

All should co-operate to development works: Governor



IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan has said that there will be no development in any front if people do not co-operate with the Government. Speaking to the people at an interaction programme held today at Machi High School in Machi Sub-divisional Head-

quarters in Tengenoual district, Governor said, we as concerned citizens, of this country, are responsible to contribute and co-operate to societal development.

La. Ganesan further said that a number of developmental programme have been implemented by the centre and state government is also working in line with the centre. He

said, many hardships have been faced by the people in many parts of the state and it should be addressed as early as possible. Insisting that every sub-division should at least have a hospital for proper health care, Governor asked the concerned district authorities to look into the issue. He also assured the people to take action to give all weather

roads for easy access.

Expressing concern over the increasing number of drugs hauled in the state, Shri La. Ganesan warned those who are involved in the act and asked people involved in poppy cultivation to stop immediately. He said, the drugs menace has become a great challenge now-a-days.

Governor also appealed the people to get Covid-19 Vaccination and enrolled for Aadhar for identification. Earlier, CSOs, village chiefs of Machi and adjoining villages submitted memorandum to the Governor and urged him to take prompt action in many issues including health, education, infrastructures and connectivity.

On his arrival at the Sub-divisional Headquarters, Governor was accorded a warm welcome by Mannuamching, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Tengenoual District; ADC, Moreh and SP of the district.

Minister Biswajit flags off Royal Riders Manipur Rally



IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, today, flagged off a Motor Cycle Rally from the campus of Wal United Youth Club, Wangkhei Angom Leikai, Imphal. The Motor Cycle Rally was organized by Royal Riders Manipur to commemorate the "12th Mahousa Ina Ningsing Tha" in connection with World Environment Day 2022 under the UN theme "Only one Earth". The environment campaign will be held for a month covering three districts of the state for tree plantation.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest before the flag-off event, Minister Th. Biswajit Singh, encouraged the people to think and sustainably preserve the natural resources for the future generation. He also emphasized that for the last twenty years, society has only focused on the cure of the affects of climate change with-

out taking up the preventive measures to sustain nature. He added that nature has given us many resources and we should try to safeguard those limited resources as our primary duty. Further, Minister Biswajit appealed to the youths to make preservation and conservation of nature as their priority and take part in plantation of trees and to spread awareness to the local people to prevent the fast degrading natural environment.

The Minister gave assurance to provide assistance in any initiatives taken up in safeguarding the environment by

Royal Riders Manipur. He firmly said that he himself will also participate in all the activities which involves in sustaining the nature.

Later, the Minister flagged off the teams of Royal Riders Manipur that will cover Bishnupur District, Imphal East District and Kangpokpi District for the tree plantation campaign.

R.K.Tombisana, President, Royal Riders Manipur along with 150 Royal Riders from different clubs of Manipur with the motto "Serving with adventure" participated in the opening ceremony function.

Haomee urges govt. to declare Poppy planters as an outlaw

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Federation of Haomee (FoH) has urged the government of Manipur to declare poppy planters/cultivators as outlaws instead of providing them alternative means for survival.

In a statement by the general secretary of the Youth Wing of FoH said that the move by the state government

urging center to give alternative means of survival to the poppy planters is not reasonable. The Manipur government should know that the center is not accepting the proposal because such measures is unreasonable.

"Who plants the poppy? Where do they come from? Why only those people are planting the poppy? These is well aware by the government of Manipur and despite know-

ing it the government of Manipur seems to be supporting them. Such act should be immediately stopped", the FoH Youth Wing statement said.

The FoH also question if the government is planning to give alternative means of survival to brown sugar, ganja, drugs, kali etc. smugglers instead of arresting them if they are giving alternative means to the poppy planters which pro-

duce those drugs. The statement also said that such an attitude has created apprehension to the people on whether the government is converting the region as another Golden Triangle.

The FoH also said that those outsiders who had illegally influx into the state and planted poppy plants should be sent back to their respective places by enforcing the NRC.

KSO bans tree plantation at Thangjing Hill by CSOs

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO), Henglep Block in a press release stated that it would like to make it known to the general public that, the organisation is perturbed about the frequent attempt to create a chaotic, irrational and unsolicited activities in and around Loikhai (Thangjing Areas) by the valley based individuals and groups.

The KSO unit of Churachandpur and members from Chief Association stopped the plantation drive

at Thangjing hills. "It is unethical and unbecoming of any individual, group or society to conduct activities of any sort without taking due consent of the local populace or the Chief," the press release stated.

KSO appealed that any such activities whether it benefits the locals or the general public as a whole may not be carried out without the participation or informed consent of the local settlers as it shall deem a direct challenge and infringement in the rights of the indigenous tribal settlers, it added.

Bomb Blasts

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

A powerful bomb suspected to be an IED was blasted at around 3:50 am today at the residence of Executive engineer of Agriculture department identified as R.K. Virendra, S/o R.K. Karnajit located at Khurai Thoidingjam Leikai, Imphal East.

No casualties have been reported, however the impact of the explosion damaged three cars parked nearby and some windows.

A team of Porampat police station rushed to the spot and conducted an initial investigation.

RIMS OPD to remain open on May 16

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

As May 14 to 16 has been declared holiday, the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal said that the OPDs of RIMS hospital will remain open on May 16 in the interest of the patient.

The notification by the Medical Superintendent, Prof. N. Sanjib, however, did not mention whether the OPDs will be open on May 14 and 15.

