

Unicorns hit a century, reflects spirit of New India: PM Modi

Agency
New Delhi, May 29:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his monthly Sunday broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', lauded the growth of diversifying Indian Unicorns that are valued at more than '25 lakh crore and said it reflects the spirit of 'New India'.

"Despite the pandemic, our startups continued to create wealth and value... Something I consider more significant, is that the world of startups reflects the spirit of New India. Today, startups are not confined to metro cities, but entrepreneurs are also emerging from small cities and towns," said Prime Minister Modi in his 89th Mann Ki Baat episode. He added, that on May 5, the number of Unicorns in the country hit a century, each of which will have a turnover of at least '7,500 crores.

Highlighting the contribution of local startup lead-



ers, Sridhar Vembu and Meera Shenoy, PM Modi said, "Today, we have ample mentors that are creating a support system for startups in the country. I am confident that in the future, India will reach new heights in the startup world."

In his address to the nation, he also encouraged citizens to support women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) that will promote women's

empowerment and give momentum to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. Sharing an inspiring story from Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, PM Modi said he received a "special Thanjavur Doll" from a local SHG. In Thanjavur, lots of women SHGs have opened up that create artisanal items, in turn helping local poor families.

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Chief Minister attends All Assam Manipuri People's Convention 2022

IT News
Silchar, May 29:

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today attended the All Assam Manipuri People's Convention 2022 at Rajiv Bhawan, Silchar, Assam. The convention was organized by All Assam Manipuri Youths' Association (AAMYA).

On reaching the venue to attend the evening session of the All Assam Manipuri People's Convention, the Chief Minister was accorded a warm welcome by people of Manipuri communities of Assam.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the function, N. Biren Singh expressed his profound happiness for the huge turnout of Manipuris in Assam which include Meiteis, Meitei Pangal, etc. who came from every nook and corner of Assam to attend the convention.

N. Biren Singh stated that



the Manipuris residing in Assam and Manipur have unbreakable blood ties since time immemorial and added that we should always foster this spirit of brotherhood among us. It is believed that the Meiteis,

the Ahom of Assam and the Nagas once lived in harmony at Makhel village in Senapati District of Manipur, he stated and added that in an attempt to revive that good old memories or myth, the Reunited Heritage Park of Manipur will be constructed at the place.

Asserting that we should never forget the supreme sacrifices made by our forefathers in preserving and protecting our land, rich culture, tradition and heritage, the Chief Minister said that we should stand together against anyone who tries to distort our great history. He stated that due to internal disagreements among ourselves in the past, our forefathers gave room for external colonial and invasive powers to rule our land for example the Seven Years Devastation, British invasion, etc. As such, we should learn these lessons from history and always stand united as there is a saying that united we stand, divided we fall, he added.

Regarding the construction of a Manipur Bhawan in Assam, N. Biren Singh announced that the Manipur Government is working for the procurement of a land and announced that once the process is complete, a Cabinet decision will be taken very soon.

The Chief Minister ap-

pealed to the Manipuris in Assam to be loyal to the State and Country and added that any type grievances, may be educational, political, health or demographic which they couldn't approach to the Assam Government could be conveyed through him. He also highlighted priority will be also given to them, while visiting Manipur, for staying in the guest house for chiefs of all hill districts constructed in Imphal.

Minister L Sushindro Meitei; MLA Kongkham Robindro; Chief Advisor AAMYA Ksh. Kundan; Vice President IPSA Manipur Khurajiam Athouba; Manipur General Secretary Manipuri Sahitya Parishad Assam, Prof. Kh. Dhiren Singh also attended the function among others.

The morning session of the convention witnessed a discourse deliberating certain issues and prospects of Assam Manipuri people. The discourse, moderated by Khurajiam Athouba, Vice President IPSA Manipur, was attended by leaders of several Assam based Manipuri CSOs.

A special programme from actors and singers from Manipur and a martial arts show were highlights of the convention.

AR foils cross border smuggling of Narcotics and Timber

IT News
Imphal, May 29:

In two separate operations, Tengnoupal and Modi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) foiled cross border smuggling of narcotics and timber in Tengnoupal and Chandel district on May 28 and 29 respectively.

A statement of the IGAR (South) said that during routine checking of vehicles at Khudengthabi, troops of Assam Rifles intercepted a two wheeler at vehicle check post. On thorough search of the vehicle, 826 grams of brown sugar in 20 soap cases concealed in the vehicle were recovered. The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth Rs 1.65 crores.

In another operation, Assam Rifles troops intercepted four vehicles carrying illegal timber from across the border near Pallel. The seized timber was assessed to be worth Rs 32.48 lakhs.

The recovered items along with the apprehended smugglers were handed over to Moreh Police and Forest department, Chandel for further investigation.

Corrigendum

May 29, 2022 issue of the Imphal Times could not be published due to technical problem. The inconvenience caused to our well wishers and readers is regretted.

Sd/-
Editor

Manipur High Court directs for enrolment of Law degree students of LMS Law College as advocates

IT News
Imphal, May 29:

Double bench of the High Court of Manipur has directed the State Bar Council of Manipur to enroll degree passed students of LMS Law College affiliated under Dhanamanjuri University as advocates.

The court has directed the Bar Council of Manipur to facilitate the submission of forms by the students of the LMS Law college, who are eligible to participate in All India Bar Examination scheduled for June 2022 by providing them provisional enrollment in the Bar Council of Manipur.

The HC's direction came following a petition by Thongam Zingo Singh, Jeson

Ladumai, Leichombam Nikita Devi, Takhelmayum Macmilan and Takhenchangbam Shadishkanta Sharma, who are the L.L.B Degree passed out from LMS Law College, Imphal under Dhanamanjuri University in the year 2021.

They have filed a Public Interest Litigation to espouse the cause of about 84 students passed out of the DMU but have been deprived of enrollment as advocates by the State Bar Council on the ground that the DMU is not a recognized university by the Bar Council of India as on date.

