said that although MGNREGS schemes has been going on for quite some time in the district the Cluster Facilitation Project aims to enhance the implementation and increase the output of the Schemes. He emphasises the need for proper co-ordinations amongst the CPF technical experts and the district official to be able to implement the schemes more efficiently. He urged the BLOs to priorities the Cluster Facility Projects to bring more positive results and to be able to achieve the set targets.

The opening session of today's program was con-

ducted by Project Officer, MGNREGS Chandel, L. Stephen Modar. He highlighted on the CPF and the need for capacity building amongst the Block staffs.

Later, the theme briefing on CFP was done by CFP expert and State Project Officer-NRM (CFP) Okram Basudev and was followed by Technical session, hands on tutorial for application of GIS.

Today's programme was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Chandel Md. Firoj Khan, SDOs, BLOs, POs and officials of MGNREGS of Chakpikarong and Chandel blocks.

KSO wishes MPSC aspirants

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) General Headquarters has extended its heartfelt wishes to all the appearing civil service aspirants of our state in general, and the Kuki civil service aspirants in particular, in the much-awaited Manipur Civil Service Combined Competitive Examination, 2016 (2022) Mains re-examination conducted by the Manipur Public Service Com-

mission. The MPSC had scheduled an afresh examination from May 26, 2022 to 11th June 2022, irrespective of the subject opted by candidates.

In a statement by Thangmoi Haokip Education Secretary KSO, GHQ, the student body appreciated and endorsed the recent press release of the chairman of MPSC and his stance on ensuring regular and fair selection process solely based on merits.

The Organisation laid

complete trust and responsibility on the good offices of the incumbent Chairman regarding the recruitment process to bring out the best in our youth, adding more young and dynamic officers for our State.

"Last but not least, we pray and hope for more civil service aspirants in the coming days who would become an asset to society with their accomplishments and in serving the public at large", the statement added.

Idea of India- From Union of States to Nation



By: M.R. Lahu

There have been attempts aplenty to differentiate the existence and the idea that India represents from multiple angles. The controversial one that has gained prominence in the recent days is to narrate the idea which is India, as a union of states. And they, who confirm to be convinced to call India a Union of states, are totally against the idea of a nation. They take the constitution as the rock base document to define this argument and take instances of integration of different princely states into the national administration, post independence. From a peripheral view this argument appears to gain currency. But the ethnicity of a landscape that remained a geographically united cultural entity for millennia loses its charm as the arguments to establish it as a union of states particularly stick to what the constitution defines it for the sake of administrative ease. Can the constitution discover or at least define the soul of a nation, particularly a country such as India which owns a great tradition of cultural upbringing that it cherished beyond the modern boundaries. This needs a seriously genuine debate. Beyond politics, a civilisational aspect which is dormant behind the existence of a country remains a reality and attempts to break it for petty momentary gains are dangerous.

Centuries of invasions and the scars that they brought to the collective psyche get revamped every generation. Probably, as a country we were successful in glorifying the brutality that the invasion had on this land and the invaders are still eulogised to be heroes. At present, the majoritarianism which is aggressively blamed and debated across the country has mostly been an output of the historical brutalities and the rejections and denials that followed in an independent India by deliberately concealing the struggles and hardships to counter the invasions. A new generation,

ignorant of the historicity of bravery that its ancestors fought with, against the brutal invading force is natural to dig deeper into the concealed realities and excavate the debris of its lost identity. To understand India, it is necessary to go beyond the politically discovered concept of 'union of states' and embrace the cultural ethos that is enshrined in the soul of India, and avoiding which, not only the present generation, but the generations to come would also remain confused and incompetent to sublimate the rigidity with which we distorted the idea that India represents.

Rahul Gandhi's subjugating remarks by accentuating and projecting India as a mere conglomeration of states naturally puts his intelligence into test and reveals the depth of his ignorance on the cultural dimensions which he failed to study. To reduce a living civilisational reality to a civic nation cannot be whole some but a futile practice to assess the land in terms of its geological components and give it a mere political image. The civilization that India represented for almost five thousand years remains indisputably accurate and the global community ac-

cepts and appreciates its Vedic heritage. The hatred that we spew out on a daily basis, especially between the Hindus and the Muslims is mainly due to the ignorance and the confusion of what, as a country India stands for a deliberate and well calibrated conspiracy for not paying attention to the spiritual essence which we inherited from our ancestry irrespective of the religious differences. India's contribution to pluralism and multiculturalism has been so solid that every religious ideology could successfully find its place to flourish though some of them landed with sword and acrimony. This cannot be understood with a semitic arrogance and the veracity of India being truly secular has not come through a constitutional injection. It cannot survive naturally without being secular for this reason; India's basic cultural outlook is secular, accepting all the different views and extracting the best in them. This was the reason why India never found joy in entering any other territory by force or expanding its land though it had been connected with a large part of the world socially, economically and culturally for centuries. It is true that a political en-

tity, to call India, came into existence after 1947 but its constitutional values such as respecting the diversity and democratic principles always existed here well before it became a British colony. The geographical existence of India being a glorious land was found in Vedic literature and probably, nobody, except those from the ancient times deserve the royalty for the discovery of what we call India at present. So India never existed as a mere conglomeration of boundaries, but a Rashtra - a nation which is a civilisational entity per se.