Two Manipuri boys selected for World Muaythai Championship needs financial assistance

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Two Manipuri boys who have been selected to represent India among the Under 23, nine (9) players of the country to participate in the Men and Women Muaythai World Championship scheduled to be held at Abu Dhabi from May 26 to June 4 this year area desperately searching for financial assistance sparing their practicing hours as the expenditure has to be borne by them.

United Muaythai Association - India (UMAI) is yet to be given recognition and the association has no fund to assist the Indian players. The Association selected nine (9) U-23 male players and 13 Senior Elite Class players of different weight categories to attend the world championship organized by the International Federation of Muaythai Association (IFMA).

Twenty two years old Sogolshe Moramba, son of S. Dina from Soibam leikai, Imphal East and Twenty three years old Neo Thongam Meitei, son of Th. Joynanda



Neo Thongam Meitei (Left) & Sogolshe Moramba (Right)

Meitei of Singamei Makha Khongnang Pheidiekp, were among the nine under-23 male players selected from Manipur. Both have record of winning gold medal and silver medal at various state level and national level championships.

Sagolshe Moramba, won gold in 2017 at Muaythai National Championship held

at Shillong. In 2018 he won Silver medal at the Muaythai National Championship held at Pune and in 2021 he won gold in the Muaythai National Championship held at Imphal in 67 kg category, even though his weight was just 63.5 kg.

Neo Thongam Meitei won gold medal in 2021 Muaythai National Championship held here in Imphal in 71 Kg cat-

egory. Earlier, in 2021 he won gold medal in State level Boxing Championship held at Khuman Lampak. In the same year he won bronze medal at the State level Invitation Boxing Championship held at Mayang Imphal and in 2019 he won Gold medal in State level Boxing Championship held at Khuman Lampak.

Talking to Imphal Times, both the players said that they need around rupees four (4) lakh to attend the world championship for travel and accommodation expenses plus fighting gears for the Muaythai. Now as both the families are middle class families they are now struggling hard to meet the expenses. Family members managed to borrow some but still they are worried on whether they could attend the championship or not as they don't have enough money. Both the parents of families are busy asking money from relatives and to mortgaging their property to make sure that their children attend the championship to bring laurels of the country as well as Manipur.

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29th Anniversary of Pangal's Black Day observes

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Delhi Association of Manipur Muslim Students (DAMMS) observed 29th Anniversary of Pangal's Black Day on May 3, in remembrance to the May 3 and May 4 of 1993 communal clash.

Following the clash many Pangals started fleeing from their villages many were turned into destitute in their own homeland, a statement by DAMMS said and added that many have changed their livelihood in the hope they would be secured in their economic, social and cultural life.

Along with the observation Delhi Association of Manipur Muslim Students (DAMMS) bring up the same age old demanded for Constituent an independent Special Investigation team (SIT) and to ensure all the perpetrators are made public with their deserved punishment.

The DAMMS demanded compensation to the bereaved family members and all those destitute brought about by the incident.

The Delhi Association of Manipur Muslim Students also urged for a public apology to the Pangals at large and ensured similar incidents will not happen again.

Tourist inflow higher in Uttarakhand & Kashmir

Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



A major shift is being noticed in domestic tourism which was not there in 2019. For example, most of the local tourists are now turning to Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand

instead of popular hill stations like Shimla and Manali, and this trend is continuously visible. According to travel agents, the room occupancy of hotels in Shimla has come down to 20-30 percent on normal days and 60-70 per cent on weekends. The same is the case with Manali, where hotel rooms are being filled only 50 to 60 percent. After normalizing the situation in Kashmir and the removal of Article 370, now the scenario is different. Tourists in the Kashmir Valley are now seen roaming freely and fearlessly and it is becoming difficult to find rooms in Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha says that the present time can be termed the golden period of tourism in Kashmir. In the last few months, more than 10 million tourists have reached Kashmir to visit the valley. This is the first time in 20 years that such a large number of tourists have decided to spend their holidays in Kashmir. At present, 3500 shikara (boats) are serving the tourists day and night in Dal Lake.

About 2.5 lakh tourists have reached Shimla in the last one month. There has been a trend of ten thousand tourists reaching Manali every day. According to an estimate, more than 30 thousand tourists reach Himachal Pradesh every day. Most of the tourists visiting Himachal are from Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kolkata and Madras. However, this time fewer tourists have arrived from Gujarat than before. An official of Himachal Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) says that there is a possibility of some growth in tourism business in the coming days. Apart from Kashmir, the number of people visiting Ladakh is also encouraging. Leh is the only major town in Ladakh which attracts more tourists due to the presence of an airport. Other smaller destinations are Kargil, Pangong Lake and Nubra Valley. These places are accessible only by road and there is adequate connectivity from Leh for this. In hilly tourist places like Shimla and Manali, the biggest problem is with big hotels where booking is very less. The movement of foreign guests to these places is negligible at this time.

Meanwhile, Char Dham Yatra has started in three phases in Uttarakhand. At present, green signal has been given for Gangotri and Yamunotri Dhams within certain limits. Government permission will also be given for Kedarnath Dham and Badrinath Dham in a few days. Now a good road is ready for Char Dham yatra, due to which it takes only nine to ten hours. The starting point of Char Dham Yatra is Rishikesh, from where vehicles are available for onward journey. Good hotels and other places are available from point to point to stay on the itinerary. Amarnath Yatra is also going to start from next month i.e. 30th June. The Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir have started making adequate arrangements for this. The highest emphasis is on ensuring safety. Amarnath Yatra will be special this time because it is happening after a long gap of two years.