The petitioners pleaded the HC to issue a Writ of Mandamus or other appropriate writs or directions or orders for redressal of the griev-

ances faced by 84 law graduates.

After hearing counsel for the petitioners M Gunedhor, Chief Justice of High Court Sanjay Kumar issued notices to the Centre, Manipur government, BCI, Manipur Bar Council, DMU, LMS Law College and the Manipur University, returnable on July 13, 2022.

The petitioners stated that representations have been filed before the concerned authorities for immediate actions to recognise the DMU by the BCI but to no avail.

The LMS Law College Imphal was established as a private college before its conversion to Government Law College before the establishment of Manipur University.

Online workshop on waste management for NE journalists held

IT News
Imphal, May 28:

The North Eastern States have the potential to generate crores of Rupees annually from selling compost out of biodegradable waste, recyclable dry waste and users charges and penalties.

This was conveyed by Solid waste management experts from New Delhi based research and advocacy organisation-Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) during an online briefing workshop for journalists from India's Northeastern region on Saturday.

On the existing systems of solid waste management

systems in the Northeastern states, another expert from CSE said that there are around 160 dumping sites across the region and Assam has the maximum number of dumping sites (66). Assam is followed by Arunachal Pradesh with 27 dumping sites, Nagaland with 23 sites, Manipur 21, Tripura 14, Meghalaya 6, Sikkim 2 and Mizoram just one. It may be noted that India has a total of 3159 dumpsites (according to CPCB) covering 10,000 hectares of land.

However 90 percent of the waste is dumped in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland. Eighty three percent of waste is dumped in Sikkim while 57 percent in Arunachal

Pradesh, 46 percent in Manipur, 33 percent in Tripura and just 11 percent in Mizoram.

Interestingly, around 193 metric tons of municipal solid waste was collected while 103 metric tons of waste was treated out of Manipur's 265 metric tons of municipal solid waste generated. But 86 metric tons goes to landfill areas per day as per the data provided by the CSE experts during the online media briefing.

On key challenges of the solid waste management in northeastern region, the experts said that the terrain in the region makes dumping easy while Solid Waste Management in town

panchayats are either very limited or non-existent. Women are almost a non-entity in the electoral politics and governance in India's northeastern region as Solid Waste Management is perceived to be a service and not a source of revenue.

Revenue to expenditure is less than 20% and no real effort to make Solid Waste Management inclusive, enforce source segregation, segregated collection, waste appropriate treatment, recovery and recycling.

After the presentations by the CSE experts, a question and answers session was also organised at the end of the online briefing.

MLA Sheikh Noorul Hassan organized Kshetrigao Farmers Meet

IT News
Imphal, May 29:

A first Phase of Kshetrigao Farmers Meet was organized today at the office of Kshetrigao AC MLA Sheikh Noorul Hassan at Kshetrigao Awang Leikai under the theme "Better production of crops in one year". The first phase of "Kshetrigao Farmers Meet 2022" was organised for Farmers of Gurupat Loukol and Yalapat Loukol.

The Meet was held for green revolution and multiple cropping in Kshetrigao Assembly Constituency under

the supervision of MLA Sheikh Noorul Hassan.

On the occasion Sheikh Noorul Hassan said that rich man from different places buy field from the Kshetrigao AC and made farm house instead paddy cultivation. He said that it is against the Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland of the Manipur State Government.

"It is my duty to protect the Paddy Land and help to all the Farmers for product of crops", Noorul Hassan said.

He appealed to all Farmers to seriously work for better production.

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Dissidence issue still dogging BJP in Tripura under new CM Manik saha

Trinamool congress has targeted to rope in disgruntled saffron cadres

By Ashis Biswas

With Assembly elections only eight months away, the ruling Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) in Tripura is not yet a united house. The central BJP leadership may have sought to combat negative anti-incumbency trends among common voters by replacing Mr Biplab Deb as Chief Minister by his colleague Mr Manik Saha., but that has not helped the saffrons much upto now.

It is a pre-poll tactic the BJP has used before and in some states it has worked. Mr. Deb's tenure in Tripura has been eventful, with the centre's generously financing the state's infrastructural development projects. These include modernising/upgrading the state's airport, providing it with top quality internet facilities, expanding its rail/road linkages with Bangladesh and Kolkata, among other things. Some projects are still under implementation, but broadly speaking, the centre/state governments can claim that they have tried hard to help Tripura get over its past record of poor development and economic backwardness.

The downside consists of a poor law and order situation, where the main opposition CPI(M) and Congress parties complain of blatantly unfair election tactics and sustained intimidation against their cadres/supporters. Democratic practices and norms have been systematically flouted by the BJP under Mr Deb, who also lost some friends and well wishers through controversial comments and statements occasionally. He had been pulled up by senior leaders for this.

The state party itself was split into pro and anti-Deb factions, as the Chief Minister dropped a Minister on one occasion and sidelined a few other leaders within the organisation. The divisions could not be concealed and despite the change of guards at the top, inner party differences remain as sharp as ever. This became evident over the demonstration by dissident elements over the selection of Mr Saha as the new Chief Minister. Mr Deb, it needs stressing, continues to remain effective within the organisation, according to Agartala-based media reports.

In 2023 assembly polls, Trinamool Congress will be a major player. Congressmen and CPI(M) leaders allege that as in Goa and Tripura earlier, the TMC's main objective in Tripura is to help the BJP by cutting into the share of votes traditionally won by the secular opposition, which is strongly denied by TMC leaders. Its initial foray into the state in 2021 was none too successful. Its highly expensive pre-poll campaign headed by major leaders like MP Abhishek Banerjee and others failed to win it a single seat in the civic polls!

Also, the familiar TMC strategy for 'growth', the main part of which is to wean away disgruntled leaders and workers of other parties, did not work over the years. The TMC's logic is that such leaders have a local base and a following which helps a new party strike its roots faster. It would take a new party much longer to begin its organizational work from the grassroots.

