

## Chief Minister inaugurates 10 bed ICU Ward and Tele ICU Hub

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today inaugurated a 10 Bed ICU Ward and TeleICU Hub at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), Imphal. The Inaugural Function which was held at the Auditorium of JNIMS was organised by Directorate of Health Services, Government of Manipur.

Apart from JNIMS, Imphal, TeleICU will be supported at District Hospital, Ukhrul; Community Health Centre (CHC), Sekmai; District Hospital, Jiribam; CHC, Nungba; CHC, Kangpokpi; District Hospital, Kamjong; Sub-District Hospital, Moreh; District Hospital, Parbung; District Hospital, Bishnupur; CHC, Kakching; District Hospital, Senapati; District Hospital, Thoubal; District Hospital, Chandel; District Hospital, Tamenglong and District Hospital, Churachandpur.

With the TeleICU facilities, patients being treated at Intensive Care Units of Districts hospitals and other TeleICU supported hospitals will be able to access observation by specialist doctors through the TeleICU Hub set up at JNIMS. JNIMS will act as the teleconsultation hub. It will share expertise and provide handholding support to the doctors in District Hospitals in delivery of critical care services in rural areas.



Speaking at the inaugural function, N. Biren Singh lauded the team of 10 Bed ICU project for taking up such a useful initiative to provide humanitarian service to the people. He added that the TeleICU would help address, to some extent, the problem faced due to shortage of specialist doctors at health centres of different districts. On seeing, he expressed his appreciation for using quality equipments and machines for the TeleICU Hub at JNIMS.

Stating that health should be the first priority, he maintained that there shouldn't be any compromise on the quality of equipments procured for use in hospitals and health centres and added that the State Government would not

tolerate this matter. He stressed the need to perform our duties sincerely, maintaining our professional integrity and ethics. Mentioning that doctors and nurses are not less than God to their patients, he appealed to them to freely come up with their grievances, if any, but not resort to any form of disturbance to their humanitarian service for patients.

Continuing that the State had witnessed development in many sectors, the Chief Minister informed that the State Government had been discussing to set up a hospital at AIIMS level and added that sanction for construction of a maternity hospital had been accorded. He also expressed his Government's

strong stand against corruption in any form and stressed the necessity of giving awareness against corruption so that the same could be rooted out from grass root level.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, CAF & PD Minister Leishangthem Susindro, Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo, MLA for Keirao AC L. Rameshwar, MLA for Lamlai, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary V. Vumlungmang, Managing Director, eGov Srikanth Nadhamuni, Director, Health Service Dr. K. Rajo, Director, JNIMS Laishram Deben, doctors and nurses also attended the inaugural function among others.

## Media fraternity suspends boycott to Manipur Government related news

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Following assurance by the new Information and publicity Minister, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh to clear the pending advertisement bill, the Media fraternity in Manipur has resolved to suspend the ongoing boycott of Manipur government related news over non payment of advertisement bills by the state government.

The resolution was taken following a meeting of the representatives of the publishers, media organisations, All Manipur

Working Journalists Union, Editors Guild Manipur and the Manipur Hill Journalists Union with the newly inducted IPR Minister Sapam Ranjan.

The meeting initiated by the Chief Minister N Biren Singh, discussed the issue of pending bills running into crores of rupees laying with various government department. The new IPR Minister on his part informed the media delegate that departments under him, particularly NRHM, under Health Department were already processing bills to be released in a very short time. He also said that he

was new to the department and assured the delegates that he will hold a meeting with his officers and take up every possible measure and appealed to the delegate to give him some time.

A joint meeting of the media bodies chaired by the AMWJU President, W Shyamjai, EGM President KhKhogen and President MHJU, Peter Adani, after deliberating on the outcome of the meeting decided to suspend the media boycott of the Manipur government news and advertisement with effect from 4th May 2022.

## CM assures justice over the death of Arambam Nanao; YFPHR condemn

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today assured justice to the death of Arambam Nanao who was allegedly died due to atrocity by a police officer. Taking to a Cable TV news, the Chief Minister who is presently at Guwahati said that he had ordered to investigate over the issue and he have been reported that the SI allegedly involved had not taken prior permission from his higher up. The SI Th Jitendro Singh has been suspended and arrest warrant against him have been issued, the CM said.

Meanwhile, MLA RK Imo of Sagolband Assembly constituency had visited the

residence of the victim and assured justice for Nanao.

Arambam Nanao (37) s/o (L) Dhananjay of Sagolband Kangabam Leikai was reported to have died while in custody of a team of police led by SI Jitendro. The police team picked him up from his residence on the allegation of not returning the borrowed Gold by Imphal Police station.

Meanwhile, Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) condemn the act of police for the illegal arrest of civilian without any warrant.

"Such an act of misuse of power committed by the police with impunity cannot be accepted by the people. We could learn that some of the police officers are exercising

their power just to fulfill their individuals needs by forgetting the fact that they are here to protect its citizen", the YFPHR statement said.

The YFPHR urged the authority for immediate investigation and stringent action against those police personnels involved in the killing of Nanao and other individuals who have instigated to arrest Nanao may also be punished according to the rule of law.

The YFPHR also urged the Department of Home to terminate and prosecute those police personnel involved in the killing of Nanao and also urge the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) to take up suo motto urgently and monitor the investigation process.