What we own today is the fallacy that our intellect has been deliberately engraved on. An attempt to define the idea of India as a mere geographical landscape, politically alive by the mercy of a constitutional mechanism would be the repetition of a historical wrong and what we frequently miss out is the nationalism which should have been essentially strengthened by the ancient spiritual wisdom. The widening distance and disagreements between religions in India is sure to exercise its precariousness when it comes to the existence of a nation. Digging up the past could

not have happened, if the past was documented for the future generations with genuineness. From Babri to Gyanvati the reason that is playing out behind all the irrational controversies is the partiality with which the history was codified, eulogising somebody and demonising someone else. The apt vocabulary that the history should have been genuinely presented with was the truth of suppression, invasion and bloodshed along with the tribulations and the bravery with which such attempts were barricaded. This is what is missing and the dejection that it triggered has mainly arm-twisted the country into a majoritarian build-up. A genuine curiosity to regain what is lost when the country was captured and tortured by alien forces and reinstate the reality to its ancient glory is the attempt behind the resurrection of monuments in India justified as. To end the controversy, we need to go beyond the political interpretations of India and understand its national essence and reason out its distorted ancestry and regain it amicably suitable to the modern age.

The writer is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

Menstrual Hygiene Management is vital to the empowerment, health & well-being of adolescent girls & women

By Arun Baroka

Menstrual Hygiene Day is a global advocacy platform that brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector, and the media to promote safe menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for all women and girls. Observed on May 28th every year, the day seeks to break the silence, raise awareness, and change the negative social norms surrounding menstrual hygiene.

In this context, under the Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, will be celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 by spreading awareness on safe men-

struation and safe disposal of sanitary napkins, as a part of our efforts towards safe sanitation and hygiene for all.

Starting in 2022, Menstrual Hygiene Day will focus on translating increased attention for menstrual hygiene into measurable action and investment so that together, we can create a world where no woman or girl is held back because of her period.

Although menstruation is a natural biological process, which affects half of the world's population at reproductive age (12 to 49), it continues to remain a cause of embarrassment and shame, coupled with deep seated stigma about menstrual impurity, creating a barrier to gender equality.

In India, an alarming number of girls drop out of school every year, when they start menstruating and owing to improper menstrual hygiene, face severe health issues. Further, archaic practices observed for generations in families, forbid girls from participating in normal activities.

In the wake of such challenges that women, particularly the girl child face, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is not just about sanitation. It is a vital step towards protecting the girl child while safeguarding her dignity and giving her a life of opportunities to pursue her dreams, towards achieving a gender-balanced world.

MHM in SBM-G: To address this vital aspect, MHM has been included as an important component in the Government's flagship programme, the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G). In addition to improving the overall sanitation coverage in rural areas of India, it aims at promoting dignity of women and children and to maintain sustainable health and hygiene benefits.

It underlines the need for construction of toilets in households and schools which is integral to menstrual hygiene and encourages safe menstrual hygiene practices. It further calls for skill development and setting up of sanitary napkin dispensers and incinerators in schools and public toilets.

The MHM Guidelines issued by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) to support all adolescent girls and women, outlines what needs to be done by state governments, district administrations, engineers and technical experts in line departments; as well as school heads and teachers.

The Guidelines highlight the essential elements of a MHM programme that should be integrated into other government schemes. This includes access to - knowledge and information; safe menstrual absorbents; water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and safe disposal of used menstrual absorbents. This would result in dignity for adolescent girls and women; and the ability of adolescent girls to stay in school during menstruation.

Additionally, they call for awareness generation in the society, community, family and individuals and the need to provide informed and trained support for girls and women; and the importance of supportive policies,

guidelines and behaviours.

NFHS Survey: Unsafe menstrual management does lead to girls dropping out of school early when they start menstruating. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) a large-scale, survey conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in India, only 77.3% of women age 15-24 years use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period. However, as per Ministry of Education the drop-out rate has decreased from 4.61 per cent to 2.61 per cent in Upper Primary and 16.89 per cent to 13.71 per cent in Secondary level since 2015-16 to 2020-21 respectively.

The Ministry of Education reports that in 2020-21, out of total schools only 16.85 per cent schools have incinerator facilities within the school campus for safe disposal of sanitary waste. Furthermore, as on date the data entered by states on the SBM-G Phase-II MIS via the Mobile App, shows that 15,786 villages have ensured availability/access to menstrual absorbents (other than cloth) and 13,684 villages have made provisions for safe disposal of menstrual waste in the village through incinerators or deep burial methods (3248 villages at school level; 4707 villages at community level).