India and the Prejudiced Perceptions



By: M.R. Lalu

My journey to the Himalayas a few years ago as a young traveler and a yoga practitioner had been so resounding and significant at a personal level. As a yoga practitioner, my stay in one of the hermitages on the banks of the Ganges is still an enriching experience and what is vividly imprinted in my memory is the interactions that I was capable of with the foreign students among whom I met an old lady of 74 years from California. My conversations with most of the forty of them from 20 countries have given me insights on what India is and a chance that I cherished to look at India through a western prism with clarity. I wondered at the level of commitment and love that those people had about the idea of India, especially the old lady from America who preferred to smear a pinch of soil on her forehead every morning calling India the holiest land and her second home. The entire duration of my stay with those India lovers made me really delve into the depth of what, as a country, India reflected to the foreign minds. The respect, as a country, India at present is gaining is due to both the spiritual and political patronage that India was capable of for years. Spiritual it is, because we, as a country could deliver spiritual solace to a large number of global seekers with our inclusive ideals. Politically we are equally influential across the globe as a peace-loving nation that advocates for universal peaceful coexistence and brotherhood. Indeed, the aspects of influence that India is known for today, give it a special stature of recognition among countries of diverse interests and geopolitical aspirations. My experience was personal and many, for that matter, must have experienced the same with little or more lucidity and serenity in the slopes of grandeur in the Himalayas. I thought to quote this at the

backdrop of multiple disturbing clashes that began to rattle the country recently and India, with its global aspirations to emerge as a power, seems to be portrayed as stand-offish and irresponsible when it comes to its ability to maintain equanimity as the diversity presses its nerves so hard. Agencies, foreign to the idea of India's cultural heritage are seemingly out to project the country as the most intolerant and a hostile destination devoid of peaceful coexistence. The western world always had a disparaging mindset on everything that politically India represented. The latest stroke has been from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). It made a comment on what it feels and identifies, that India according to the agency, is a tumultuous land with the minorities being strong-armed from practicing their religious faiths peacefully either by the state or by its religious majority. It also recommends India be identified as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) which it probably tags with those countries where religious freedom is frequently offended. The USCIRF identifies Russia, China, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan as the world's worst offenders of religious freedom. The spiritual values that India stood for ages never questioned the need of being in contradiction with other faiths. It always upheld the view of assimilation and never did animosity come its way of peaceful coexistence. This is the reason why many in the west are getting attracted to the eastern spiritual wisdom especially that India offers to the world, unconditionally.

This happens in real terms because the basic tenets of India's spiritual wellbeing are based on diverse

and pluralistic social engineering that it, from the ages of the sages, propagated with clarity and humility. Despite the belittling of the idea that India represents from different global platforms and some deliberate attempts from Indianness that keeps strengthening the country inexorably. Agencies, headquartered in America and elsewhere have been vigilant to mischaracterize the diversity that India was successfully nourishing for long. Choosing to criticize a country based on intentionally selected issues that randomly lead to local skirmishes with a minority community at the receiving end; their intention surfaces with their studied silence on India when the majority community is persecuted by certain radicalized doctrines. We need to know the level of hypocrisy that India is rated with. Now, one example is enough to topple the argument that the USCIRF is making. The population registry of India reveals the fact that the country has been consistently witnessing an increase in the population of minorities since independence. Muslims alone, who comprised 9.8% of the country's population in 1950, is estimated to have grown to almost 14% or more today. This itself is evident from the fact that the main minority community has been flourishing in India while the country is blamed and debated worldwide by agencies and pseudo intellectuals painting its majority as an acrimonious sum.

Pakistan and Bangladesh give us a gruesome picture of the minorities in those countries. They are being targeted, persecuted and forcefully

converted and killed with their religious places desecrated and destroyed and their population dwindling rapidly every passing day. The tendency that we are comfortable with, is to call the hostility in our neighborhood as a usual affair to the radicalized Islamic states. India is the country where the planet's largest human gathering takes place in the name of religion which indeed is the largest peaceful human gathering. The Kumbh mela is a perfect example of India's cultural heritage being displayed in its spiritual splendor seeking peace and prosperity for the entire humanity. Politically, India's independent stand on the Russia-Ukraine war was not disputed by the world. We could successfully convince the world the stand that we thought was right, without being judgmental and duplicitous on the pressure that the west and America put on us. This is emblematic to the sphere into which India has globally positioned itself as a responsible country. The binary that India is, in a largely polarized world is both, its spiritual and political might that it could successfully showcase in the last few decades gaining reverence. We are not to forget, the petty squabbles that we have been witnessing today and the international community took notice of, are the results of the suspicion that has gone deeper into the social psyche due to the centuries of conquests and political subjugations and misrepresentation of history. Today, what we need to have is a larger canvas of acceptance, suitable to sprinkle a variety of colors to form a beautiful pictorial symphony of cohesion. The old lady from California with her soil smeared forehead is a symbol of reverence that India deserves and represents and we need to maintain it.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

Schools, Colleges and Universities in Nagaland- "Unite for a better tomorrow"

By: Dr. Aniruddha Babar

"The teacher could never be ordinary. Both, construction and destruction, belongs to him."

~Vishnugupta (375 BCE-283 BCE), ancient Indian polymath who was active as a teacher, author, strategist, philosopher, economist, jurist, and royal advisor.

Everything that I have ever written and spoken in my life has always had a base of reality. My Poems and Stories and all other pieces of writing shines in the glory and darkness of my world. I cannot construct fairy tales, but what I can simply do is to remain as an unbreakable, tall and huge mirror to reflect 'nudity' of the society that I am part of. I take pride in my profession and everything else that I do. Profession of a Teacher was never an ordinary profession. To those who think it's ordinary and to those who joined this profession as a last resort-with due respect, I have great pity.