Unfortunately, whether from the Congress or the BJP, most leaders/others who joined the TMC lost little time to desert their new party on some pretext or other. The latest example occurred a few days ago when Mr Ashis Saha, former BJP leader who had joined the TMC, quit the party announcing that it(the TNC) had no programme or ideology and was only keen to cut into the secular vote, to help the BJP!

Some senior TMC leaders feel that their policy to encourage defections from other parties was bound to backfire occasionally, more so in smaller states like Goa or those in the Northeast. They had raised the matter in inner party discussions. But neither Mr Banerjee nor TMC's Adviser, poll specialist Prashant Kishor whose agency IPAC had done pre-poll surveys in Tripura, Goa and elsewhere before the party fought in local elections, saw any reason to discourage people from other parties from joining: their clinching argument was, the TMC must pursue a path of growth, which involved facing a few risks when it came to building up organisations in new areas.

As things now stand, there may be anti-B JP feelings among a sizable section of voters. While the power once enjoyed by the Congress may have declined, the CPI(M)-led Left forces and various tribal groups led by the indigenous IPFT still have a major following among the people. Despite supporting the BJP, the IPFT could well drive a harder bargain in pre-poll talks with the saffron party. As in most alliances, there are known differences between the tribal leaders and the BJP, which led to tribal hardliners occasionally calling for a 'break'. They have at times pressed for a restoration of tribal rule, too.

The LF too had ruled Tripura for many years before the B JP defeated them in the 2018 assembly polls. Even under BJP rule, there is hardly anyone in Tripura who can point an accusatory finger against former CPI(M) Chief Minister, the universally respected Mr Manik Sarkar. The BJP's chief grouse against the long Left rule is corruption, lack of progress and economic growth. The unemployment among youth reached a peak as there was little growth of industries.

As for the BJP, the trend of sustained dissidence within the state party against what is alleged to be the autocratic even dictatorial ways pursued by former CM Mr Deb may be a bigger problem for the central leadership to solve than other issues. The presence of the TMC on the sidelines of the electoral battles provides a unique opportunity for disgruntled BJP leaders/followers to inflict major damage to their present inner party opponents in the days ahead, unless better discipline prevails within the saffron party. Fortunately, the state BJP has some time on its hands to settle some internal issues. And the central leadership is serious in resolving the issues.

Chaudhary Charan Singh : The Messiah of Kisan



By: Ek Prabhat Kishore

Chaudhary Charan Singh, fifth Prime Minister of India is known as the "Kisan Messiah" because he struggled his whole life for the cause of farmers in the country. He was a versatile & multifaceted personality and made significant contribution to social, political, educational, literacy and journalism.

Born on 23rd December 1902 at Noorpur (Uttar Pradesh) in a peasant family, Charan Singh struggled his student life in Meerut and Agra. In 1927, he graduated in Law from Meerut College and started his work as an advocate at Ghaziabad. In 1928, he was married to Gayatri Devi (who was later elected as a member of the Lok Sabha). In childhood, he was highly influenced with the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and associated himself with Arya Samaj. As an Arya Samaji, he did not use caste as a rallying point and performed inter-caste marriages of his two daughters. He was highly influenced by Sant Kabir, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel.

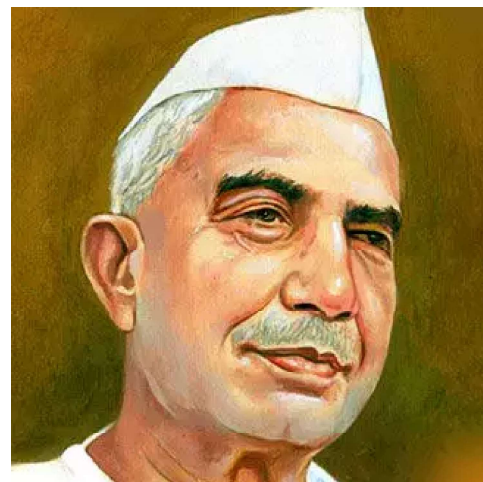
Charan Singh's political journey started in 1929, when he became a member of the Congress. He was imprisoned in 1930, 1940 and 1942 during the freedom movement. In 1937 he was elected to the United Province Vidhan Sabha. He was the chief architect of land reforms in UP. He introduced the Agriculture Produce Market Bill to safeguard the interests of farmers against the rapacity of traders. Later on most of the provinces of India adopted this bill.

In 1952, he became the Revenue Minister and on 1st July 1952 the Zamindari system was abolished through the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act in the UP Vidhan Sabha. In 1953, the Lekhpal system

was introduced in place of the Patwari system and in 1954 the Chakbandi Act was implemented in the state. In 1959, he publically opposed Jawahar Lal's Soviet-leaning economic and collective land policies at the Nagpur Congress Session. Being the son of the soil, his vision was clear that collective farming was not possible in the country and the farmers must have ownership right as against just a tiller.

Due to opposition of Nehru's Policy, his political career suffered a lot. His position in the Congress weakened, but the positive thing was that the peasant community started rallying behind him. On 1st April 1967, Chaudhary Saheb parted away from the Congress and formed the Bharatiya Kranti Dal. He joined hands with socialist leaders Raj Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and other opposition parties and became the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He served the State as CM since 3rd April 1967 to 25th February 1968 and again since 18th February 1970 to 1st October 1970. He implemented various welfare schemes for farmers and depressed communities. Due to his initiatives, salaries and various privileges of ministers in UP was drastically reduced.