Initiatives in States: Under SBM-G programme funds are available under the IEC component to raise awareness and skills on Menstrual Hygiene Management, and self-help groups are to help in propagating such efforts. In keeping with this, States have initiated various programmes that have dispelled myths and taboos surrounding menstruation, encouraging girls and women to talk about it and clarify doubts.

For instance, in Jharkhand, Men 4 Menstruation (M4M) campaign was launched in Ranchi on World Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28, 2020. The purpose of the campaign was to break the societal silence on menstruation and to overcome 'Period Poverty'. Period poverty refers to the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management.

In May 2021, UNICEF Maharashtra held an IEC campaign called 'It's time for action, let's talk Menstruation Maharashtra' during which various events were held, encouraging people to talk about menstruation. An interesting video circulated during the campaign was

'Pass the Pad' where people from all sections of society, men and women passed around sanitary pads - helping to break the barrier on the subject.

On the other hand, in 2020, Raigarh in Chhattisgarh launched a project titled 'Pawna' with the support of UNICEF to provide information to adolescent girls and women about best practices for improving menstrual hygiene management and make available to them affordable and biodegradable sanitary napkins. To ensure supply of safe and biodegradable pads, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were provided with two machines and empowered to manufacture 30,000 pads a day to meet the demand of the communities. A safe alternative to the 'Lal Kapada' the Pawna pads cost less, were biodegradable and of good quality. As of now 3 villages in Raigarh are using the Pawna pads.

SBM(G) has also been supporting the installation of incinerators as part of the program. Karnataka is one of the states that has installed incinerators that can effectively dispose menstrual waste. The pilot project has been introduced in 32 locations - hostels, schools, and Gram Panchayats (GPs) across Karnataka. Post monitoring of their technical and analytical performance, similar sanitary napkin incinerators will be scaled up in more locations.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra has taken a major initiative towards creating awareness for MHM in the aspirational district of Gadchiroli. With the support of UNICEF, it has embarked on a silent revolution in which they are gradually eradicating the cruel practice of exiling menstruating girls and women to a Kurma Ghar or Period Hut during their monthly periods.

In other parts of the country, campaigns are being conducted to make adolescent girls and women aware of ways to reduce menstrual waste, through use of products like menstrual cups, reusable sanitary pads, etc.

IEC material: DDWS has also produced various IEC materials that States and districts can use to promote: MHM for health and dignity; the use of safe absorbents for healthy menstruation; the importance of safe infrastructure (accessible toilets, water, covered bins); methods for safe disposal of menstrual waste; healthy behaviours for hygienic menstruation (nutritional needs, healthy habits and taboos related to going to school or

work, refraining from going to the kitchen or certain foods and participating in religious and social activities); and education of the community that menstruation is not a disease but a natural biological phenomenon. The Department has also produced brochures with the support of UNICEF to promote MHM.

Funding mechanism for MHM activities: SBM Grameen Phase 2 has earmarked funding for IEC purposes, which is being used to generate awareness about menstrual hygiene management. This funding is being used to support MHM communication and capacity building activities at the state, district, gram panchayat and village level.

Additionally, disposal of menstrual waste including incineration, etc. is supported at the gram panchayat level using 15th Finance Commission tied grants on sanitation. Further, as per a joint advisory issued, funding under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education can be utilized for the purchase of sanitary vending machines and incinerators for schools.

Way forward: Going by the activities in various states, clearly the subject of menstruation is not as much a taboo now and is talked about far more openly in the rural areas, compared to earlier days. Women and girls are aware of the importance of menstrual hygiene and those who have access to them are using sanitary pads. They are questioning ancient practices of being asked to refrain from entering the place of worship or kitchen etc. Incinerators are being installed in some schools. But this needs to be expanded to all households and schools around the country. More work needs to be done to help women and girls reach their full potential which effective MHM can ensure.

That said, the silence surrounding the subject of menstruation needs to stop. Men need to be brought into the conversation. They need to be educated and made comfortable during discussion about menstruation, so they can put an end to the attached stigma. Girls and women should no longer feel embarrassed to talk about menstruation and get their doubts cleared. If we do not encourage girls to grow to their full potential, we would be restricting the growth of our country by half.

(The writer is a Special Secretary Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti)

Yasin's sentence

By: Sauro Dasgupta

The life sentence of Yasin Malik is a turning moment in Indian Political and judicial history. Here is a man who has blood of innocent Kashmiris and several persons on his hands, including 7 Air Force officers. This is a man who till 2014 called the shots in Kashmir and even shook hands with the former Prime Minister.

Malik had been patronized by the left-liberals, the 'progressives'. They kept on shielding him to the last. He was invited to media conferences, seminars as Speaker or Guest of Honour. Any question to him from the audience was rebuffed.

Everybody knew how powerful Malik was. He got away with terrible acts. He held the Indian State at gunpoint and was extremely pro-Pakistan, much like his Hurriyat companions like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Every year, Yasin ensured that no discussion with Pakistan took place in the absence of the Hurriyat. He dictated peace terms to India, while having the gall to portray himself as an avatar of Gandhi, something which he reiterated in the court a few days ago.