## IBSD kicks off fortnight observation of Swachhata Pakhwada-2022

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal kicked off the fortnight observation of Swachhata Pakhwada-2022

with the cleaning of its Takypat campus yesterday.

The Swachhata Pakhwada launched by Government of India, is a fortnight-long program observed to ensure mass participation of citizens in Swachhata activities and to

truly transform Swachh Bharat into a citizen's movement.

The cleaning of the campus and its approach road from Takypat road was led by Prof. Pulok Mukherjee, Director of the institute and joined by scientists, students and other

staff members. In continuation of the programme, a cleaning and collection of plastics in and around Manipur Science Centre and IBSD campus was carried out. A series of activities have been planned during this fortnight event.

## One day North East Festival for Weavers organized

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Weavers' Service Centre, Imphal has organized one day North East Festival in its premises at Porompat, Imphal today as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75th Year of Independence by inviting state/national awardees, handloom weavers, designers, entrepreneurs, handloom agencies, production companies, eminent handloom personalities of the state. Dr. Ksh. Tama, Upadhyaksha, Zila Parishad, Imphal East graded the function as Chief Guest and Dr. M. Srinivasa Rao, General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Manipur Regional Office presided over the function. Lead Bank Manager, PNB, Imphal and representatives from



NABARD, MSME Development Institute,

Imphal, State Rural Livelihood Mission, Manipur also attended in the function as resource persons. About 250 weavers attended in the function

H.K. Baro, Deputy Director while delivering welcome and key-note address high-

lighted the main purpose for organizing the North East Festival and also disseminated information of the major initiatives of the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles for the development of handloom sector by power point presentation. Resource persons present in the function also highlighted about

various schemes being launched by their respective organizations for the welfare of handloom weavers of the state.

National Awardees (Handloom) have been felicitated during the function. Pahechan Cards have been distributed to handloom weavers. Certificates for SAMARTH training program have also been distributed to the weavers who have undergone training under SAMARTH scheme.

Leaflet containing various schemes of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India such as Cluster Development Programme, India Handloom Brand, Handloom Mark etc was also distributed to all the participants. Cloth samples, paper designs developed by WSC, Imphal were also displayed during the function.

## NGOs federation denounces attack to staffs of drug treatment center

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Members of the Federation of Indian NGO's on Drug Abuse prevention, Manipur Branch, Child line Imphal West and staffs of IWDCD expressed strong condemnation to the attack on the staffs of the drug treatment centre and Childline implemented by Integrated Women and Children at Thangmeiband Yumnam Leikai by around 50 to 70 staffs of PUNYA HYUNDAI, PUNYA HONDA, PUYNA TOYOTA, KIA Imphal, Manipur lead by its proprietor Andy Mangsatabam, General Manager RK. Prem, Manager Ch. Kanan, Service Manager L. Popo on the 30th April at around 9:15am.

A statement by the federation said that the large

number of people forcibly entered the premises by breaking the door and manhandled the staffs not sparing even the female staffs.

"Female staffs were physically abused and threatened. The proprietor personally warned one lady staff that she will be summoned in the hills. Mobile of the staffs were forcibly snatched from them. Four of the staffs including 3 females had undertaken medical treatment in the hospital for the injuries they got inflicted in violent attack. They threatened to close the Drug Rehabilitation Centre and 24x7 Childline office", the statement said.

The federation thanked the Manipur Police for taking up the matter with priority and registering an FIR against the leaders namely Andy Mangsatabam, RK.

Prem, Ch. Kanan and L. Popo.

The federation also urged the law enforcing agencies to register such FIR to the remaining staffs who took part in that crime by identifying them from the videos/CCTV Footage which has been submitted already.

"In contrary to the fact cited above it is very unfortunate that the said perpetrators who assaulted the female staffs of our organization, have again lodged counter complain against us to the police", the statement said and added that people who have no respect of the law especially the modesty of women in particular, taking the law in their own hands and attacking to innocent women staffs needs to be dealt severely by the concern authorities as per the law of the land.

# From bicycle to mangoes all things turned turtle

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



First it was Covid pandemic, then Russia's attack on Ukraine, and now the harsh weather, all these obstacles shook India and all the countries of the world. The spread of

Coronavirus is largely under control; and if we talk about the Russian aggression, that too will end sooner or later. But the trouble before humanity will still remain, because the threat of global warming is staring in the eyes. Military action anywhere largely affects the climate. For example, due to the presence of troops on the Siachen Glacier on the Indo-Pak border, the snow keeps melting, disturbing the environmental balance. Individuals, markets and human health, all got affected by the recent troubles. Maintaining immunity at the time of pandemic was the top priority of one and all. To keep the body fit, cycling has been recommended from the beginning. In the last two years, people bought bicycles on a large scale and fulfilled their dream of pedaling. During this time a large number of cycles were sold and the cycle industry thought of competing with China. Then the Ukraine war started and the whole plan turned upside down.

Right now the condition is that cycle companies have to reduce their production by 50 percent. Raw materials like steel, nickel, chrome salt, rubber and carbon black are needed to manufacture a bicycle. The Ukraine war disrupted supply lines and doubled the price of steel. The cost of the remaining raw materials also increased by 30 percent. Because of this, the cycle industry is facing a loss of 30 million rupees every month. Most of the bicycles in the world are made in China, while India is at number two. The biggest center of bicycle production in the country is the city of Ludhiana in Punjab. Major cycle brands like Hero, Avon and United are present in Ludhiana. Similarly, the newspaper industry also suffered, first by Corona and now due to the Ukraine war. In fact, newsprint is not reaching on time due to disruption in the global supply lines. This has caused the price rise of the newsprint. In addition to paper, ink and aluminum plates are also used to print newspapers. All these raw materials have become costlier by 15 to 22 percent, due to which newspaper publishers are facing challenges. Despite this, the cost of a newspaper in India is much lower than in other countries.