In 1977, the Janata Party was formed with the merger of several non-Congress political parties, of which Charan Singh's Bharatiya Lok Dal was also a constituent. The Janata Party adopted the Lok Dal's party symbol "Haldhar Kisan" for the election. The Janata Party and its allies got 345 seats in the Lok Sabha election, out of which the erstwhile Bharatiya Jan Sangh faction got 102, Bharatiya Lok Dal faction 64, Socialist groups 35, Congress for Democracy 28 and rest others factions like Congress (O), Charan Singh was a strong contender for the post of Prime Minister as the number of MPs from his faction was next to that of the Jan Sangh and the leaders of Jan Sangh were not in the race. Jagjivan Ram was also trying to be elected as the leader of the party with the help of Jan Sangh and socialist groups and pressed for open election. But Jai Prakash Narayan and Acharya Kripalani, who were authorized to nominate the PM



candidate, went in favour of Congress (O) leader Morarji Desai with Charan Singh to hold the heavy-weight portfolio of the Home Ministry.

Following disagreement with PM Morarji Desai, Charan Singh resigned in June 1978; but was brought back to the Cabinet in February 1979 as Deputy PM along with Finance Ministry. Shortly there was rebellion in the Janata Party and in July 1979 break up in the Janata Party took place when 64 MPs, supporting Charan Singh, formed a separate group in the Lok Sabha. Chaudhary Charan Singh became the Prime Minister on 28th July 1979 when a coalition of the Janata Party (Charan faction) and the Congress (Socialist)-led by Y.B. Chauhan formed the government with outside support of the Indira Gandhi-led Congress (I). When he was to prove vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha; Indira Gandhi withdrew support and Charan Singh had to resign without facing the House. The Lok Sabha was dissolved and Singh worked as caretaker PM till 14th January 1980. Charan Singh said that he resigned because he was not ready to be blackmailed into withdrawing emergency-related court cases against Indira Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi.

Between 1946 to 1986, Charan Singh wrote several books namely "Abolition of Zamindari : Two Alternatives" (1947), "Joint Farming X-rayed : The Problem and Its Solution" (1959), "India's Poverty and Its Solution" (1964), "India's Economic Policy : The Gandhian Blueprint" (1978), "Economic Nightmare of India : Its Cause and Cure" (1981), and "Land Reforms in UP and the Kulaks" (1986). All his books and most of the articles written during his lifetime focused on villages and agriculture in India's political economy and planning.

Charan Singh was a true champion of farmers and whenever he got opportunity in various governments and organizations, he tried his best for the well-being of the Annadata. He was a thinker, fearless writer and agriculturist who used to inspire people. He took his last breath on 29th May 1987 after a long illness. On enlightening the path of Indian politics for decades through his determination, constructive leadership, nationalist vision, strong will-power, political proficiency and popularity, Chaudhary Charan Singh will always be memorable for the Indian masses.

(Author is a technocrat & educationist.)

How to get rid of Body Acne during Summer



By: Shahnaz Husain

While there's a lot to love about this time of the year acne can really ruin your fun.

Experiencing a higher level of acne breakouts during the summer is extremely common on both the face and the body.

During summer, acne not only appears on the face but also on chest, upper back, shoulders, and even the buttocks due to excessive sun exposure and heat. Be it pimples on arms in summer or summer pimples on body, they're everywhere. Different people get body acne for different reasons: genetics, oily skin or hormonal imbalances but there are a few lifestyle factors that can exacerbate it.

If you're someone who struggles with summer pimples on a routine basis, this one's for you. This summer, get rid of tight-fitting and occlusive clothes! Use more looser, lightweight breathable

fabric like cotton and linen especially while exercising to reduce friction on your most sensitive, acne-prone areas in the body. You can benefit from simple practices such as showering or changing their clothes more often to avoid sweat from sitting on the skin and blocking pores.

You need to pay attention to your cleansing routine during summers, as a lot of dirt and oil gets accumulated on the face which attracts acne and other skin concerns. The longer bacteria sits on your skin, the more closely it bonds with it, making it increasingly difficult to remove. So make sure that you wash your face at least twice a day using a gentle cleanser that cleanses your skin without much harm. A cleanser that contains acne-fighting ingredients like salicylic acid can exfoliate and inhibit inflammation

However washing your face more frequently can also lead to over washing and drying out of the skin, and induce acne.

If you have been working out and sweating the whole day, it's best to immediately take a bath and avoid acne on the body.

However, wiping your sweat with a damp cloth may also help prevent breakouts if you're short on space or time. Follow up with a light moisturizer and sunscreen before heading to your next stop. Also, once a week use a good exfoliant to

get rid of the dead skin accumulation and to clean your pores.

Ensure that hair and scalp are kept scrupulously clean. Keep the hair away from the face while you sleep. Wash pillow covers and towels in warm soapy water, after adding one teaspoon antiseptic lotion. Acne can also lead to scarring, which can be difficult to remove. So, it is important that an acne and oily-skin condition be checked from spreading.

Acne on the back is quite common, because back is very rich in oil glands. This makes the skin prone to blackheads, spots and pimples. One should pay extra attention to the back while bathing. Use a long-handled brush, loofah, or a rough washcloth to scrub the area gently while bathing. This keeps the pores clean and free of clogged pores.

Use an Ayurvedic medicated soap for bathing, which will help the acne condition on the back. In fact, anti-acne lotions and medicated ointments are also available. Sandalwood paste can be applied on the pimples, acne and boils on the back. If there is a rash, mix sandalwood paste with a little rose water and apply on the entire area. Wash it off with plain water after 20 minutes. Mix together one teaspoon cinnamon (dalchini) powder, half teaspoon methi seed powder, lemon juice and a few drops of honey. It should be a sticky paste. Apply it only on pimples, boils or acne and leave on

for a couple of hours, or even overnight.

A body scrub will also help to get rid of blackheads, which eventually lead to acne. You can make one at home by mixing rice flour with curd and pinch of turmeric. Apply the mixture and rub gently on the skin. You may need some help, or apply it with a long handled brush. Rub the mixture gently on the back and then wash off with plenty of water. This helps to remove dead cells, making the skin clearer and brighter. It also dislodges and discourages blackheads. In fact, a scrub will also help to minimize dark acne marks. Mix 2 tablespoons oats with egg white; apply it on the back and wash off when it dries. Lemon juice mixed with rose water in equal quantities can also be applied on the areas with dark acne marks. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes.