After the trial of Yasin and his life imprisonment at Tihar Jail, several Kashmiri civilians were killed by Jihadi groups and allies of Yasin. That he was tried in New Delhi, the capital of India instead of his territory at Lal Chowk, Srinagar, where his writ prevailed, apparently could not be digested by such groups.

No sooner was Yasin's punishment announced than the usual suspects, Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistani Ministers and several Pakistani influencers like Shahid Afridi sent messages of 'solidarity' to Yasin on Twitter. However, to their shock, their blue eyed boy could not be saved!

Ever since 2014, Modi government had given a free hand to the Military to tackle the terrorists. Operation All Out was also very successful. After the abrogation of Article 370, several terrorists were eliminated from Kashmir. The Kashmiri political elites, in cahoots with the likes of Yasin, could no longer hold the Indian State hostage. Their arm-twisting tactics could no longer work.

Many victims of Yasin's atrocities have demanded the death sentence for him. The Kashmiri political parties have also tried to protect him from such punishment. But just as they failed to prevent the abrogation of Article 370, they will fail in this case also.

(The writer is a PG 1 Student, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University)

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PM inaugurates India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022

PIB
New Delhi, May 28:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's biggest Drone Festival - Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 today. He also interacted with Kisan drone pilots, witnessed open-air drone demonstrations and interacted with startups in the drone exhibition centre. Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Giriraj Singh, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mansukh Mandaviya, Shri Bhupendra Yadav, many Ministers of State and leaders and entrepreneurs of drone industry were among those present on the occasion. The Prime Minister also gave

away 150 drone pilot certificates.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister conveyed his fascination and interest in the drone sector and said that he was deeply impressed by the drone exhibition and the spirit of the entrepreneurs and innovation in the sector. The Prime Minister also talked about his interaction with farmers and young engineers. He said that the energy and enthusiasm in the drone sector are visible and indicate India's strength and desire to leapfrog into a leading position. "The sector shows great possibilities of a major sector for employment generation", he said.

Recalling the new beginning

exactly 8 years ago, the Prime Minister said "this was the time 8 years ago when we started implementing new mantras of good governance in India. Following the path of minimum government, and maximum governance, we have made ease of living, and ease of doing business a priority. We connected every citizen of the country with the facilities and welfare schemes by moving forward on the path of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

The Prime Minister pointed out that during the earlier governments, technology was considered a part of the problem and efforts were made to portray it as anti-poor. Due to this, there was an atmosphere of indifference

regarding the use of technology in governance before 2014. The technology could not become part of the mood of the governance. The poor, the deprived, and the middle class suffered the most due to this. He also recalled the complicated procedures for availing of basic facilities leading to a sense of deprivation and fear. He said progress is possible only when we change with time. He added that technology has helped a lot in furthering the vision of saturation and in ensuring last-mile delivery. And I know that we can achieve the goal of Antyodaya by moving forward at this pace and are able to provide the poor segment

with their entitlement by the use of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile (JAM) trinity, he said. Experience of the last 8 years further strengthens my belief, the Prime Minister added. "We have made technology a key tool to impart new strength, speed and scale to the country", Shri Modi emphasized.

The Prime Minister informed that today with the help of the Robust UPI framework developed by the country, lakhs of crores of rupees are being transferred directly to the bank account of the poor. Women, farmers, and students are now getting help directly from the government.

Assam Rifles conducts orientation of IIS Group 'A' Trainee Officers



IT News
Imphal, May 28:

Moreh Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR(S) hosted a group of seven Indian Information Service Group 'A' Officer Trainees on 25-26 May 2022. The Indian Information Service Officers are the cadre officers of the Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry, GoI. They are responsible for media & image management of the Govt of India as well as news & Information dissemination.

As part of week long orientation program for new batch, the officers visited Moreh on 25-26 May 2022. Their visit to border areas and interaction with Assam Rifles gave them first hand experience of the harsh conditions under which Armed Forces operates.

During the visit IIS Officer Trainees visited Integrated Check Post, Gate-1, Gate-2, India- Myanmar Friendship bridge and Indo-Myanmar Border.

Guided-Missile Stealth Destroyer INS Kolkata Gets Affiliated to Mahar Regiment

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 28:

The Indian Navy's indigenously built guided-missile stealth destroyer, INS Kolkata, was affiliated to the Mahar regiment, one of the most decorated infantry regiments of the Indian Army, on Wednesday at an impressive ceremony held at Naval Dockyard located in South Mumbai.