At present, I am writing at my desk at Tetsu College while deriving inspiration from colleagues around in the staff room. I am familiar with the academic world of our region. My students taught me many things about the primary and secondary education system here. I personally visited many schools and colleges in remotest of the regions in Nagaland to understand how they function. Through my experiences what I have understood that there are many issues and challenges that the students in Nagaland have been encountering. Even in 2022, our Naga students have to experience and suffer from the issues like proxy teachers and also unqualified, incompetent, demotivated teaching staff. Moreover, many schools lack basic infrastructure,

they fail to equip themselves with state of the art facilities to facilitate students to connect with the changing dynamics of our country and the world. Even the higher education institutions in Nagaland also suffer from problems like inadequate teaching infrastructure, unprofessional management, meagre remuneration to the teaching staff, lack of innovative outlook and research, inadequate funds, lack of job guaranteed/professional courses etc. However, for me the biggest problem in our education system in India is its outdated model. We are stuck with syllabus, courses and pedagogy which has been totally outdated hence should not have any place and space in the academic culture of our country, however that is another story, since it's a policy matter therefore deserved to be discussed in depth separately.

Schools and Colleges in our region produces toppers. We have Gold Medalists, Rank holders everywhere. We have good number of students passing every year with first class. It's good. It seems we are part of some sort of a success story however from my perspective this all is a grand illusion. This is not exactly what we think it is. The myth of positive ratio of correlation between School, College, University Rank and Success (it is a relative term which also needs separate discussion however by success here I mean, professional success in terms of material status of a person in the most general terms and understanding which we are taught is necessary to live a dignified life in human society) can be shattered if the data of last 30 years covering School, College and University Rank holders is studied and I predict the re-

sults would be shocking. The discussion that I am trying to initiate here has a relevance. It has relevance because I feel our society is unique. We are unique not just because we have a unique history and culture but also our social evolution has been unique as well and therefore our needs are unique too. Consequently, the issues and dynamics of overall education matrix in Nagaland must be taken into consideration if we desire to build a better society and better world for us and our future generations.

Nagaland is a land of complications, confusions and questions. Number of issues are there which deserved to be recognized and sorted out. The report on NITI Aayog's SDG indicates that 73% of the population in Nagaland lives below the national poverty line (we can safely assume that around 14 lakh people are living below the poverty line in our state). The naked, proven reality of 'Child Labour' needs to haunt the collective consciousness of our Naga society. The demons of HIV/AIDS, Drugs, invisible prostitution have been lurking around since years. Sin of corruption is widely venerated and celebrated. Governance and Government floating in the bubble of political illusion. Common people have been kept in amnesia by powerful, corrupt, power mongering leaders who ignorantly dream for more wealth, more power at the cost of 'survival' of our people. We have no industries here. We have no jobs here. Our state has a unique but notorious identity- "a fertile region of government servants where at least one person in family is in a government service who never or in rarest of the rare cases goes to work". We have tribalism, one tribe does not understand and recognize the other and we talk about unity. People living at Indo-Myanmar Border- our Khiamniungans

are thrown in some distant corner of the state-nobody in Kohima or Dimapur knows how they live/survive, under what circumstances their generations are growing, nobody cares. Alcohol is flooded in Nagaland, freely available, accessible- drinking alcohol (ALL TYPES AND ALL BRANDS OF ALCOHOL) is visible reality in our Christian state. In this complicated, dangerous circumstances our students were born and surviving.

We are living in a state where we are compelled to redefine the core understanding of 'Governance'. Many of my friends here sometimes ignorantly accused me of being a victim of "Mumbaikar" version of life and development. I feel sad. I am not Mumbaikar, I left Mumbai long back and I consider myself a Naga who does not look- but feel like Naga. The issues that I always speak about are the real issues that our people here have been battling for ages. I do not attempt to be sounding 'utopian'. I am realist.

As a Professor I feel my students have every right to deserve everything that I had in my time as a UG/PG student- nothing more, nothing less. It is a responsibility of a state to take care of my students, but state has been consistently failing. Why should my students come to the streets every time in the month of July-August for their rightful scholarship? Moreover, our tribal visionaries who supposed to be a bridge between state and the people are victims of tribalism and tribalistic views which is actually suffocating my students who are dreaming of a free, egalitarian world. My students cannot breathe in 'moral/prison' of tribal loyalty and so called obligations'. This is the truth that muffled their voice. What is the future of my Students in Tribal Prisons and worst performing State of Nagaland? If they lose their faith in these institutions, they would not be

at fault. I observe everything minutely to construct a solution. Education, Political, Social and Legal Institutions are basically the pillars of any society. What is the status of those pillars in our Nagaland? QUESTION!

Consider me here as an Advocate of my students, and on behalf of my students I propose to create a parallel system that would be the most beneficial to them in the most adverse and dreaded circumstances that they have been surviving in Nagaland. The system that I have been visualizing is neither political nor tribal system. The system will actually be self-sufficient if all the participants and operators in the system contribute equally with common vision.

I proposed that all Schools, Colleges, Universities (Private, Aided, unaided, Government) to join their hands together and develop some sort of "Consortium" that would be able to collectively take care of the needs of each of the operators. For e.g. say a school in Zunheboto lacks good Mathematics teacher, and Kohima Science College has excellent Maths Professors so in such a situation Kohima Science College can make an arrangement with consent from needy school to help them. The 'cooperation' can sort out the problems of infrastructure as well. For e.g. some school in Nodkai needs six computers but they do not have sufficient funds to fulfill the requirement, the proposed consortium can take initiative and fulfill the needs. Government institutions may face some technical issues in this kind of arrangement due to their legal status however, they can always support the other participants and operators in proposed consortium with the expertise of their staff members if not monetary contribution. I could give more examples to simplify my idea.