Acne can be the result of a congested system. Eat cereals and fibre-rich food and vegetables such as blueberries, grapefruit to detoxify body and clear your skin. If you have a persistent acne problem then food items like deep fried chips, French fries, pakodas, auto tikis etc are a strict no-no for you. Add the juice of a lemon to a glass of water and have it first thing in the morning.

You need to also understand that if your acne gets aggravated, visit a dermatologist immediately, because acne can spread and cause extensive scarring.

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Nepal Plane With 22 On Board, Including 4 Indians, Missing

Agency
New Delhi, May 29:

A small passenger plane operated by a private airline in Nepal went missing on Sunday with 22 people on board, including four Indians, airline officials said.

The Tara Air 9 NAET twin-engine aircraft lost contact while flying from the tourist town of Pokhara, some 200 km northwest of the capital, Kathmandu, to Jomsom, about 80 km to the northwest, they said. The aircraft, which was on a 15-minute scheduled flight, lost contact shortly after take-off at 9:55 am local

time.

"The aircraft was seen over the sky of Jomsom in Mustang district and then had diverted to Mt. Dhaulagiri after which it hadn't come into contact," Chief District Officer Netra Prasad Sharma was quoted as saying by a news agency.

The aircraft was hosting 4 Indians and 3 Japanese nationals. The remaining were Nepali citizens and the aircraft had 22 passengers including the crew, according to the State Television.

As per the police officials, the aircraft has been suspected to have crashed in

the "Titi" area of Lete in the mountainous Mustang district, which is the fifth-largest district of the Himalayan nation and hosts the pilgrimage of Muktinath Temple.

"Locals from Titi have called and informed us that they have heard an unusual sound as if there was some bang. We are deploying a helicopter to the area for the search operation," Ram Kumar Dani, DSP of District Police Office, Mustang told media.

The Nepal government has deployed two private helicopters from Mustang and Pokhara for the search for

missing aircraft. Nepal Army chopper is also being prepared to be deployed for the search, said Phadindra Mani Pokharel, spokesperson at Home Ministry said.

Tara Air boasts of having the "widest domestic flights network" in Nepal. "No other airlines in Nepal flies to the remote STOL (short takeoff and landing) sectors as extensively and frequently as we do. We transport essential supplies to the hinterlands, including food grains, medicines, relief materials and operate flights for rescue purposes," the airline website says.

The airline operates a fleet

of seven STOL aircrafts, comprising of five Twin Otter (DHC 6/300) and two Dornier (DO 228) aircrafts.

Nepal, home to the world's highest mountain, does have a record of accidents on its extensive domestic air network, with changeable weather and airstrips in difficult mountain locations.

In 2016, a Twin Otter turboprop aircraft operated by Tara Air crashed in the western district of Myagdi, leaving 23 people dead. Apart from three crew, 20 passengers, including a Chinese and one a Kuwaiti national, were on board the ill-fated flight.

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi- PM SVANidhi in the State of Manipur

PM-SVANidhi was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 1st, 2020, a special micro credit scheme for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been affected due to Covid-19 lockdown. Under this Scheme, the street vendors, who were vending within the limits of an urban local body as on 24th March, 2020, can avail working capital loan of up to ₹ 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within the tenure of one year. On timely and early repayment of loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on quarterly basis. The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of ₹ 100 per month. The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state, the timely launch of PM-SVANidhi by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has helped many street vendors in their most distressed time. 8616 Street Vendors had been able to resume their business that had come to a pause during the pandemic. The collateral free loan of Rs 10,000 has surely been a blessing not only to the street vendors but to their family members as well. The Scheme has enhanced the livelihood, improved financial condition and saved many from hunger during these difficult times.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh has been leading from the front and actively monitoring the progress since the launch of the scheme. It may be recalled that, Hon'ble Chief Minister had disbursed 4186 numbers of loans in 3 (three) phases:

- 1.1st Phase held on: 25th August 2020, 368 nos. of sanctions.
- 2.2nd Phase held on 17th September 2020, 803 nos. of sanctions.
- 3.3rd Phase held on 7th December 2021, 3015 nos. of sanctions.

This concerted effort by the State Government, led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh will go a long way in boosting the economic activities and financial health of the State and more particularly, the large section of the vending community, who are mostly women.

PM-SVANidhi Scheme have been empowering women street vendors, 94% of the loans disbursed were to women street vendors in the state. The street vendors have expressed appreciation for the hassle free application and disbursement of loan and for the support they have been given by both the Department and Banks under this scheme. The scheme has instilled self-confidence in street vendors especially women vendors and it is yielding qualitative changes in entrepreneurial behavior.

The scheme was extended in the district headquarters of all hill districts of Manipur on 29th December, 2020 considering the issues and challenges faced by street vendors of hill districts during the COVID crisis. The loan under PM-SVANidhi will help promote financial recovery of street vendors who suffered massive losses during the lockdown period and help them become self-reliant and self-sufficient for the future.

The Mission Directorate in co-ordination with Urban Local Bodies and Financial Institutions organize camps at ULB level regularly. Door to Door campaigns, phone calls to street vendors are regularly made encouraging them to repay and avail for 2nd tranche loan under the scheme.

Till date, 7425 street vendors are digitally onboarded. Camps are being organized at Bank branches in close co-ordination with ULBs for creation of awareness of digital payment to the street vendors. The progress of PM-SVANidhi is reviewed by SLBC Sub-Committee on Credit Disbursement and Financial performance of Banks.

The scheme aims to empower street vendors by not only extending loans to them, but also for their holistic development and economic upliftment. Street vendors from the State have poured in their appreciation towards the Government. Among the many testimonies received, Leishangthem Premabati from Lilong bazar appreciated the Government and Department for the hassle free loan which helped resume her business and improved her financial condition during COVID-19 crisis.