Due to the Russia-Ukraine war, inflation has increased all over the world, but it has more impact on European countries. In countries like Germany, Spain, Italy, rationing is being done on buying goods from departmental stores, that is, people cannot buy things in the quantity they want. The racks of edible oils are seen empty and there is also a shortage of wheat flour. Not only lemon, but mango has also been affected by the weather this season. Lemon crops were destroyed in Maharashtra and Gujarat due to storms last year. Similarly, this time owing to the increase in temperature and untimely rains in some states, the mango blossom has withered, due to which the mango production has been affected. That is why this time mangoes are being sold at double the price and the supply is also less.

## Press Freedom is essential for democracy



By: Er Prabhat Kishore

Each time a political party in power is unable to withstand public criticism; it considers tightening the screw on the media. The freedom of the press depends upon free functioning of government. So the government should try to keep the press free. Only a free press can serve the people best.

There is lot of controversy about freedom of Press. What would be the duty of the Press, if it finds that the administrative machinery of a particular government is sloth, or its economic policy is extremely sluggish and the government would not care to implement the

promises made to the electorate? In such a case a responsible newspaper would surely criticize the inaction of that government? If the newspaper confines its journalistic activities only by publishing the official press-notes, then which agency would point out the lapses of the government? Highlighting lapses of the government is surely the duty of responsible journalists. The press has been given the responsibility of checking and balancing the administration and the government. Whenever there is a social evil lurking or corruption and oppression happens, the press is the first one to raise a voice.

In fact, a very senior and well known journalist wrote almost in identical forms a letter to Mrs Indira Gandhi during the emergency period in 1974. He drew her attention to the restriction imposed on newspapers. A conscientious journalist must weigh the viewpoints very carefully and draw his own conclusion independently. But, what Mrs Gandhi's Sachivalaya wrote in reply is also remarkable: "Because of the restrictions imposed on newspapers, situation in the entire country has changed during the past days. Freedom of Press is only a part of the freedom of individuals and all over the world in times of emergency this freedom is curbed. Besides, the Press has used the freedom of press in an unwarranted manner. Not only false and mischievous reports have found its way in the Press, but these have been innumerable instances of inadvertent and malicious writings in mass newspapers."

Now a journalist must carefully study both points of view and he should shape his own career as per the dictates of his own conscience. Mrs Gandhi's father, Mr Jawahar Lal Nehru was of course extremely liberal. He once said, "I am against any sort of restrictions on Press, in spite of the fact that I know there is danger in such a policy." But if followed as advocated by Nehru, there may emerge a situation in the state which might be difficult to manage. Irresponsible men in the profession of 'Journalism' are those who may cause national or international complications by scurrilous and irresponsible writings. Thus the question arises whether reasonable restrictions on press's freedom are desirable or a complete press freedom is desirable?

contd. on page 3

# International Day of Sun



By: N. Munal Meitei

pose of Sun Day is to attract the attention of the public to the benefits and opportunities presented by sustainable energy sources and their use as the solution for the prevailing ecological challenges. We wish to take part this day for a more green and ecologically conscious future of the mother earth.

Renewable energy can play an important role in energy security and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Using renewable energy can help to reduce energy imports and reduce fossil fuel use which is the largest driver for climate change putting all of us in the environmental catastrophes like extreme weather, heat waves, wild fires, heavy cyclones and storms, drought, famine, pollution, sea level rise, biodiversity lost, illegal immigrants, un-employment and pandemics etc. visibly losing Earth's vitality and pristineness. India saw the warmest March this year since IMD began keeping records 122 years ago amid a 71% rain deficit and the whole country is expected to face the hottest year this time.

Using more renewable energy can lower the prices of and demand for natural gas and coal by increasing competition and diversifying our energy supplies. And an increased reliance on renewable energy can help protect consumers when fossil fuel prices spike. Without heat from the Sun, Earth would freeze. There would be no winds, no clouds, no water and no life.

Sun is essential to agriculture which takes the key role in human civilization. Drying food using sun light prevented crops from spoiling. This surplus of food allowed for denser populations and structured societies. Solar power - the conversion of sunlight into electricity - is yet another application of the modern technologies. Maximizing the solar technologies could reduce the energy dependency on fossil fuels. This change could significantly improve the level of environmental pollution in the world. Solar cells have been developed for calculators, watches, commercial buildings, stadiums, telecommunication industries and satellites.

Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas, using to get power sectors produce almost 80% of all our greenhouse gases causing to global warming. Plus, they are non-renewable and limited supply. Combating climate change is the overarching goal of the Paris Agreement. The signatories agreed to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This target can only be achieved if we turn into the solar and other renewable energy sources.

Most sources of renewable energy emits no or low emissions. In addition to deforestation, agriculture and cattle farming, the combustion of fossil energy resources increases the air pollution. Renewable sources such as wind power,

hydro power, tidal, geothermal and biomass provide energy without increasing these levels. Current figures indicate that the share of energy consumption covered by renewable energy is increasing worldwide from around 6% in 2000 to around 29% in 2021.

