

Children's Day greeting

IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

Education and Law & Legislative Affairs Minister Th. Basanta Kumar Singh greeted to all the children of Manipur on the occasion of Children's Day that falls on November 14.

In his message Basanta kumar said that the significance of Children's Day is to raise awareness about the rights, education and welfare of children.

He appealed to all the children of Manipur to work hard to achieve their dreams and ambitions. Please inculcate discipline, humility and good virtues to become successful in life.

"Let us not waste time and indulge in bad habits as students. Let us not use unfair means in exam. Let's be obedient to our teachers and parents and contribute to nation-building exercise of the country in future. The government will try its level best to ensure that no child is deprived of the facilities of good education, health, hygiene, food & nutrition and healthy environment", the Education Minister wrote.

India isn't weak anymore; We believe in peace but will give a befitting reply if provoked: Rajnath Singh

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 13:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has assured the Nation that the Armed Forces are fully equipped to give a befitting reply to anyone who casts an evil eye on India. Addressing an event in Jhajar, Haryana on November 13, 2022, the Defence Minister asserted that safeguarding national interests is the main focus of the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the military is being armed with state-of-the-art and indigenously-developed weapons/equipment to protect the country from future challenges.

"India is no longer weak. We believe in peace, but if anyone tries to harm us, we will give a befitting reply. Our soldiers have proved this time and again. 2016 surgical strikes, 2019 Balakot airstrikes and the bravery shown by our soldiers during the Galwan Valley incident are proof of our prowess & preparedness," said Rajnath Singh.

The Defence Minister commended the Prime Minister for transforming India's global image to an assertor from a mere listener, stating that the world now keenly listens to New Delhi. Highlighting that India is now among the top five economies of the world due to the Government's efforts, he hoped that the country will find itself in the top three in the times to come.

Rajnath Singh also stressed that the Government has taken inspiration from revolutionaries such as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, emperor Prithviraj Chauhan & Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji and is working to realise the aspirations of India while safeguarding its cultural heritage. He touched upon the 'Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal', the resolve of a 'New India', envisioned by the Prime Minister during his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort this year.

The Defence Minister said, to get rid of the colonial

mindset, the Government has taken a number of initiatives including renaming of Rajpath as Kartavya Path; installation of a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate premises; a new Indian Navy ensign inspired from Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji and abolition of around 1,500 obsolete British-era laws.

Rajnath Singh rejected the views of certain quarters on the presence of lotus flower in the logo of India's G-20 presidency in 2023, which was launched by the Prime Minister recently. He said lotus is the national flower, connected with India's cultural identity.

The event witnessed the unveiling of the statue of warrior king Prithviraj Chauhan by the Raksha Mantri in Jhajar. He termed Prithviraj Chauhan as a great ruler who not only reigned over a large territory, but was also an epitome of bravery, justice and public welfare. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal was among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

Indian Army to host conclave on Northeast's contribution in nation building

Agency
Guwahati, Nov 13:

The Indian Army is going to host a two-day conclave on 'Celebrating Contribution of India's Northeast Region in Nation Building' in Guwahati.

The conclave is scheduled to be held on November 20 and 21 as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations under the aegis of the Headquarters of Eastern Command of the Army.

The conclave seeks to highlight the contribution of the Northeast towards nation-building and felicitating 'Veer Naris' and showcasing the culture of this region, Army said.

In a statement on Saturday, a Defence PRO said, "This prestigious conclave will be an apt opportunity to spread awareness about the role of unsung heroes of the Northeast in India's independence struggle, the contribu-

tion of the Indian armed forces and other important organs of the government like North Eastern Council (NEC), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Assam Rifles and Northeastern Frontier Railways (NFR) towards overall development of this region."

He also added that it is the first time that such a unique event has been conceived and it is being supported by the state governments of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland as well as North Eastern Zone Cultural Council.

The programme will include a panel discussion at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, on November 20 in which Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya, and renowned speakers from the Indian Army, NEC, NFR and civil society will deliver talks on contemporary issues.

The brave Veer Naris of the northeast would also be honoured during a special event on that day at Narangi Military Station. Nearly 100 Veer Naris are expected to attend the first-of-its-kind outreach programme.