This system that I am trying to visualize will bridge the gap between Schools, Colleges and Universities and

the needs of the participants can be mutually taken care by virtue of developing some sort of a common fund. Also, the proposed idea can solve the problem of quality teaching as well, since an academic cooperation and free movement of teachers are possible in this system. MOREOVER, all those things for which funds are not available to the education institutions for any reason my proposed 'consortium' can provide. In short I propose- Let There Be Academic, Economic, Managerial, Infrastructural Cooperation Among "All" The Education Institutions in Nagaland Without Any Discrimination Or Prejudice In The Best Interest Of Our Students.

The future of our students and therefore the upcoming society is in the hands of Academicians not politicians or civil society leaders. History has testified from time to time that a teacher who is a custodian of knowledge can create a new world and bring changes in society as and when necessary. In Nagaland we often talk about change. How will change come, from where? I have an answer. Change will not come from Kohima or New Delhi, but change will come from every School, every College, every university in Nagaland and our teachers have to sacrifice themselves so that on the foundation of their ashes our NAGA students would be able to freely construct the NEW WORLD of their dream.

(The author is PhD; MA; LL.M; M.Th; DHRL, Academician, Legal Consultant, Theologian & Theosophist Recipient of Research Excellence Award (2020) Life Member of The Theosophical Society Life Member of Indian Political Science Association Professor of Political Science & International Law Department of Milice, Sovima, Dimapur, 797115, Nagaland)

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India's daily COVID count crosses 3,500 for 3rd consecutive day; active cases at 19,688

Agency
New Delhi, May 6:

For the third consecutive day, India reported over 3,500 COVID-19 cases. The Union Health Ministry informed that 3,545 more people were diagnosed with coronavirus in the last 24 hours. India's Active caseload currently stands at 19,688.

The data released by health ministry at 8 am showed that the active cases constitute 0.05 per cent of the total infections, while the country's COVID-19 recovery rate is 98.74 per cent.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.76 per cent while the weekly figure was recorded at 0.79 per cent, the ministry said.

The bulletin informed that 3,549 coronavirus patients recovered in the last 24 hours,



taking the total number of recoveries to 4,25,51,248. The case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent.

83.98 crore total COVID tests have been conducted so far, out of which 4,65,918 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, India's COVID-19 vaccination cov-

erage crossed 189.81 crore (1,89,81,52,695) as per provisional reports till 7 am today. This has been achieved through 2,35,44,994 sessions, the ministry stated.

COVID-19 vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on 16 March, 2022. So far, more than 2.99 crore (2,99,46,931)

adolescents have been administered with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, the COVID-19 precaution dose administration for age group 18-59 years also started from 10th April, 2022 onwards, the MoHFW said in its release.

The Centre has been supporting the States and UTs by providing them COVID vaccines free of cost. The health ministry today informed that over 193.53 crore (1,93,53,58,865) vaccine doses have been provided to states/UTs so far through government of India (free of cost channel) and through direct state procurement category.

More than 18.81 crore (18,81,65,190) balance and unutilised COVID vaccine doses are still available with the states/UTs to be administered, the MoHFW stated.

Assam Rifles organises Blood Donation Campaign

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Assam Rifles Multispecialty Hospital, Mantripukhri under the aegis of IGAR (South) in association with American Oncology Institute (AOI) and Blood Bank BabinaSpeciality Hospital, Imphal organised blood donation campaign at Babina Speciality Hospital yesterday.

The Blood donation Campaign will be organised in three phases i.e. on 05 May, 16 May and 25 May 2022. The blood collected during the campaign will be utilised for needy cancer patients of Manipur at AOI. Cancer cases are prevalent in Manipur and many of the patients required blood transfusion during the course of their treatment. This blood



donation campaign will help the overburdened families of the cancer patients.

Total 20 troops of Assam Rifles donated the blood for social cause.

Press Freedom in India Facing Unprecedented Crisis Since 2014

Media People are Struggling Against Authoritarian Pressure, Threats

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak
New Delhi, May 6:

Press freedom in India is in crisis though there are over one lakh newspapers including 36,000 weeklies and 380 TV news channels. Such an abundance of outlets conceals tendencies toward the concentration of ownership while media in politically partitioned, journalists facing violence and authoritarian pressures, legal framework no more protective, economic context turning adverse, and sociological context carrying deep bias. No wonder, India, fell eight places in the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2022 to be ranked 150 out of 180 countries in the world.

Reporters Without Borders' report showed that it not only fell from the rank of 142, but the scores also sharply deteriorated from combined 53.44 to just 41. Political indicators suggest its rank 145 with score of 40.76, economic indicator rank 149 with score 30.36,

legislative indicator rank 120 with score 57.02, social indicator rank 127 with score 56.25, and security indicator rank 163 with very poor score of only 20.61. A score below 40 is considered very serious, between 40-55 difficult, and 55-70 problematic.