The enormous effect of the Sun on Earth has been recognized since prehistoric times. The Sun was thought of by many cultures as the God. The synodic rotation of Earth and its orbit around the Sun are the basis for all the solar calendars.

The unique feature of using the solar power is that by using the solar power, we do not affect the energy balance of the planet. Solar power is the one of our planet's most abundant, freely available, less expensive and the most environmentally friendly sources. It allows to avoid the extraction and burning of fuel that is poisoning and suffocating the planet. Today, many devices are manufactured to run on solar batteries for lighting the street, residents of remote settlements away from the cities, owners of private houses and garden plots.

Thus, we all should know the importance of solar energy for the planet and our own survival. Life is possible on the Earth only with the Sun. Therefore, with coming of International Day of the Sun - 2022, let's use Solar and other renewable energy sources, plant more trees and do everything environment friendly activities for sake of the mother Earth and a green and beautiful planet for the humanity and the future generations.

(Environmental list, Email: nmunal@yahoo.in)

# Minority Persecution In India: A Propaganda By Christian Outfits

By: W Rorrkychand Singh



To malign the image of India and its long-cherished syncretic culture in the International arena, some Christian outfits like Evangelical Fellowship of India-Religious Liberty Commission (EFI-RLC), United Christian Forum (UFC), Persecution Relief, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), International Christian Concern (ICC, US-based Christian Human Rights Organisation) and Federation of Indian American Christian Organisation of North America (FIACONA, US-based organisation of Indian American Christians) have been disseminating unverified inputs of alleged atrocities on Christians in India by tweaking some minor incidents and even accidents as incidents of violence against Christians in India.

Also, the growing stature of India in the international platform has, of late, become an eyesore for these Christian agencies that run anti-Indian propaganda. FIACONA recently released its annual report 2022 on April 06, 2022, highlighting alleged atrocities on Christians in India based on reports of UCF, EFI-RLC etc. It claimed that Fr. Stan Swamy was arrested by Indian Intelligence Agencies on a fabricated charge. However, in reality, he was arrested by NIA on charges of links with 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence and Maoists and therefore, UAPA was invoked against him. The Roman Catholic priest was arrested in June 2018 in Ranchi on similar accusations.

Similarly, in its March 2022 edition of the magazine, 'Persecution' ICC alleged the BJP regime of the sudden rise in persecution of Christians in India since 2014 and side-stepping issues of targeted violence by Hindu radicals against minorities. The report underlined abuse of anti-conversion Acts as a tool to further Hindu radical violence against mi-

norities, blocking of foreign contributions to numerous Christian charities etc. But, the report seems to have relied on the uncorroborated inputs and is baseless as it has not provided any evidence of the incidents. A significant decrease has been noticed in communal incidence between Hindus and Christians during the period (2014-2021) as compared to the period (2006-2013). The incidents of communal clashes have reduced by 43%, while the number of deaths has also decreased by 87%.

On the allegation of the spike in attacks on Christian and prayer meetings in the wake of anti-conversion laws, it is to be noted that such laws were enacted in Arunachal Pradesh (not implemented), Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand to deal with conversion through force, allurements and fraudulent means. None of these laws was meant to prevent conversion by choice and no instance of violence against minorities was noticed while implementing such laws.

Further, based on the inputs of UCF, Persecution Relief and ADF, EFI-RLC has released its annual report (February 15, 2022) alleging persecution of Christians in India and hesitancy of Police to record the crimes/purported attacks. But, it has been found that the report seems to be published without any evidence. The fact is that police have been following due procedure and registering cases against culprits irrespective of caste/creed/religion.

In another example of fake propaganda churn out by Christian missionaries, EFI-RLC has reported an incident involving attack on a Christian couple MasaKunjami and Mrs SunnyKunjami by SodiJoga, Sodia Deva and Sodi Ganga at Kora village, Sukma district, Chhattisgarh (Jan 07, 2021) due to their Christian belief. After the fact checks, however, revealed that it was a case of land dispute and on the complaint of the Christian couple, Police registered a case and arrested all three accused after investigation.

Another false incident was men-

tioned by EFI-RLC and FIACONA

which claimed that on November 07,

2021, in Shapur village, Saharsa,

Bihar, a mob led by religious extremists-some of them carrying guns,

burgled into a home church, disrupted prayers, snatches Pastor

KrishnanandaYadav's phone and threatened the gathering. However,

there was no report/ case lodged in the police station (SaharsaSadar,

Nauhatta and Sonbarsa) regarding the said incident. Similarly, the

instance of Pastor AnkushBanayr,

Secretary of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum) summoned to the police station on alleged indulgence in conversion activities but the narrations

of Christian organisations were just the opposite of the real incident and

alleged crime committed by Ankush and his associates.

The allegation that FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act)

was used to force Compassion International (CI, American NGO based in Colorado) to stop its

operations in India is baseless, as CI had violated FCRA rules and was

noticed for its involvement in forcing religious conversions. Central

Bureau of Investigation booked

CarunaBalVikas for receiving money from Compassion International and

which was allegedly used in "converting poor children into fulfilled Christian adults".

Given the above, the report of such organisations seems to be unfounded and smacks of propaganda

by various organised anti-national Christian agencies remotely operating from foreign shores. The fake

propaganda is aimed at misleading the mass, evoking anti-establishment sentiments and defaming India. Instead of oozing poison, Christians should have faith in the Indian

Constitution and its judiciary as well as feel proud of the secular and syncretic culture of India.