A mega event would be organised at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on November 21, which would include a weapons/equipment display and adventure activities display by armed forces, a fusion band concert, a medley of cultural performances from NER, a special performance by local pop bands, an extravagant musical theatrical which would be followed by the first-ever drone show at Guwahati.

"This programme will be a fitting tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of northeast and symbolise a perfect synergy among all stakeholders in this region," the PRO added.

3-day South Asian Fraternity Conference concluded

IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

The 3-day South Asian Fraternity Conference, which was held from November 11-13, 2022 at Youth Hostel, Khuman Lampak, Imphal, concludes today.

The Conference was attended by delegates from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, numbering 110 delegates. The inaugural event was held at Bal Vidya Mandir in the Palace Compound, with MLA Nishikanta Singh Sapam, as Chief Guest and Satya Paul, the President of the South Asian Fraternity in New Delhi, as chief guest and President. Prof. Anisuz Zaman, Vice Chancellor



of Bangladesh Global University, and L. Jatra Singh Pracharak RSS, Manipur, were among the other dignitaries.

On the first day of the conference, papers were presented by Dhananjay Tripathy, Profes-

sor, South Asian University, New Delhi, on the topic the entire world is a family. K. Radhakumar Singh IAS, Retired Commissioner presented a paper on Manipur Culture and Literature. On the 2nd day, Shri

Elangbam Bijoykumar Singh, Professor, Economics, Manipur University presented his paper on the present-day advancement lacks the sense of social services.

The session was graced by Shivkumar Bilgrami, the Joint Director, Lok Sabha. The Sri Lankan delegate Mst. Keerthy and Bangladesh delegate Sabrina Tabasum also presented their papers on the Entire world is a family. The delegates explore Manipur's historical and cultural sites. The delegates planted a South Asian Fraternity Tree was planted at INA complex Moirang with the soil brought from the native places of the delegates.

CADA continues protest against Legalization of Liquors



IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

Coalition Against Drugs & Alcohol (CADA) continues its protest against the September 20 Cabinet decision to legalize liquor in the state.

As a part of the protest a sit-in-protest was staged at Mayang Imphal Keithel from 1 am. Members of the All Manipur Women Social Reformation & Development Samaj (Nupi Samaj), Nongchup Imphal Palem

Ima Apunba Lup (NIMPAL), Mayang Imphal, Apunba Nupi Lup were attended. Placards denouncing the legalization of liquors by the government were displayed during the protest.

PREPAK observes 'Athoubasingi Ningsing Numit'

IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

Proscribed group People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) observed 'Athoubasingi Ningsing Numit' (Martyrs' Memorial Day) along with all communities of the region. Main event of the day was lighting of torch at each residence and paying tribute to those martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for the restoration of the freedom of the erstwhile Nation.

A statement by Mangal Khuman, Dept. of Publicity and Propaganda of PREPAK said that the main function of the 'Athoubasingi Ningsing Numit' observance were held at its Central Head Quarter (CHQ), General Head Quarter of the Red Army, 701 Battalion, Tectical Head Quarter (THQ),



Base Area, Transit Camps and Training Centers. The Party flag were also half mast as a

mark of respect to the martyrs. The statement added that a 2 minutes silence was observed

and revolutionary gun salute was also paid to the martyrs.

New Managing Committee of Critic Forum Manipur elected

IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

New Managing Committee of the Critic Forum Manipur was elected today during the annual general Body meeting of the Forum, held today at Manipur Dramatic Union (MDU) Yaikul, here in Imphal. Outgoing President of the Forum Dr. L. Gojendo presided over the meeting.

The Annual general body

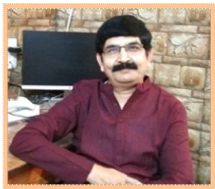
meeting elected Dr. N. Premchand as its President while Dr. A Kholchandra has been re-elected as the general Secretary. S. Sharatchandra Singh was also elected as the Treasurer of the Critic Forum Manipur.