Though media always works in a particular social, political, and economic conditions the Indian press used to be seen as fairly progressive. "But things changed radically in mid-2010s, when Narendra Modi became prime minister" in 2014, the WPFI has specifically mentioned. Modi government has always tried to defend its position, and when the WPFI 2000 came, which ranked India at 142nd rank among 180 countries in the world, NITI Aayog came out defending the Modi regime and criticized the WPFI and tried to prove that it was not reliable. It should be noted that Modi has created the NITI Aayog as think tank after dismantling the erstwhile Yojana

Aayog which was created after the India became independent on the idea of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose but Modi mistaken it for Congress brainchild. Modi always battled for an "India Free of Congress", and therefore dismantling of Yojana Aayog had a bias, not any merit. Even this NITI Aayog tried to project that Modi regime was not at great fault since in the inaugural WPFI report of 2002 had ranked India at 80th, which fell to 122 in 2010, and 131 in 2012. NITI Aayog was just flogging the dead horse as Modi does for all his own faults.

Such a defence becomes meaningless when we see the ground reality. If we see at the entire media landscape of the country, it is clear that there is concentration of media ownership with only a handful of sprawling media companies at the national level. Four dailies share three quarters of the readership in Hindi, which is the leading language of the country. The concentration is

even more marked at regional level. The government AIR owns all news radio station, and TV space is captured by a few networks in terms of viewership.

Things radically changed "when Narendra Modi became prime minister and engineered a spectacular rapprochement between his party, the BJP, and the big families dominating the media," the report said. The prime example is undoubtedly the Reliance Industries group led by Mukesh Ambani, now a personal friend of Modi's, who owns more than 70 media outlets that are followed by at least 800 million Indians.

Very early on, Narendra Modi took a critical stance vis-à-vis journalists, seeing them as "intermediaries" polluting the direct relationship between himself and his supporters, the report says. Indian journalists who are too critical of the government are subjected to all-out harassment and attack campaigns by Modi devotees known as bhakts.

India law is protective in theory but the charges of defamation, sedition, contempt of court and endangering national security are increasingly used against journalists critical of the government, who are branded as "anti-national." The report also said that under the guise of combating COVID-19, the government and its supporters have waged a guerrilla war of lawsuits against media outlets whose coverage of the pandemic contradicted official statements. Journalists who try to cover anti-government strikes and protests are often arrested and sometimes detained arbitrarily. These repeated violations undermine media self-regulatory bodies, such as the Press Council of India and the Electronic Media Monitoring Centre.

The Indian press is a colossus with feet of clay. It depends largely on advertising, chiefly from government bodies. In the absence of an airtight border between business and editorial

policy, media executives often see the latter as just a variable to be adjusted according to business needs. The report mentions that "at the national level, the central government has seen that it can exploit this to impose its own narrative, and is now spending more than 130 billion rupees a year on ads in the print and online media alone. Recent years have also seen the rise of "Godi media" (a play on Modi's name and lapdogs) — media outlets such as the Times Now and Republic TV that mix populism and pro-BJP propaganda. The old Indian model of a pluralist press is therefore being seriously challenged by a combination of harassment and influence.

The enormous diversity of Indian society is barely reflected in the mainstream media. For the most part, the report pointed out that, only Hindu men from upper castes hold senior positions in journalism or are media executives — a bias that is reflected in media content. For example, fewer than 15 per cent of the participants in major evening talk shows are women. At the height of COVID-19 crisis, some TV hosts blamed the

Muslim minority for the spread of the virus.

With an average of three or four journalists killed in connection with their work every year, India is one of the world's most dangerous countries for the media, the report says. Journalists are exposed to all kinds of physical violence including police violence, ambushes by political activists, and deadly reprisals by criminal groups or corrupt officials. Supporters of Hindutva, the ideology that spawned the Hindu far right, wage all-out online attacks on any views that conflict with their thinking.

Terrifying coordinated campaigns of hatred and calls for murder are conducted on social media, campaigns that are often even more violent when they target women journalists, whose personal data may be posted online as an additional incitement to violence. The situation is also still very worrisome in Kashmir, where reporters are often harassed by police and paramilitaries, with some being subjected to so-called "provisional" detention for several years. One journalist has already been killed this year while 13 are in prison. (IPAService)

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 "safirisation 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 per se, 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 withdrawing 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 lan-

guages 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.

Document Lost

I have lost my Registration Certificate, issued by Assam Higher Secondary Education Council, bearing Registration No. 028246 of Session 2017-18 on the way between Jairopokpi to Jiribam on the 4th May, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned

Sd/-

Paul Lawmsangzuol
S/o Thangthalian
Jairopokpi, Jiribam
Contact No. 6009072706

RC Book Lost

My original RC Book (Smart type) of my vehicle EECO VAN (Motor Car LMV) bearing Registration No. 2B5496, Chassis No. MA3ERLF1S00146215 and Engine No. G12BN126728 was found lost from my custody and possession on the way in between Charangpat to Thoubal Bazar on 21st April, 2022.

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

Sd/-

Abhongsambam Kesho Singh
S/O (L) A. Iboh Singh
Charangpat Mayai Leikai,
PO & PS - Thoubal.

Union MoS RK Ranjan deliberates on issues, challenges and prospects of Higher Education

IT News
Imphal, May 6:

Two days seminar with Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of the North Eastern regional central, deemed of the universities held today at the court hall of the Manipur University. The two days seminar was attended by Dr RK Ranjan, Union Minister of state for Education as chief Guest and Kamini Chauhan Ratan Joint secretary Department of Education Ministry and Prof N Lokendra Vice Chancellor Manipur University as president.

RK Ranjan, Union Minister of state for Education expressed that august academic and intellectual gathering to discuss and deliberate on issues, challenges and prospects of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) situated in the North-Eastern Region of India. Geographically isolated and richly diverse, NE is the land of mesmerizing beauty which symbolizes our rich cultural legacy and the diversity that we are proud of. The region is populated by kind-hearted and soft-spoken people and they inherit their true belongingness with the rest of the country.