The Mahar Regiment earlier comprised of troops from the Mahar community of Maharashtra. However now it is composed of different communities from the states including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is headquartered at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

During the affiliation ceremony, Captain Prashant Handu, Commanding Officer, Kolkata handed over the ship's



crest to Brigadier Navneet Jaryal, Commandant, Mahar Regimental Centre. The affiliation was solemnized with the signing of the Affiliation Charter by Lieutenant General C Banshi Ponnappa, Adjutant General of the Indian Army and Colonel of the Mahar Regiment, Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet, Indian Navy, Brigadier Navneet Jaryal, Commandant, Mahar Regimental

Centre, and Captain Prashant Handu, Commanding Officer, INS Kolkata, onboard the ship, an official statement issued on Thursday stated.

The ceremony saw the parading of a joint guard and joint performance by the bands of the Navy and the Mahar Regiment. By happy coincidence, Kolkata's motto "Yudhay Sarvasanadh" (Always Prepared for Battle) and the Mahar Regiment's motto "Yash

Siddhi" (Success and Attainment) complement and embellish each other well.

On the occasion, Lieutenant General C Banshi Ponnappa paid homage to the Bravehearts at Gaurav Stambh in the naval dockyard and signed the visitor's book.

The affiliation between Naval ships and Army regiments was instituted in 1990 to foster a spirit of cooperation, understanding, and joint manship

between Army and Naval units. Even though they operate in different theatres, it is the Army and Navy's coordinated battle efforts that can bring about dominance and win wars. The affiliation is, thus, a symbol of inter-service camaraderie that goes a long way in the execution of joint operations and interdependence in modern warfare. The ship is affiliated with Army regiments to foster a greater understanding of combat potential and synergize the available means and resources of the armed forces.

Some of the earlier affiliations include Stealth frigate INS Sahyadri, with the Poona Horse, Frigate INS Shivalik with Scinde Horse, Frigate INS Satpura with 7 Cavalry, the Aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, with the Bihar Regiment and the Guided-missile destroyer INS Mumbai to Maratha Light Infantry Regiment.

Career Guidance

Climate change, agricultural production and starvation



By: Vijay Garg

Globally, climate change is affecting almost everything. But this disorder seems to be having a devastating effect on our food systems, from the way we produce food to the way we consume it. This simply means that countries that are directly and indirectly dependent on agriculture and food production are suffering the worst effects of these disasters and will suffer even more in the future. It is also important to note that rich countries and rich people play a major role in aggravating climate change, but poor countries and poor people are paying a heavy price. The kind of development that has taken place in the world in recent times has directly caused climate change. Natural resources are being overused or misused for development worldwide. This has polluted rivers, oceans, other water sources and air, as well as large-scale deforestation and agricultural practices that have pol-

luted the environment. India too has not been spared from climate change and these changes have polluted water, air and other natural resources.

India is an agriculturally oriented, large and growing economy with the world's second largest arable land. Agriculture is the largest source of livelihood for the Indian people and contributes significantly to the country's GDP. Before independence and at the time of independence, the country was one of the most food insecure countries in the world. Despite this, the lack of access to nutritious and quality food for children, women and the poor in the country has led to health problems. India has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, and food security is not guaranteed for a large number of the extremely poor. In the midst of all this, the widespread adverse effects of climate change will exacerbate these symptoms and create barriers to more sustainable and equitable food distribution systems. In this context, one should look at the Global Food Policy Report 2022 of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to assess the effects of climate change in the country, especially the decline in production of agricultural commodities, the state of hunger and mitigation of these ef-

fects. Is to understand the changing situation.

According to the report, the agricultural sector and agricultural commodity production are being adversely affected by climate change. These include decrease in soil fertility, decrease in productivity of agricultural produce, increased risk of pests and their invasive species, depletion and depletion of groundwater and conversion of agricultural land for commercial consumption. Are The report estimates that global food production will decline by 8 percent by 2050. India's total food production is projected to decline by 16 per cent, the highest in the South Asian region. Elsewhere, production is expected to fall by 34 per cent for the United States, 18 per cent for Australia, 17 per cent for Japan, 7 per cent for Britain and 5 per cent for China. These figures clearly show that in the near future, declining agricultural production will undermine food security in the world, especially in the poorest and poorest countries. In such a scenario, it is only natural that traders and corporate houses should not hesitate to hoard and black market agricultural commodities. As a result, there will be an increase in the number of people on the brink of starvation worldwide.

It is estimated that by 2030, about 65 million more people

worldwide will be at risk of starvation due to climate change.

South Asia, including India, has the highest number of people at risk of global climate change-induced starvation. In our country, about 17 million more people from all over the world will be on the brink of starvation, in the second place, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an additional 4.8 million people will be at risk of starvation. If climate change does not occur by 2030, the number of people on the brink of starvation in India will be 7.39 crore and it will be reduced to 4.5 crore by 2050. If climate change continues like this, the number of people on the brink of starvation in India will reach 9.06 crore by 2030. It is clear that climate change could lead to changes in global food production. At the same time, the effects of climate change are long lasting. If the adverse effects of climate change are not addressed, it will put millions of people, especially the poor, at risk of starvation and death.