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# India logs 3,205 new Covid infections; active cases rise to 19,509

Agency  
New Delhi, May 4:

India reported 3,205 new coronavirus infections in a day, pushing the number of active cases to 19,509 and the overall tally to 4,30,88,118, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Wednesday.

The data released at 8 am also showed that 31 fatalities — 29 of them from Kerala alone — were reported in a 24-hour span, taking the cumulative death toll to 5,23,920.

The active cases constitute 0.05 per cent of the total

infections, the health ministry said, adding the country's COVID-19 recovery rate is 98.74 per cent.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.98 per cent while the weekly figure was recorded at 0.76 per cent, the ministry said.

An increase of 372 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload which now stand at 19,509.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease rose to 4,25,44,689, 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 exceeded 189.48 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. It crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

The 31 new fatalities include 29 from Kerala and one each from Maharashtra and Delhi, the data showed.

A total of 5,23,920 deaths have been reported so far in

the country including 1,47,845 from Maharashtra, 69,112 from Kerala, 40,102 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,176 from Delhi, 23,508 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,202 from West Bengal.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to co-morbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with (those of) the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

# Assam Rifles Foils Cross Border Narcotics Smuggling



IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

In two separate operations, Tengenou and Moreh Battalions under the aegis of IGAR (South) foiled cross border narcotics smuggling in Khudengtabi and Moreh on May 3 and May 2 respectively.

During routine checking of vehicles at Permanent Vehicle

Check Post, Khudengtabi, troops of Assam Rifles intercepted a vehicle. On thorough search of the vehicle, 842 grams of brown sugar in 20 soap cases concealed inside a bag were recovered. The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth Rs 2.7 Crores.

In another operation, during frisking and checking of

vehicles at Moreh, Assam Rifles along with Moreh Police apprehended a drug peddler and recovered 1.26 Kgs of brown sugar in 30 soap cases. The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth Rs 1.68 Crores.

The recovered items along with the drug peddlers were handed over to Moreh Police Station for further action.

# The Dedicated First-Ever Jetty of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at Kochi inaugurated

IT Correspondent  
Mumbai, May 4:

The dedicated first-ever jetty of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) located at Fort Kochi in Kerala, a southern Indian state, was inaugurated by ICG Director General Virender Singh Pathania on Tuesday.

The senior officials of the ICG, Indian Navy, Cochin Port Trust, Military Engineering Service, delegates from the Central State agencies, and other stakeholders were present on the occasion.

The jetty constructed by the Cochin Port Trust is 220 Mtrs x 15 Mtrs in the harbour with a maintained depth of 7 Mtrs. This would facilitate swift deployment of ICG, an official statement here said.

The strategically located Kochi Port requires the presence of ICG to safeguard the Indian maritime interest. It is one of the major ports of India in the southern region and the Coast Guard District Headquarters No.4 (Kerala and



ICG Director General V S Pathania and others at the inauguration of the dedicated jetty at Fort Kochi on Tuesday.

Mahe district of the Puducherry Union Territory). It plays a paramount role in providing safety and security in sea areas of Kerala and the Lakshadweep Islands.

With the hub of maritime activities growing manifold at Kochi, ICG has increased its assets and as of now 04 Off-shore Patrol Vessel (OPVs), 03 Fast Patrol Vessel (FPVs), 02 Interceptor boats (IBS), and 02 Auxiliary Barges are based at Kochi.

Addressing the gathering,

ICG Director General VS Pathania appreciated the efforts of Cochin Port Trust and Commander Coast Guard District Headquarters No.4 (Kerala & Mahe) for creating the ICG jetty which would ensure seamless ICG operations in the sea areas of Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands. The ICG has made a significant presence all along the Indian coastline and plays a dominant and effective role in internal security and maritime law enforcement.

The ICG is multi-mission organisation conducting round-the-year real-life operations at sea. Despite being relatively small, it has a wide range of task capabilities for both surface and air operations.

The organisation is headed by the Director-General, ICG, exercising his overall command and superintendence from the ICG headquarters located in New Delhi. At the headquarters, he is assisted by four Deputy Director Generals of the rank of Inspector General and other senior officers heading various staff divisions.

For effective command and control, the Maritime zones of India are divided into 5 Coast Guard regions, namely North-West, West, East, North-East, and Andaman and Nicobar with the respective Regional Headquarters located at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Port Blair. The Coast Regions are commanded by officers of the rank of Inspector General.

# Pre-recruitment screening of youths held

IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a screening camp of local youths in Thoubal district on May 2, 2022.

In continuation with the efforts of Assam Rifles to ensure enrollment of maximum youths from Manipur in Armed Forces, the screening camp was organised to look for suit-

able candidates for recruitment rally in Armed Forces.

Total 144 boys and 31 girls of Thoubal and neighbouring districts were screened to ascertain physical standards suitability in recruitment rallies.

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# Craft Demonstration Programme of Wood and Wooden Home Furnishing held



IT News  
Imphal, May 4:

The Wood and Wooden Home Furnishing Crafts Programme was held on April 23 to April 29 at Khurai Sajor Leikai, Imphal East, Manipur. That Programme was held for Seven days. It was organized by Luwangpokpa Women Welfare Association, Khurai Sajor Leikai, Imphal East under the sponsorship of Office of the Development Commis-

sioner (Handicrafts) Ministry of Textile, Govt of India. It was held under the scheme of AHVY Scheme.