He further stated that this gathering of academia and intellectuals of the region will unfold our true potential and our strength in contributing our works, views and inputs towards building a new India that suits the social, political and economic conditions of the 21st Century. Higher education provides the opportunities and life chances for youth to gain skill, knowledge and outlook appropriate for the 21st Century knowledge society.

Notwithstanding the presence of ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversities among people and geographical isolation of the region from the mainland, NE region has witnessed considerable growth in various indicators in the development of higher education. A notable number of Centrally and State funded HEIs have been established in the region with clear

policy input us providing better infrastructure, recruitment of quality faculties and staffs and above all ensuring equitable quality and affordable higher education to the people of the North-east. Growth in the number of HEIs and focus on strengthening infrastructure and hiring quality faculty have also resulted in gaining recognition from the national and international ranking and accreditation institutions such as NIRF and NAAC. However, we have a long way to go and each one of us needs to join our hands together in this journey of transforming higher education in NE.

India as a Nation will grow at the global scale when its various Regions, States including the NE join hands by their growth and development. In this process, universities in the NE can play a very critical role in not just providing greater access to its people but by creating vibrant human capital and global citizenship. University education in NE will have to redefine its purpose to widen access to university education for youth of NE so that they do not need to migrate to other parts of the country for higher studies. Thus, the purpose should be to ensure quality education

for a vibrant human capital with appropriate skills, attitudes, aptitudes and outlook that are job-ready and are conscious citizens of their community and the country.

I strongly believe that in our mind set we are living with colonial history. One of our main responsibilities is to decolonize our colonial mindset. The history of North East has been dominated by several noteworthy unsung heroes about whom the young generation and the general public are not even aware of. In each of the North-Eastern States, these unsung heroes fought valiantly against the colonial regime. But those heroes were conveniently ignored by the colonial historians. My earnest urge to all the Universities of the region is to undertake research in their State to unearth heroic deeds of those unsung and forgotten heroes. The HEIs can promote/popularize their contributions through new courses and by organizing seminars, conferences, events etc.

Another window of opportunity for the HEIs of NE is to collaborate and network with each other and share relevant research and development resources such as laboratory, research equipment, library resources etc. in order to ensure availability and usage of such resources and enhance their usage efficiency for the entire region. In a world that we live now is increasingly becoming complex and presents dynamic challenges requiring innovative and sustainable solutions. HEIs can no longer remain in isolation from each other. The collaboration and partnerships that are called

for would yield significant results in transforming HEIs of the country as a whole. This partnership in resource sharing will not only enhance cooperation, support and healthy competition among HEIs, it will also strengthen the overall performance of an institution and hence enhance footing in the national and international rankings.

With emphasis of NEP-2020 on the role of vocational and skill education for the youth and the masses, HEIs in the NE need to consider this as an important opportunity for skilling its students and the people of the region in a mission mode. Vocational and skill education can cover areas of modern as well as more traditional art and craft, entrepreneurship start-ups and skills for small-scale industry and business enterprises increasing employment and entrepreneurship both in modern as well as traditional occupation and businesses valued by the people.

NEP 2020 is a significant policy milestone in the history of India's national development and aspirations for global leadership. The NEP 2020 is the new arrangement of elements keeping in mind the emerging social, cultural, political and economic realities of the present century. To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, the recommendations and suggestions for reforming our education system are required to be implemented. In letter and spirit if we have to maintain our distinct intellectual and cultural identity and attain global leadership. Being leader of the Higher Education Institutions, role of VCs and Directors

holds paramount importance.

The Union Ministry of State for Education RK Ranjan reminds all that the National Education Policy, 2020 demands a new system of education, both in structural and functional senses. We require quality both in terms of curricula as well as teachers. Teachers need to have a multi-dimensional perspective and should pursue multidisciplinary knowledge - that is while having in-depth knowledge of their fields; they should also locate themselves in a broader knowledge system. Teachers should have their own freedom in designing their own curricula and methods of teachings in order to mold a new generation of free Indians. The NEP wants to create an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary holistic view for sustainable development. Our universities should be filled with multidisciplinary and holistic perspectives to transform the system of higher education for students and for the general public. I hope our deliberations would identify the problem areas and would also find out the mechanism to overcome such hurdles.

The ideal goal of the NEP 2020 could be achieved only when our teachers are good enough to be a driving force, a force that will lead the nation towards a New India. However, the visible weakness of the universities of North East India is that a large number of faculty and non-faculty posts are vacant in many HEIs. We need to fill up these posts in a time bound manner. We must take up the issue of vacant posts

very seriously.

In many universities in general and in the North East in particular, there is a development. Various various reasons. During our discussion, we are expected to look into different aspects of the infrastructural bottlenecks. Not only the buildings, please examine the possibilities of serious problems of infrastructural infrastructure works being held up due to infrastructural development right from curricular and pedagogic transactions to multidisciplinary researches and development projects. The NEP 2020 should not suffer because of lack of commitment in completing infrastructural projects in time. I hope that the Universities have analysed their performance under different parameters of NIRF ranking and are ready to share their plan to improve their ranking in future.