The report identifies some of the major causes of climate change and suggests ways to remedy them. Major factors affecting climate change include rise in moderate to extreme temperatures and high probability of continuation of this trend, high melting rate in Himalayan glaciers, increase in

temperature and catastrophic monsoon rains due to increased average rainfall. These risks of climate change are expected to increase in the future. According to the report, the average temperature across India is expected to rise between 2.4 degree Celsius and 4.4 degree Celsius by 2100. Similarly, heat waves in India are projected to triple or quadruple by 2100.

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Govt plans to repurpose CoWIN for its Universal Immunisation Programme

Agency
New Delhi, May 28:

The Union government is planning to repurpose the Co-WIN platform for India's Universal Immunisation Programme and other national health programmes while continuing with its current function of recording Covid vaccination and issuing certificates. The vaccination record under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is now maintained manually. "Once Co-WIN is repurposed to include the UIP, the entire vaccination system will become digitised,

thus easing tracking beneficiaries and facilitating real-time monitoring," Co-WIN chief and CEO of the National Health Authority Dr R S Sharma told PTL.

"It will do away with the hassle of keeping a physical record. Once the immunisation programme is digitised, beneficiaries will get certificates on the spot. They can also download it. These certificates will be stored in Digi-lockers," he explained. Dr Sharma said efficient record-keeping helps create an evidence-base that helps in planning effective interventions. The Universal

Immunisation Programme is one of the largest vaccination projects in the world aimed at protecting children and pregnant mothers from preventable diseases.

Under it, the government provides shots for 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, such as polio, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, and hepatitis B, for free. Stressing the importance of an integrated immunisation information system, an official said it helps in the effective management of vaccination programmes at national, state and district levels.

The data available at the

individual level can be collated at the population level for making them available for those involved in framing public health policies, the official said. "Since Co-WIN has proved its worth in COVID-19 vaccination, a decision has been taken to bring UIP under the ambit of this platform even as recording Covid vaccination on the portal will continue," the official stated.

The other national health programmes which may be included in the portal include family planning, and child and maternal health, among others.

Naga national flag not negotiable: NSCN (IM)

Agency
Dimapur, May 28:

The NSCN (IM) made it clear that the Naga national flag that symbolizes the Naga political identity is not negotiable.

"It is unthinkable for NSCN to accept Naga national flag as cultural flag as hinted by the Government of India," the Nagalim Voice, the NSCN (IM)'s monthly new bulletin, said in its editorial released on Thursday.

The solution to the Naga issue continues to hang in balance as the NSCN (IM) has been firm in its demand

for a separate Naga flag and constitution.

The NSCN (IM) said when the Framework Agreement was signed on August 3, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi went "histrionic" as he called up all political leaders who matter to announce that he has solved the longest-running insurgency movement in Southeast Asia.

It said the world at large, however, was not impressed and waited to see how he would match his words with action acceptable to the Naga people.

"Today, the NSCN is

watching how the same Prime Minister of India is going to handle the Framework Agreement with NSCN and Naga people that he himself took so much pride and credit," the editorial said.

The NSCN (IM) said what is of concern to it in particular and the Nagas, in general, is the "habitual betraying nature of the Government of India after signing agreement after agreement".

According to it, such was the depravity on the part of the Government of India that every good thing gained during the 25 years of Indo-Naga political talks is facing the risk of going down the drain.

"The unfortunate development is tantamount to political blackmail. But the NSCN is unnerved in the face of such brinkmanship," the editorial read.

It said the Naga people had seen the Naga political issue that was defiled earlier on three occasions, adding the NSCN cannot allow defilement to take place for the fourth time.

Saying that the Framework Agreement was signed as the way forward to salvage the Naga political issue from getting defiled again, the NSCN (IM) said it would be a huge irony if the Indo-Naga political issue and the ongoing talks are not regarded as a politically sacrosanct programme.

Assam floods: Two more deaths push toll to 30

Agency
Guwahati, May 28:

Two more deaths in the past 24 hours have taken the total toll to 30 this year due to floods, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) informed on Friday. The authority said that around 5.61 lakh people of 12 districts - Nagaon, Cachar, Morigaon, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro), Karbi Anglong West, Sonitpur - are still affected due to floods and landslides.

In the last 24 hours, two persons died after drowning in floodwaters in Nagaon district. "A total of 30 people have lost their lives in this year's floods and landslides," the state authority said.

In the girls' section, led by Payal's (46kg) 5-0 win against Tamil Nadu boxer Gunasri and Lakshu's (63kg) dominating RSC win against Nabam Ania of Arunachal Pradesh, seven Haryana boxers won the finals and helped the team finish on the top position with 60 points, winning 10 medals, including seven gold, one silver and two bronze.

Sonika (38kg), Aarju (42kg), Joni (44kg), Deepti (48kg) and Bhoomika (50kg) were Haryana's other gold medal winners.

Punjab and Maharashtra finished on the second and third position respectively in the girl category with 38 and 27 points.