From Jiribam District, Thokchom Sobita & Khwairakpam Bimola expressed that the scheme has been a great support to their small businesses and have thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur and Jiribam Municipal Council for making it possible for them to avail loan.

Mayanglambam Victoria from Kakching availed the 1st tranche loan of PM-SVANidhi. The loan not only helped her but also her family during the COVID-19 pandemic. After repaying 1st tranche, she is now expecting the 2nd tranche of loan from the Government, likewise many other street vendors appreciated the scheme.

Manipur was announced as the top performing state among Hilly Region and North Eastern States category during Dec, 2020. To achieve maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries, regular meetings with banks are being taken up and necessary measures are also taken up to increase the performance. A dedicated team under the State Mission Director is continuously working in co-ordination with the District Headquarters, Banks and ULBs to make the scheme reach every eligible street vendors in the State. Special efforts are being made for taking up awareness activities in all the 27 ULBs and all Hill Districts to make this benefit accessible to all deserving individual engaged in vending.

PM-SVANidhi scheme has earned a positive outcome in the State. The successful implementation of PM-SVANidhi scheme will help in effectively addressing the economic hardship faced by the Street Vendors and making them an important stakeholder in the economic growth of the State.

Indian Navy decommissions INS Gomati after 34 years of service

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 29

The Indian Navy decommissioned INS Gomati (F 21), a Godavari class guided-missile frigate, which was in service for 34 years, in an elegant and solemn ceremony at Naval Dock Yard in South Mumbai at the sunset on Saturday.

The ship was paid off under the command of Captain Sudip Malik. The national flag, naval ensign, and the decommissioning pennant were lowered at sunset in the presence of Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, the Chief Guest for the ceremony, and some serving and retired former commanding officers of the ship.

INS Gomati derived her name from the vibrant river

Gomti and was commissioned on April 16, 1988, by then Defence minister K C Pant, at Mazgaon Dock Ltd, Mumbai. The third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates, INS Gomati was also the oldest warrior of the Western Fleet when decommissioned. The earliest avatar of INS Gomati was decommissioned in 1979.

On the occasion Vice Admiral, Ajendra Bahadur Singh said that Gomati was designed by the Indian Navy and built-in an Indian shipyard, and these were initial steps towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). The lessons learnt during the construction of this class of ships helped the Navy develop modern ships today, he added.

The ship was deployed in Operations Cactus, Parakram, and Rainbow and several bilateral and multinational



Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, FOC-in-C, WNC, interacting with officers on the occasion of decommissioning INS Gomati. (Photo credit: Siddhant Vernekar).

naval exercises. For her remarkable spirit and stellar contribution to national maritime security, she was twice awarded the coveted Unit Citation, once in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20.

The ship's legacy will be kept alive in an open-air museum

being set up on the picturesque banks of the Gomati river in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, where several of her combat systems will be displayed as military and war relics. The Uttar Pradesh government and the Indian Navy have also signed a

Memorandum of Understanding for the same. This will motivate the youth in the northern region to join the Navy, Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh said adding that the INS Gomati will be commissioned in a new avatar in the Indian Navy.

NCB Gives Clean Chit to Aryan Khan, Five Others in a Drugs Case

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, May 29:

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) which filed a charge sheet in a Mumbai court in connection with last year's 'drugs-on-Cordelia cruise' case, gave a clean chit to Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, on Friday.

The NCB did not name Aryan and five others due to a 'lack of sufficient evidence' in its charge sheet. They were arrested in October last and Aryan had spent 26 days in jail before he was granted bail by the Bombay High Court. After the arrest on October 02, 2021, he was finally out of jail on October 30, 2021.

In a statement, the NCB said that Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Deputy Director General (Operations) Sanjay Kumar Singh, carried out its probe in an objective manner and the touchstone of the principle of proof beyond reasonable doubt was applied.

"Based on the investigation by the SIT, a complaint against 14 persons under various sections of the NDPS Act is being filed and the complaint against rest six persons is not being filed due to lack of sufficient evidence".

Eight persons- Vikrant, Ishmeet, Arbaz, Ayan, Gomit, Nupur, Mohak, and Mumun were arrested by the NCB's

Mumbai zonal office on October 02, 2021, from the international cruise terminal, located in South Mumbai. The vessel was operated by a company called Cordelia. All the accused were found in possession of narcotics except Aryan (Khan) and Mohak (Jaiswal), the NCB said.

The NCB submitted its charge sheet before the registry and the special NDPS court, which will take cognizance after verification of the documents. The agency was granted a 60-day extension to file the charge sheet by the court, which ended on Friday.

Arrests in the case were made by the NCB's former Mumbai zonal Director Sameer Wankhede and his team. But on November 06, 2021, the NCB headquarters removed Wankhede from the probe and the case was transferred to a Delhi-based SIT under DDG (Operations) Sanjay Singh following a huge political controversy.

According to the officials, the key findings of the SIT included that Aryan Khan was never in possession of drugs. Hence, there was no need to take his phone and check his chats. The chats did not suggest Khan was part of any international syndicate.

Director-General of NCB SN Pradhan said that our officers investigated the case and collected evidence, which could be physically corroborated. Digital devices, contents on them,

and other circumstantial evidence need to be physically proved in court. Since no such evidence was found, the agency decided to drop the names of six accused persons from the charge sheet. However this charge sheet is not the finality of the case; if investigators find additional evidence during the trial, they may file a supplementary charge sheet.

The DG also said that there were procedural irregularities in the initial probe and therefore, the SIT was formed. The raid on the yacht was not video-recorded as mandated and the drugs recovered from multiple accused arrested in the case were shown as single recovery, which was a procedural lapse. A separate vigilance inquiry about the case is continuing and lapses on the part of any official if found would be dealt with firmly by the department, he said.