The Chief Guest of Programme was Jocelyn Akoijam, Project Manager District Handloom and Textile, Govt of Manipur. The Guest of Honour of the programme was Yumnam Jagyashwori Devi, Assistance Director, (H) Handicrafts Service Centre, Imphal and Priyaran Watham, President of Luwangpokpa Women

Welfare Association as president of that Programme.

Chief Guest of closing function, Jocelyn Akoijam, Project Manager, District Handloom and Textile, Manipur Stated that the Programme was held for 7days and it was started from April 23 and concluded on April 29, 2022. 30 cluster was joined in the Programme and this Programme give the cluster to show and sales their product in public.

## Career Guidance

# India's school education now has three class layers



By: Vijay GarG

Unprofessional working style of the CBSE under constant political pressure have also been pushing India's schools to opt for international boards.

Recent attempts by CBSE to drop some chapters from Class X, XI and XII syllabus have brought the spotlight back on 'safronisation of education' in India. Although the CBSE has made similar amendments in the past, this time, the cause of aspersions has been the board's intention, particularly the removal of certain chapters from social science textbooks. Political actors have been proactively making arguments and counter-arguments on such inclusions/deletions, but their cacophony hides the larger transformation in India's school education.

Such frequent changes are an outcome of political battle over social science syllabus,

and have been resulting in the gradual emergence of three layers of school education system in India — each accessed by different classes.

The emergence of three layers of school education

There has been very little analysis of the implications of politically motivated changes.

To syllabus, particularly the macro amendments. However, recent reports suggest big transformation going on in school education system, led by India's elite schools of metropolitan cities — to leave CBSE perse, and opt for international boards such as International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and International Baccalaureate (IB).

After interacting with some of the teachers at international schools, I found that besides several pull factors such as liberty to charge high fee and higher prospects for their students securing admission in foreign universities, the unprofessional working style of the CBSE under constant political pressure have also been pushing India's schools to opt for international boards. Despite and IGCSE and IB schools charging exorbitant fees, an increasing number of Indian students, particularly from super elite families, are withdraw-

ing from the Indian boards and opting for these international boards.

The increasing number of students opting for IGCSE and IB schools suggest a gradual emergence of the third layer of school education system in India. Primarily, there existed two layers of school education system in the country — CBSE and ICSE affiliated schools and state boards institutions. The medium of instruction has been a marker of hierarchy among these two layers with English being the main medium of instruction in the former and the regional languages in the latter. Schools affiliated to international boards are imparting education mainly in English and also teaching foreign languages. Teaching Indian languages is not compulsory for them, but they are allowed to teach one regional language.

The said layers of school education also indicate the three classes of Indian society — super elite, middle class, and the marginalised. Students from super elite class would go to international board schools, middle-class students to CBSE and ICSE schools and the marginalised to state board institutions. There might be few exceptions

in this schema, but exceptions don't make a rule.

These emerging trends of schooling also indicate the kind of education that is being imparted. The elite students not only have the liberty to study the course, subject, and languages of their choice, but also without a burden of studying Indian nationalism, Indian languages, patriotism, and cultural values. The middle class students would have limited choice in terms of course, syllabus, and language and will have to study Indian nationalism, patriotism, and cultural values. The students from marginalised communities will keep alive regional and local languages, as well as culture and knowledge.

This emerging mode of school education system has been reproducing a new kind of social and economic inequality. The super elite class is becoming the ultimate beneficiary, since all changes have been only impacting students from middle and marginalised classes. The super elite remain unaffected — enjoying their full liberty to achieve their economic goals. This could also be the reason why the super elite do not raise their voice over the current school education system in India.

## Contd. from Page 2

# Press Freedom is essential...

Libel, defamation, contempt and privilege motion—these four items are the danger points in a reporter's work. Every reporter must be cautious while writing the report about these four danger points. If per chance the reporter commits any mistake in his reports which may be libelous, defamatory or contempt of court or may invite a privilege motion in a legislature, it may endanger his paper, his editor, printer and the reporter himself.

A reporter must be cautious whether he has written

anything about anyone which may be defamatory or which may be construed as contempt of court or which may invite a privilege motion in a legislature. He should always try to avoid these danger points while writing his report.

Freedom of press is essential for smooth functioning of democracy. Whenever an administration tried to shackle the Press, people's revolt took place. But the press too has huge responsibility on its shoulders. They must be neutral. On the name of right to free expres-

sions, they cannot misuse their power by publish anything, which is against the soul and sovereignty of the nation and its people. Article 19(1A) and 19(2) of the Indian constitution provides proper safeguard for freedom of speech & expression and reasonable restrictions on anti-national and anti-constitutional expressions.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)



# India to begin Phase-2 Trials of World's First One-shot Pneumococcal Vaccine for Adults

Agency  
New Delhi, May 4:

India is set to begin phase-2 clinical trials of the world's first single-dose pneumococcal vaccine for adults, manufactured by Biological E, News18.com has learnt.

Pneumococcal vaccine – which is generally given in 4 shots to children and in at least 2 shots to adults – protects against several types of bacteria that can cause pneumococcal disease including bacteraemia, bacterial pneumonia, and meningitis.