Ragini Muttu (34kg), Mushkaan (54kg) and Yogima Kalyal (57kg) added three gold

medals to Punjab's tally which also consists of two silver and one bronze.

For Maharashtra, Aarya Garde and Samiksha Solanki put up a solid show to claim gold medals by securing comprehensive 5-0 wins in their respective finals. While Aarya outperformed Goa's Sagun Shinde in the 36kg, Samiksha defeated Uttar Pradesh's Sadhna comfortably in the 40 kg.

Pune's Aarya, the standout performer in the tournament, was awarded with the Most Promising Boxer Award.

Meanwhile Imphal-based Joyshree Devi handed Manipur its only gold medal at the tournament by clinching a commanding 5-0 victory against Haryana's Hanshikha in the 60kg.

Joyshree was adjudged the

Best Boxer Award in the girls' section while Goa's Chandirika Pujari was named as the Best Challenger Boxer.

Chandirika signed off with a silver medal after fighting hard against Haryana's Joni in a split 1-4 loss in the girls 44kg final.

The championship witnessed participation of 621 boxers, including 348 in the boys' section, from 31 teams across the country where each bout was played with three rounds of two minutes each and a minute's break between each round.

(RESULTS)

Boys: (35kg) Manashu (SSCB) bt Aryan Shirke (MAH) 5-0; (37kg) Harsh (SSCB) bt Anish Kumar Sinha (JHA) 5-0; (40kg) Aakash Badhwar (SSCB) bt Vinit Kumar (HAR) 5-0;

(43kg) Priyanshu (SSCB) bt Y Umesh (SPSB) 5-0; (46kg) Mahesh (HAR) bt Girvaan Singh (CHT) 5-0; (49kg) Piyush (HAR) bt Shyam (DEL) 3-2; (52kg) Yogesh Danda (HAR) bt Anshuman Sharma (CHD) 5-0; (55kg) Devang (SSCB) bt Ravi Gond (UP) 5-0; (58kg) Jashandeep (SSCB) bt Lovejeet (DEL) 5-0; (61kg) Nakul Sharma (SSCB) bt MD Faiz (UP) 5-0; (64kg) Prashant (SSCB) bt Lokesh (HAR) 5-0; (67kg) Jitesh Sangwan (HAR) bt Vishal Yadav (UP) 4-1; (70kg) Yash Kumar (HAR) bt Shriyansh (PUN) 5-0; (+70kg) Hardik Panwar (SSCB) bt Paryas (HAR) 5-0.

Girls: (34kg) Ragini Mattu (PUN) bt Akshada Jadav (MAH) 3-2; (36kg) Aarya Garde

(MAH) bt Sagun Shinde (GOA) 5-0; (38kg) Sonika (HAR) bt Komal Nagarkoti (UTK) 4-1; (40kg) Samiksha Solanki (MAH) bt Sadhna (UP) 5-0; (42kg) Aarju (HAR) bt Aashma Singh (PUN) 3-2; (44kg) Joni (HAR) bt Chandirika Pujari (GOA) 4-1; (46kg) Payal (HAR) bt Gunasri (TN) 5-0; (48kg) Deepti (HAR) bt Neha Walidia (UTK) 3-0; (50kg) Bhoomika (HAR) bt Mega (DEL) 3-2; (52kg) Manshi Nagar (DEL) bt Savreet Kaur (PUN) RSC R1; (54kg) Mushkaan (PUN) bt Mahi Bishit (UTK) 5-0; (57kg) Yogima Kalyal (PUN) bt Aswanikumari Sapkota (SIK) 5-0; (60kg) Joyshree Devi (MAN) bt Hanshikha (HAR) 5-0; (63kg) Lakshu (HAR) bt Nabam Ania (ARU) RSC R2.

Sports

Asia Cup hockey: India thrash hosts Indonesia 16-0, qualify for Super 4s

Agency
Jakarta, May 28:

Indian men's hockey team picked up a stunning 16-0 win over the hosts Indonesia in their final match of the Asia Cup 2022 Pool A at the GBK Sports Complex Hockey Stadium here on Thursday and qualified for the second round of the continental meet.

India needed to win by a margin of 15 goals in the final group match to qualify for the Super 4s.

Dipsan Tirkey (422 , 472 , 592 , 592) starred for India, scoring four goals in the match, while Sudev Belimagga (452 , 462 , 552) also scored a hat-trick in the match. Pawan Rajbhar (102 , 111), SV Sunil (192 , 242) , and Karthi Selvam (402 , 562) also scored a brace, while Uttam Singh (142), Nilam Sanjeev Xess (202) and Birendra Lakra (412) scored a goal each to help their team pick up the win.

India started the match against Indonesia at a relentless pace against the hosts, showcasing their intention to get a big win from the first minute itself. In the 7th minute, the team missed a clear chance to get the first goal for India. But they did not have to wait for long to get off the mark as Pawan Rajbhar struck two goals in two minutes to give his team a 2-0 lead before Uttam Singh added another



goal just before the closing of the first quarter.