Speaking to the "Imphal Times", Lawyer Satish Maneshinde, who represented Aryan Khan in the case, said his client's arrest and 26-day custody were unjustified particularly when drugs were not found in his possession. "...there was no evidence of any kind. There was no material of any nature of the violation of any law much less the NDPS Act. We are happy that the SIT objectively investigated the case and decided not to file a charge-sheet

against Aryan Khan for lack of sufficient evidence."

Wankhede had led a raid on the Cordelia cruise ship and his team had seized 13 grams of cocaine, five grams of mephedrone, 21 grams of marijuana, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy), and 1.33 lakh in cash from the vessel. Subsequently Prabhakar Sail, a key NCB witness, had alleged that Wankhede was part of a Rs 25 crore extortion racket targeting

Khan. He alleged he was forced to sign sheets of blank paper.

The entire episode had turned into a war of attrition between Wankhede and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik who had accused Wankhede of falsely implicating people in drug cases and running an extortion racket. Later Malik himself was booked on charges of money laundering in some other case by the enforcement directorate.

R.C. Book Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost the Registration Book of my Maruti ALTO LXI (four wheeler) vehicle bearing Registration No. MN 01 1507, issued by the Transport Department, Govt. of Manipur on the way between Patsoi to Sanghaithal on May 25, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Longjam Nirmal Kumar
S/o Longjam Gopal Singh
Keishamthong Maning Longjam Leikai
Imphal - 795001

R.C. Book Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost the Registration Book of the four wheeler i10 car, Model 2008, owned by Bhim Poudyal and bearing registration No. MN03A 3074 issued by the Department of Transport, Govt. of Manipur, on the way between Porompat and Kongba in Imphal East on May 27, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Moirangthem Arbin Singh
S/o M. Prafulla Singh
Kakching Mayai Leikai,
Kakching District, Manipur
Phone No. - 9366318104

Assam CM issues show-cause notice to minister Sanjay Kishan for apologising to ULFA-I chief

Courtesy: The Print
Guwahati (Assam), May 29:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has issued a show-cause notice to his cabinet colleague and Tea Tribes and Employment Minister Sanjay Kishan for apologising to the chief of banned outfit United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) (ULFA-I) Paresh Baruah.

According to Sources, the Assam Chief Minister asked the Minister of Tribes and Employment department to explain why



he had apologised to Paresh Baruah alias Paresh Asom.

Earlier, the Assam Minister and BJP legislator

from Tinsukia, Sanjay Kishan, on May 15, publicly apologized for his remark against Paresh Baruah after receiving a threat from the militant outfit following his statement against the ULFA-I chief.

Kishan had said sorry to the ULFA(I) chief Paresh Baruah for calling him a 'liar'.

Baruah had asked Kishan to either apologise for his remark or be "boycotted" from entering Assam's Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.

Assam Rifles conducts Medical Camp

IT News
Imphal, May 29:

Moreh Battalion under the aegis of IGAR(S) conducted a medical camp at Chalsong village, Tengnoupal district today.

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



As part of medical camp, information on various aspects

were provided to include hygiene, sanitation, COVID-19, lifestyle diseases etc by Medi-

cal Officer of Assam Rifles.

Total 155 locals were benefited from medical camp.

Contd. from Page 1

MLA Sheikh Noorul Hassan....

MLA Noorul said that pilot project will be taken up at Chanam Loukol, Gurupat Loukol and Yarpalpat Loukol of Kshetrigao AC.

Noorul Hassan also inspected Naharup Thongjao with officials of the related department and inquired the condition of the dam. He assured

to make the dam functional after some times.

Kshetrigao Kendra is mainly inhabited by Farmers. Noorul Hassan said that he will

focus more in agriculture.

The MLA also drew the attention of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to take up more programme on agriculture sector.

India reports 2,828 new COVID-19 cases, 14 deaths

Agency
New Delhi, May 29:

With 2,828 new coronavirus infections being recorded in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,31,53,043, while the active cases increased to 17,087, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on May 29.

The death toll climbed to 5,24,586 with 14 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was

recorded at 98.74 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 779 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.60 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was 0.56 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,11,370, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has ex-

ceeded 193.28 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

The 14 new fatalities include 13 from Kerala and one from Jharkhand.

Unicorns hit a century, reflects spirit....

With the International Yoga Day coming up on June 21, the Prime Minister said it will be celebrated in 75 significant locations across the country, keeping in mind the festivities of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He added that this year, Indian Missions across the world are taking part in a creative event called 'Guardian Ring', where the movement of the Sun will be celebrated.

From east to west, at sunrise, Indian Missions will commence yoga practices. Talking about his recent trip to Japan, the Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of an art director, Hiroshi Koike, who started the Mahabharata Project in Cambodia, which is ongoing for the past nine years. Each year, he travels to

a different part of Asia, teams up with local artists and produces parts of the Mahabharata.

In his monthly radio address on Sunday, PM Modi also spoke about the need for keeping pilgrimage sites, such as Char Dham, clean. "People are sharing their positive experiences of the Char Dham Yatra on social media, but I have also seen complaints of devotees finding heaps of litter on the way to the pilgrimages," the PM said. He added, "Pilgrimage is incomplete without service to these sacred places." Noting the efforts of three citizens, Ram Bhupal Reddy and Kunwar Singh and his brother Shyam Singh, who donated their life savings and pension to the

development of society, PM Modi said, "If there is dedication and seriousness towards our duties, then even a single person can change the future of the whole society."

Modi said the values of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan should be kept in mind while doing pilgrimage journeys so others are not inconvenienced.

The Prime Minister talked about a range of topics, from the 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' initiative to his recent visit to Japan. Modi on also touched upon the issue of start-ups in India, and growing unicorns.

"A few days ago I had gone to Japan. Amid many of my programs, I got chance to meet some wonderful personalities. I want to discuss about them. Though they belong to

Japan, they harbour amazing attachment & love for India. One of them is Hiroshi Koike, well-known Art Director," says PM Modi on Japan visit.