Many steps have been taken by the Ministry of Education in implementation of the NEP 2020. Universities of the North East Region should avail of the enabling provisions made so that the

NEP 2020 is implemented in letter and spirit. All the HEIs are eligible to participate in the new system of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) established to ensure mobility and flexibility for students. UGC has already amended its Regulations to facilitate the Hub and Spoke model of Vocational education to enhance employability. Also, UGC has already issued Guidelines for HEIs to offer Apprenticeship/ Internship embedded Degree programmes. Further, UGC has issued the Regulation increasing credit by using SWAYAM from 20% to 400%. Universities of NE Region may adopt SWAYAM Courses if not already done as the number of SWAYAM Courses have increased manifold now.

Union Minister of state for Education Rk Ranjan added that the gathering will serve as a platform for discussions on transforming HEIs in the NE region including, the strategies for actions, the perceived challenges and to comprehend the local and contextual needs and requirements.

Contd. from Page 1

Two Manipuri boys selected for World.....

As of now the Manipur Muaythai Association is not recognized and no fund can be arranged by the government.

Sagolshe Moramba said that he was selected to attend the Muaythai Championship at Thailand last year but have to miss it due to lack of money. Families of both the mem-

bers told this newspaper to convey the message to the government of Manipur to find a way to help the two boys in attending the championship even though there is no fund allotted for the event. They also requested people to help the two players in attending the championship.

Sports

Delhi Capitals beats Sunrisers Hyderabad by 21 runs in IPL 2022



Agency
Mumbai, May 6:

David Warner could erase those bad memories now.

In the second half of the last IPL, he had posted on social media a photo from his hotel room while his franchise since 2014, Sunrisers Hyderabad, was playing Rajasthan Royals in Dubai. It was baffling why someone who had led the side to a title triumph wasn't even in the dugout.

On Thursday night at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, he was back on the field for a match featuring SRH. This time, though, he was in the rival team, Delhi Capitals.

His determined 92 not out (58b, 12x4, 3x6) powered the Capitals to a 21-run victory. But for a stunning innings from Nicholas Pooran (62, 34b, 2x4, 6x6), the margin would have been much bigger.

As long as Pooran was at the wicket, SRH was in the game, chasing 208. But once



he was caught at long-on off a full toss from Shardul Thakur in the 18th over, it was curtains.

SRH had been reduced to 37 for three in the seventh over, but first Aiden Markram (42, 25b) and then Pooran brought their side back into the contest.

DC now has 10 points, the same as SRH and Punjab Kings. The race for the play-off spots is getting exciting.

Earlier, Warner was unlucky to have missed out on what would have been a remarkable hundred. But as his fourth-wicket partner Rovman

Powell would reveal at the end of the innings, he had replied in the negative when the West Indian asked him if he needed a single at the beginning of the final over.

Warner still reached a couple of milestones: he overtook Chris Gayle's record for most fifties in T20 cricket. This was his 89th. He also hit his 400th six in the format.

He was only second-best though in the six-hitting competition in the innings. Powell smashed six of them in his brutal knock of 67 not out off just 35 balls (3x4). The unfinished

fourth-wicket stand was 122 off only 66 balls.

If Powell's batting was an exhibition of Caribbean power-hitting, Warner anchored the innings sensibly even as he came up with some big hits himself. The duo - and skipper Rishabh Pant during a cameo (26, 16b) - took the SRH bowling apart.

The innings also saw Umran Malik beating his own record for the season's fastest ball, clocking 157 kmph. He bowled really fast right through, but the balls disappeared faster.

Hangzhou Asian Games postponed after fresh Covid wave in China

Agency
Hangzhou, May 6:

The Asian Games, which were to be held from September 10-25 in Hangzhou, have been postponed due to the pandemic, China's state media reported on Friday. No alternative date has been announced so far.

The decision comes at a time when China, where the virus emerged in late 2019, is experiencing its biggest Covid-19 outbreak. The country is battling a record number of daily cases in Shanghai, which has been under lockdown for more than a month. Shanghai is just a short train ride away from Hangzhou, where mass Covid-19 testing began last week to keep a check on rising omicron cases. In the last few days, China's capital Beijing, too, began tightening its Covid curbs.

Till as recently as last week, the organisers and the Olympic Council of Asia had insisted that the Asian Games, second only to the Olympics in terms of size, will go ahead as scheduled in September. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra had earlier this week said they received an intimation continental body, confirming

the same.

The organisers had put in place plans for a strict bio-bubble, similar to the one enforced during the Beijing Winter Olympics earlier this year, and 'successfully rehearsed' it last week during a test event for the Asian Games.

However, following a meeting of the OCA's executive committee, it was decided to postpone the Games. Given a packed international calendar in 2023, where Olympic qualification events for all sports will be held, the OCA and the Asian Games organisers did not immediately announce new dates for the Games.

The decision is likely to have a bearing on the Paris Olympics qualification system, especially in sports such as hockey where Asian Games gold medalists were to be awarded a direct berth.

In a statement, the OCA said the decision was taken due to the current pandemic situation in China and the 'size of the Games'.

"The new dates of the 19th Asian Games will be agreed between the OCA, the IOC and the HAGOC and announced in the near future," the OCA said. "HAGOC (Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee) has been very well prepared to deliver the Games on time despite global challenges. However, the above decision was taken by all the stakeholders after carefully considering the pandemic situation and the size of the Games. The name and the emblem of the 19th Asian Games will remain unchanged, and the OCA believes that the Games will achieve complete success through the joint efforts of all parties."

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Angom Ongbi Mamata Devi do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name Moirangthem Mamata Devi as I have assumed my new name Angom Ongbi Mamata Devi.

Sd/-

Angom Ongbi Mamata Devi

Lalambung Makhong Takhellambam Leikai
Imphal East, Manipur