SV Sunil made an impact in the 2nd quarter as he deflected the ball into the Indonesia nets in the 19th minute. A minute later, Nilam Sanjeev Xess added another goal for India from a PC as India extended their lead to 5-0. SV Sunil deflected the ball into the back of the nets a few minutes later to extend India's lead to 6-0 before the half-time.

Indonesia goalkeeper Alam Fajar defended well in the third quarter as India continued to search for more goals. Karthi Selvam finally broke the resistance in the 40th minute, getting the 7th goal for India. Skipper Birendra Lakra made an impact, getting the 8th goal for India in the 41st minute, after which Dipsan Tirkey and

Sudev Belimagga scored a goal each to take India to 10-0 before the start of the final quarter.

In the final 15 minutes, Dipsan Tirkey scored thrice, Sudev Belimagga scored a brace, while Selvam Karthi added another goal as India picked up a consolidating 16-0 win.

India will play their first game of the Super 4s against Japan on Saturday.

Heartbreak for Pakistan Pakistan suffered a heartbreak loss to Asian Games champions Japan who came up with excellent defence to win 3-2 in a crucial pool A match here in the Hero Asia Cup being held at the sprawling GBK Sports Arena on Thursday.

A win against Japan or

even a draw would have put Pakistan in the Super 4s but the team has to now depend on the result of India Vs Indonesia match, where the defending champions India need to win by a difference of 15 goals to edge past Pakistan into the Super 4s.

"It's disappointing that we need to wait for India's match to learn about our fate of making the Super 4s," expressed an evidently disappointed Pakistan Skipper Umar Bhutta. However, he credited his team's resilience and said, "The boys really gave all their heart. We really wanted to make it to the Super 4s but the two goals that were disallowed really hurt our chances and we also ended up getting many cards that didn't help our chances," Bhutta added.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

By: Ngangbam Roben Singh

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is a very ambitious welfare scheme of the Government of India. The Scheme has a target for construction of 2.95 crore houses all over the country in order to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" in rural areas by the year 2024. The State of Manipur has a target for construction of 46,166 houses by the year 2024. PMAY-G aims to provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all houseless households or for those living in kutcha and dilapidated house in rural areas. It also encompasses landless people belonging to SC, ST and minority communities. It was launched on 28th August, 2017 in Manipur.

Identification and Selection of beneficiary is done by the community through the Gram Sabha/Village Authority based on housing deprivation other social deprivation parameters prescribed under Socio

pucca house but not included in the SECC 2011 List are uploaded in Awaasplus (Non-SECC) list. Thus, the Government has beentaking utmost care to ensure that genuine beneficiaries are not left out of the PMAY-G scheme.

The Government follows a 6 steps process to prepare the final list of beneficiaries of PMAY-G. The steps include (1) Preparing lists of beneficiaries (2) Prioritization of beneficiaries within the lists (3) Verification of Priority list by Gram Sabha/Village Authority (4) Grievances and Redressal by Appellate Committee (4) Publication of final priority list (5) Preparation of Annual Select List.

The assistance provided by the Government as cost for each unit (house) under PMAY-G is Rs. 1,30,000/- only which is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio 90:10 for north-eastern and hilly States. Further, assistance for provision of toi-

der PMAY-G are made electronically through DBT to the beneficiaries' Bank/Post Office accounts that are linked to Aadhaar with consent.

The unit (house) assistance of Rs. 1,30,000/- under PMAY-G is released in 3 (three) installments: -

o 1st Inst. @ Rs. 48,000/- after Sanction and Order sheet generation by the District Level Officer.

o 2nd Inst. @ Rs. 42,000/- after geo tagging for plinth level by the Block Level Official and Ordersheet generation by the District Level Officer.

o 3rd Inst. @ Rs. 40,000/- after geo tagging for Lintel level by the Block Level Official and Ordersheet generation by the District Level Officer.

The Framework for Implementation (FFI) of PMAY-G provides that the house construction should be completed within 12 months of sanctioning of house to the beneficiary.

Cumulative Physical progress report for Manipur as on 25th May, 2022

Target	Registered	Sanctioned	Instalment released			Houses Completed
			1st	2nd	3rd	
46166	44782	33337	20997	18167	16905	14916

Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011. The said beneficiary lists are submitted to the respective District Appellate Committees which finalised the Permanent Wait List (PWL) village/Gram Panchayat wise for the districts and are uploaded on Awaasoft portal. Those who deserves a

let @ Rs 12000/- are provided by the Government for construction of toilet to each beneficiary under Swach Bharat Mission. Also, 95 days of unskilled wage labour can be achieved under MGNREGA over and above the unit cost for house and toilet. All Payment to the beneficiaries un-

A total of Rs 22441.677 Lakhs has been released by Central Government and a total of Rs 2420.27 Lakhs has been released by the State Government so far.

(The writer is a Joint Secretary (Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Government of Manipur)