"Covid-19 situation in the whole world is better now. Because of enhanced vaccination coverage, people are coming out in large numbers," says PM Modi.

"Devotees in Kedarnath are upset over the litter spread by some pilgrims. It is not right that we go to a holy pilgrimage and find heaps of litter there," says PM Modi.

"Devotees in Kedarnath are upset over the litter spread by some pilgrims. It is not right that we go to a holy pilgrimage and find heaps of litter there," says PM Modi.

Sports

Real Madrid crowned champions of Europe for the 14th time after Courtois heroics deny Liverpool

Agency
Stade de France, May 29:

There were 13 previous triumphs in what we used to call the European Cup, when at times Real Madrid swept to glory to seize the crown of Europe, but this, their 14th, showcased the finessing of the great Champions League trophy winning machine – deadly when it matters most.

They struck just before the hour, with a goal from the quicksilver Vinicius Junior, appearing from nowhere on the Paris night as if whipped out of a sleeve to decide the most mediocre of finals. The possession of the ball, and the puppyish enthusiasm to play – that belonged entirely to Jürgen Klopp's players. It is that which has propelled them to two trophies already this season, as well as to within a single point of the league title and this final too. Against the Madrid machine it was held at bay and then slowly, inexorably extinguished.

The killer instinct – this generation of Madrid players simply have it. As they fell back into shape time and time again, to shut down the usual passing routes and attack channels of Liverpool – the likes of Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and Casemiro were feeling their way through a familiar set of tunes. This is how they play now in the dusk of their careers and one cannot argue that it is anything



but effective. They are the last survivors of a group of players who have remarkably now won five out of the last nine Champions League titles.

History will look back in some wonder at how they adapted and refined their more effusive game of the midpoint of the previous decade into this precise pinpointing of the game's key moments. That allied to the capacity to endure through its most difficult moments is what makes them so formidable. Carlo Ancelotti won his record fourth Champions League as a coach with his goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois his outstanding player.

At the end, the man who was still Everton manager this time last year sat down casually on the lip of the presentation stage

having received his medal and waited for his players to get theirs.

Madrid started their campaign on Sept 28 with a home defeat to the Romanian side Sheriff Tiraspol, one of the great Cup shocks of the modern era. In each of the knockout rounds they lost one of the legs they played, to Paris Saint-Germain, to Chelsea and then in the semi-final to Manchester City. They have, however, hung in there to keep on winning by the most slender of margins and this victory was testament to that resilience.

For Klopp and his players, in a game delayed by the chaotic scenes outside that saw hundreds of ticketed Liverpool fans locked out, this was the final that barely happened. The

64th game of their season needed one of the performances of the year to defeat these battle-hardened Champions League winners, and what Liverpool had was just not enough. They created some chances but the great forward line never fired. Thiago Alcantara and Fabinho both returned from injury and perhaps it was too soon.

Klopp's players had 24 shots on the night, the most for any losing Champions League finalist. They have played three finals this season and not scored a goal in any of them. Mohamed Salah's six shots on target were the most of any player in a Champions League final but there was no goal to show for it.

There had seemed to be some doubt as to whether

Thiago would play in the first place. Before the original kick-off at 9pm local time he had been passing the ball back and forth with a member of staff away from the starting XI group. When that finished he put an arm around Naby Keita who had been named on the bench but hitherto had been preparing with the rest of the starters. The pair had a chat and there were 11 outfield players in the final Liverpool warm-up. It was Thiago who remained in the starting line-up.

Against the conventional deep-lying defence, Liverpool tend to find a way but this one was organised very differently. Klopp's players dominated the early part of the game, and they had the ball in advanced positions, although the threat from Karim Benzema and Vinicius was always there. That was to come for Liverpool – an inevitability at some point. The question was whether they could break through before then.

The best efforts they managed were stopped by Courtois. He slapped away a scuffed shot from Salah from arguably the best move of the half from Liverpool when Thiago had opened up the pitch with a big, precise hit out to the far right to Jordan Henderson and then Trent Alexander-Arnold had crossed. On 21 minutes the Belgian thrust out a giant right hand and pushed Sadio Mané's shot onto the post.

Asia Cup hockey: India beat Japan 2-1 in first Super 4 league match, avenge pool loss

Agency
Istanbul, May 29:

The Indian men's hockey team scored two fantastic field goals to beat Japan 2-1 in its first Super 4 league match and avenge its loss in the pool stage of the Asia Cup on Saturday. The defending champions, who lost 2-5 against Japan in the pool stage, scored two eye-catching field goals through Manjeet (8th minute) and Pawan Rajbhar (35th) to register a narrow win.

Japan's lone goal came from a penalty corner through Takuma Niwa in the 18th minute. Japan threatened India initially and secured a penalty corner as early as in the opening minute but the Indians thwarted the danger. The Indians grew in confidence and got their footing as the match progressed.

It was a moment of brilliance from Manjeet that handed India the lead. He made a brilliant solo run down the left flank after receiving a pass from Pawan Rajbhar and used 3D skills to perfection to beat Takashi Yoshikawa under

the Japanese bar.

Maninder Singh earned India a penalty corner in the 13th minute but Nilam Sanjeev Xess' effort was saved by the Japanese defence. As was the case in the first quarter, the Japanese started the second 15 minutes on a promising note and secured a penalty corner in the 18th minute from which Takuma Niwa scored from a rebound after Ken Nagayoshi's initial flick was saved by Indian goalkeeper Karkera.

Pepped up by the goal, Japan continued to put pressure on the Indian defence and earned two more penalty corners, which the Indian defence kept at bay. Minutes later, Karthi Selvam missed a golden chance as he failed to get past Japanese goalie Yoshikawa from one-one-one situation.

Rajbhar restored India's lead five minutes into the second half, slotting home from close range after being set up by Uttam Singh's brilliant stick work. Five minutes later, India conceded another penalty corner but the Japanese failed to capitalise on the chance.