Critic Forum Manipur is a registered body of Theatre aspirants and supporters. The main objective of the Forum is to promote theater and other performing art form through critical analysis. So far the

member of the forum had discussed various plays by interacting with the directors and artists of Manipuri Theater. Eminent theater personalities like Ratan Thiyam, Heishanam Savitri, Arambam Lokendra and Aribam SHyam Sharma had shared their journey of theater with the members of the forum.

The newly elected members of the managing committee comprises of 13 members.

A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

To promote kindness throughout the world and 13th November is observed as World Kindness Day. The world we live in today has been through a lot of things from world wars to epidemics, but one thing which remained constant throughout was resilience and kindness. Kindness is basically being polite, compassionate and thoughtful. Every religion and faith teaches its followers to be kind. Even nature has its own way of showing kindness. For instance, the trees grow fruits for us and provide us with shade. One must not see kindness as a core value but as a fundamental behavioural element. There is no doubt that kindness always wins and it has been proven time and again by people. Kindness has a lot of benefits which includes increased happiness and a healthy heart. It slows down the ageing process and also enhances relationships and connections, which will indirectly boost your health. Kindness is spreading happiness to make other's day better and by making them smile.

People who do not know you will begin to like you right away. Kindness is the most valuable characteristic that comes at no cost. Even someone who has no money and wears only a rag on his body might be generous to others. Everyone should be kind to others. Kindness encompasses a wide range of behaviours. Integrity, empathy, respect, and decency are all essential components. Being modest shows your humility and lays the groundwork for kindness. Generally, kind people are described as those who respect their elderly and younger people, who are soft spoken and when they make big mistakes, they forgive people very easily. If a person finds a kind person, then he should respect him as if he respects his parents or other loved ones. Kindness gives us lot of benefits in life. Kindness can bring good health for you because doctors have approved that showing kindness towards everyone can help someone survive for many years without any disease. It can reduce the problem of stress, depression or any other anxiety which you may have, because kindness will make people happy and they will be happy, you will be automatically happy that your stress and many others will reduce problems. Kindness can also bring us a good amount from customers. It is very clear that when an investor wants, he should be kind and this is what the investor gets affected and provides his money to your business. There are many reasons why kindness is important. First, it creates a positive ripple effect. When we are kind to others, they are more likely to be kind to us. Second, it builds strong relationships. When we show kindness to others, they feel appreciated and valued. This can lead to deeper and more meaningful relationships.

It is often called the golden rule because it asks us to treat others the way we want to be treated. Kindness is about helping others, even if there is nothing in it for us. It can make someone's day, and it doesn't cost a thing. There is a story on Love of Mother Bird. There used to be a bird named Suruli on the mango tree. She had built a beautiful nest. In which her children lived together. Those children did not know how to fly yet, that's why Suruli used to bring food to all of them and feed them. One day when it was raining heavily, then Suruli's children started feeling hungry. The children started crying very loudly. It didn't feel good for her children to cry with melody. She was silencing them, but the children were suffering from hunger, so they were not keeping quiet. The melodious got into thinking, from where will I get food in such heavy rain. But if you do not bring food, how will the children's hunger be satisfied? After thinking for a long time, Suruli took a long flight and reached farmer's house. The farmer had kept the rice, and fruits found in the courtyard. The bird saw it and put a lot of rice in its mouth for the children. And quickly flew away from there. After reaching the nest, the bird fed rice grains to all the children. The children were full, they all became silent and started playing amongst themselves. From the story it reveals the fact that there is no match for mother's love in the world, even after putting her life in calamity, she works in the interest of her children.

Kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. It is a basic good moral that we should all live by. Unfortunately, in today's society, kindness seems to be in short supply. With all the violence, greed, and selfishness that we see on the news, it can be easy to forget that there are still good people in the world. It is essential for all of us to understand the value of kindness. Kindness affects our mentality and gives us internal peace. It reduces all stresses of life and brings smiles to our faces. Showing kindness and respect to others for a minute can keep you in the hearts of everyone for the rest of your life. Always remember, it does not cost anything to be kind. We must treat others with kindness without expecting reciprocation. It is important to be kind because it makes one feel good about oneself. When you do things for other people and help them with anything, it makes you feel warm and that you have accomplished something.