Sponsored by Hyderabad-based Biological E, the phase one study of the investigational vaccine candidate was launched this year to evaluate safety, tolerability, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of a single intramuscular dose in healthy adults in the 18-45 age group.

In the first phase, a total of 60 subjects were enrolled

and the study has been conducted at only one site in India. Phase two trials, which are likely to involve 250 participants are expected to start in July.

The total duration of the phase 1 study was 35 days (7 days for screening and 28 days for follow-up) for each subject.

"Biological E's 24-valent PCV is expected to provide serotype protection of greater than 85% in India," according to the trial protocol synopsis submitted to the country's drug regulatory agency, CDSCO, accessed by News18.com.

According to the 12-page document, there are more than 90 strains (serotypes) of pneumococcal bacteria and the first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) PCV7 protects against seven of them.

*Streptococcus pneumoniae* causes paediatric invasive bacterial disease

and is estimated to account for approximately 1 million deaths per year worldwide among children younger than 5 years of age. This is greater than the number of deaths from any infectious disease, such as HIV infection, malaria or tuberculosis.

So how is the vaccine different from the existing ones?

Apart from being a single-shot vaccine, the Biological E's candidate "pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (24Valent) without preservative" aims to improve the global serotype coverage for enhanced protection by developing a 24 valent PCV (PCV24).

The candidate includes the most prevalent serotypes in India.

The serotype composition of this vaccine includes the prevalent serotypes isolated in GAVI eligible countries and are considered essential by GAVI in the new pneumococcal polysaccharide

conjugate vaccines.

"Thus, it becomes extremely important to evaluate the circulating serotypes in a particular country and then select a suitable vaccine to ensure maximum efficacy and cost effectiveness," said the protocol synopsis.

Based on data from various studies published between 1999 and 2013, the most prevalent serotypes currently in India are 14, 5, 1, 19F, 6B, 6A, 19A, 23F, 22F, 3, 9V, 18C, 4, 7F, 33F, and 17.1, the company mentioned in the document.

"This is evident from a recent study from India, which indicated that 54% of the pneumococcal isolates belonged to PCV 10 and 73% to PCV 13. Accordingly, a 24-valent PCV (PCV24) has been developed by Biological E that contains polysaccharides from the 13 serotypes included in PCV13 and eleven additional serotypes... specific to India," it said.

# President of India graces the 61st Annual conference of Bodo Sahitya Sabha



PIB  
Guwahati, May 4:

The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind graced the 61st annual conference of Bodo Sahitya Sabha at Tamulpur, Assam today.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the atmosphere of harmony and peace in the region is becoming stronger with the joint efforts of Union Government and State Governments of the North-Eastern region. He noted that developmental works have an important role in this change. He appreciated Central Government, State Governments and residents of the region for this change.

The President noted that the month of May is very important for the Bodo people as they remember Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma on May 1 which is his death anniversary. He said that Bodofa had spread the message of "live and let live". His message of maintaining harmony with all communities while conscious of Bodo self-

pride will be forever relevant.

The President appreciated Bodo Sahitya Sabha for making invaluable contribution for past 70 years in strengthening the Bodo language, literature and culture. He said that the Founder-President of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha, Joy Bhadra Hagzer and General Secretary Sonam Thosen had made commendable efforts in recognition of Bodo language. This Sabha has also played important role in use of Bodo language as the medium of school education and place in the higher education.

The President noted that so far 17 writers have been awarded Sahitya Akademi Awards for their works in Bodo language. And out of that 10 have been awarded for poetry work. This shows the natural inclination towards poetry among Bodo writers. He was happy to note that many women are writing in different genres of Bodo literature. But it has also been observed that only two women are among senior writers who have received the

Sahitya Akademi Award for original works, he said. He urged "Bodo Sahitya Sabha" to encourage women writers. He said that to keep any literature alive and relevant, the participation of the younger generation is very important. Therefore, special encouragement should also be given to young writers by Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

The President was happy to note that the works of other languages are being translated into Bodo language with great enthusiasm. He said that it is the characteristic of any vibrant literary community. He expressed confidence that such translated literature would give an opportunity to the readers of Bodo language to get acquainted with other Indian languages as well as world literature.

The President said that the conservation and promotion of local languages is the responsibility of the society and the government. He appealed the Government of Assam to make efforts to promote Bodo language.

# India, Canada discuss expansion of bilateral air service agreement

Agency  
New Delhi, May 4:

India and Canada on Wednesday discussed expansion of a bilateral air service agreement that will allow more flights between the two countries.

Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is on a nine-day visit to the US and Canada, met Canadian Transport Minister Omar Alghabra on Wednesday.

"I personally thanked my counterpart for India's help in repatriating Canadians stuck

in India in the beginning of the pandemic," Alghabra stated on Twitter after the meeting.

Canada has a huge number of people of Indian descent in its total population.

Alghabra said he had a productive meeting with Scindia regarding issues of mutual importance to Canada and India.

"We spoke about expanding the Air Transport Agreement allowing for more flights between the two countries. Further cooperation at International Civil Aviation

Organisation (ICAO) on Annex 13 and other issues," he mentioned.

He said he is looking forward to more conversations to open up travel between the two countries including flights to Amritsar.

For the airlines of a particular country to operate international flights to another country, the two sides have to negotiate and sign a "bilateral air services agreement", which decides how many flights (or seats) per week can be allowed to fly from one country to the other.