Why Discrete Mathematics is important



By: Vijay GarG

Discrete Mathematics has many applications in daily life and students should be introduced to its concepts early. Any task that is repeated without manual intervention through machines or robots inherently relies on the application of Discrete Maths. Discrete Mathematics is a subject that has gained prominence in recent times. Unlike regular Maths, where we deal with real numbers that vary continuously, Discrete Mathematics deals with logic that does not vary continuously or is discrete or separate distinguishable entities. Some functionalities in Discrete Mathematics include algorithms, set theory, graphs, statements in logic, recursion and probability, and so on.

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Ecotoxicology - need of the hour to save the living beings



By: N. Munal Meitei

Environmental Ecotoxicology is the studies of the harmful effects of chemicals on public health, animals and natural environment especially at the population, community, ecosystem and biosphere levels. Ecotoxicology integrates from toxicology and ecology. All organisms are interconnected in the web of life. If a chemical affects an organism, the organisms will be suffered and consequently all the living beings in the ecosystem will be the victims as all are interdependence.

Environmental toxins can have many detrimental influences on human health, fertility and reproduction. There are more than 400 environmental chemicals or their metabolites found in human samples. Hazardous chemical health effects are poisoning, breathing problems, skin rashes, allergic reactions, allergic sensitization, cancer, and other health problems.

Ecotoxicological effects organism, or at other levels of biological organization, resulting from exposure to a chemical. These levels may

include cellular level, individuals, populations, communities and ecosystems and finally, landscapes. According to the global health body, 2 million lives and 53 million disability-adjusted life-years were lost in 2021 due to exposures to chemicals. Air pollution alone causes over 6.5 million deaths each year globally and this number is also increasing.

Chemicals can enter and irritate the nose, air passages and lungs. Inhalation is the most common route of a chemical to enter the body. It can become deposited in the airways or the lungs and then into the bloodstream carrying to the rest of the body. Ingestion of food, drink or other substances is another route of exposure. The average person is now exposed to more than 700,000 toxic chemicals a day. From perfumes to cleaning products, from cosmetics to plastic water bottles, much of our everyday life is always exposed to chemicals that aren't good for health.

Accidents or incorrect use of household chemical products may cause immediate health effects, such as skin or eye irritation or burns or poisoning. There can also be longer-term health effects. Chemical pollution also affects the delicate balance of the Earth's ecosystems. The presence of heavy metals like cadmium, mercury and lead can affect soil quality and reduce the number of micro-organisms that support the soil fertility and production.

Animals can go to the brink of

extinction because of the break in the food chain. Plants absorb toxins through their roots and leaves. Thus, animals and humans are saved from the fatal effects of chemical exposure.

Animals and humans eat other animals or plants that are already poisoned, which will continue the spread of chemicals as a secondary poisoning. Chemicals induce significant mortality but make the organism sick or make it change its behavior.

With chronic use of pesticides, causes the risk of abnormalities in chromosome structure in humans, as well as affecting the reproduction, nervous and cardiovascular system. The genetics can be affected by toxicant to the DNA leading to mutations.

Pesticides found in fruits, vegetables and meats are used widely for preventing, destroying, or repelling the insects which are considered harmful but we are compelled to use to meet the growing demand. Plants are affected if their pollinators or seed-dispersers are killed.

Predator-prey relationships are also affected by toxins either surpassing the predator or the prey resulting in imbalance the ecosystem and resources of the area. A community that is species-rich will have a better chance recovering from an exotoxin disturbance, rather than a community that is not species-rich. Species richness and diversity is essential for maintaining a healthy, well-balanced ecosystem.

Chemicals are shown to prohibit germination and growth of plants. Plants are the primary producers and are at the bottom of the pyramid. Thus every organisms in the ecosystem relies on the health and abundance of the plants for their survival. If plants are battling for survival due to the chemical exposure, other organisms will either die because of starvation or due to the direct effects of the chemicals.

To fight back chemicals, we can reduce our use; using less can have a big impact on the amount of chemicals that reach the environment. Use only natural, plant-based biodegradable products. Micro-fibre cloths, for example, can clean everything just with water without chemicals. Companion planting can control pests and insects. Use only the plant based composts for gardens and fields.