Once such an agreement is signed, each country is free to allocate the bilateral rights to its respective airlines. Even after such flying rights are allocated to an airline, it must have slots at both the airports in order to start flight operations.

A slot is a date and time at which an airline's aircraft is permitted to depart or arrive at an airport. The slots are allocated by a committee that consists of civil aviation ministry and regulatory officials, airport operators and airlines, among others.

## Sports

# I-League 2022: Gokulam Kerala FC demolish NEROCA, on the verge of back to back title win

Agency  
Naihati, May 4:

Gokulam Kerala's invincible streak continued as the league leaders thrashed NEROCA FC 4-0, here at the Naihati Stadium. Clinical finishing coupled with opposition goof-ups helped Gokulam extend their lead at the top of the table.

Top met bottom as the first half got off to a very bright start. Gokulam Kerala were favourites for an easy win but NEROCA FC had other plans and matched Gokulam's desire to win. The league leaders were dealt an unfortunate injury blow as Ahmed Razeek limped off the pitch and was replaced by Sreeekkuttan VS inside the opening 20 minutes.

The concern did not last for a long time as Gokulam took the lead three minutes after the forced substitution. Skipper Sharif Mohammad did well in midfield and managed to play the ball to Emil Benny. A diagonal ball from Benny was meant to reach the left flank but was intercepted by NEROCA defender Abdul Salam. However,

Salam's header, intended to go towards his goalkeeper, landed perfectly for Tahir Zaman, who beat Shubham Dhas to the ball, and slotted home the opener.

Just a minute later, Gokulam came close to doubling their advantage as Sreeekkuttan whipped a powerful cross in from the right. Jourdain Fletcher received it but could not control it as it came off his calf and went out for a goal-kick.

On the counter, Sergio Mendi played a delightful flick towards Davis Kamanga following which the Zimbabwean was brought down unfairly by Sharif Mohammad near the edge of the box. From the resulting freekick, Mendi tested Rakshit Dagar as the Spaniard unleashed a powerful low shot away from the wall, towards the keeper's side. Dagar went down quickly to palm the ball away to safety.

Minutes later, Sweden Fernandes also tried his luck from range but his effort lacked power and was saved as NEROCA finished the half with more shots than Gokulam but

still trailed by a goal.

Minutes into the second half, Gokulam bagged their second of the evening as Zaman bagged his second of the game. Benny was at it again as he found Fletcher unmarked on the left flank. The Jamaican played an inch-perfect cross into the path of Zaman, who carefully tapped it in with his first touch.

Before NEROCA could catch a break, Gokulam struck again, this time after being given the opportunity to score an easy goal. A back-pass from Lallenmang Sithou came to Dhas. The NEROCA keeper was complacent on the ball as Fletcher pounced on it before Dhas could clear. Ultimately, the ball was buried in the back of the net by Fletcher who was vigilant inside NEROCA's defensive third to make it three.

Zaman was hungry for a hat-trick and came close to bagging one when Sreeekkuttan played it in. Before Zaman could pounce, the pass was intercepted and cleared.

Thirteen minutes from time, Gokulam almost replicated the move that led to the

second goal. Fletcher whipped the ball in from the left, again, towards Zaman. However, this time Dhas was alert and did well to block the ball well before it could reach Zaman.

A minute before ninety, Gokulam substitute Zodingliana rattled the crossbar from the edge of the box. The effort was on target but it was put onto the bar by a faint touch from Dhas.

Gokulam did get their fourth, deep into second-half stoppage time. Sreeekkuttan, who had played a fantastic game after coming on in the first half, got his name on the scoresheet after turning Sithou inside out and then slotting the ball in at the near-post.

Another game and another victory for Gokulam Kerala saw them go six points clear of Mohammedan SC, at the top of the table with one hand already on the trophy. NEROCA FC, on the other hand have now extended their winless run to seven games and will stay at the bottom of the table, three points behind Rajasthan United.

# Annual ICC Rankings: Australia are No. 1 in Tests, India remain on top in T20, NZ are No. 1 ranked ODI team



Agency  
New Delhi, May 4:

India under new captain Rohit Sharma finished the 2021-22 season as the world's number one ranked T20 team after a string of impressive performances at home but were a good nine points behind Australia in the annual Test rankings released by ICC on Wednesday.

The 'Black Caps' from New Zealand finished the last season as the world No.1 ODI team with the cut-off date being May 4, 2022. The England versus India series that began in 2021, will be included in the rankings once the final postponed Test is completed.

"Australia have increased their lead over second-placed India from one to nine rating points while Pakistan have overtaken England to fifth position in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings following the annual update carried out today," the ICC release stated.

"India have also gained a point to move to 119 while England have had the biggest decrease of nine points as their 4-1 series win over India in 2018 is now dropped from the rankings. England's 88 rating points is their lowest since 1995," the release added.

Australia, who beat England 4-0 in the Ashes in January, have moved from 119 to 128 rating points in the annual update that

drops the 2018-19 season and reflects all series completed since May 2019. Series completed prior to May 2021 are now weighted at 50 per cent and subsequent series at 100 per cent.

India remain on top in T20Is, extending their lead over second-placed England from one to five points. South Africa and Australia have overtaken New Zealand, who are now in sixth place. Similarly, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are now ahead of Afghanistan (10th). In the updated ODI rankings, New Zealand remain on top but their lead over England is reduced from three to one point. The gap between England and third-placed Australia has increased from seven to 17 points.