Ecotoxicologists help to protect the environment and existing ecosystems for future generations. They also make important contributions to protect the food resources and the ecosystems around the world. The ultimate goal of Ecotoxicology is to reveal the effects of chemicals to other environmental factors and to find out the most effective preventive measures for the future. We can make changes to reduce the impact of chemicals on our environment if we are aware and act now, then we can protect the mother nature for the future generations.

(The author is a Environmentalist, Email-nmunal@yahoo.in)

While Many are Demanding ST Status, Supreme Court Judges Call for Revisit of Reservation Policy as India Completes 75 Years of Independence

By: Rajkumar Bobichand

While a number of communities who consider themselves marginalised, discriminated, backward, under privileged and unprotected, and deprived of constitutional safeguards are demanding either to be included in the lists of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes of India, the Supreme Court on November 7, 2022 stated that there is a need to revisit the reservation policy at the end of 75 years of India's independence.

The main reason for which the majority of the communities are demanding inclusion either in the lists of the Scheduled Castes of Scheduled Tribes of India is for the opportunity of reservation in government employment and admission in educational institutions for want of a level playing field, besides other reasons.

In the context of Manipur too, amongst Meiteis, Kachings who are highly educated and good in agriculture later became Scheduled Caste and now they get more job opportunities in all India civil services.

Notably, the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee, Manipur (STDCM) in the beginning of their demand from November 30, 2012 stressed the narrative in public for the need of reservation of jobs for the Meiteis in government employment by citing various examples that most of the key posts of the Manipur government are occupied by other communities of the state through Scheduled Tribes quota thereby Meiteis are marginalised in the ranks and files of state civil secretariat and police services.

Since a number of civil society organisations and members of the intelligentsia of Manipur came out against the demand of STDCM for inclusion of Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribes list of India, the STDCM

has now revised the reason for their demand for inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes of India as a means to protect the land from others, which they didn't mention it in the beginning.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of India on November 7, 2022 upheld the constitutional validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment 2019, which provides for 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS), excluding Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who already have reservation in higher education institutions and government jobs.

Although the Supreme Court of India upheld the constitutional validity of 10 percent reservation for Economically Weaker Section of the society, three judges on the Constitution Bench said the policy of reservation in education and employment cannot continue for an indefinite period.

Justice P.B. Pardiwala, who was with the majority which upheld EWS quota, said real solution lies in eliminating causes that have led to the social, educational and economic backwardness of the weaker sections of the community.

Three judges on the Constitution Bench, which gave a split decision of both the majority and minority opinions, agreed the policy of reservation in education and employment cannot continue for an indefinite period.

Two of the Supreme Court judges upheld the 10% quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) made observations in their judgements regarding the need for a time-limit for reservations.

Justice Bela M Trivedi, who voted against the decision, said, "Therefore, a similar time limit, if prescribed, for the special provisions in respect of the reservations

and representations provided in Article 15 and Article 16 of the Constitution, it could be a way forward leading to an egalitarian, casteless and classless society," Justice Trivedi observed.

"I have said what was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution and what was proposed by the Constitution Bench in 1985 and what was sought to be achieved on the completion of 50 years of the advent of the Constitution that the policy of reservation must have a time span has still not been achieved even at this stage, that is the completion of 75 years of our independence", Justice Trivedi stated.

"It cannot be gainsaid that the age old caste system of India was responsible for the origination of the reservation system in the country. It was introduced to address the historic injustice faced by persons belonging to SC, ST, and other backward classes to provide them a level playing field. However, at the end of 75 years of independence, we need to revisit the system of reservation in the larger interests of the society as a step forward towards transformative constitutionalism", Justice Trivedi stated.

Justice Trivedi referred to Article 334 of the Constitution of India which envisaged a time limit for the reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Parliament and State Legislatures, which is being extended from time to time, would cease 80 years after from the commencement of the Constitution. The present time line for the quota for SC/STs in legislatures is 2030.

The representation for Anglo-Indian communities in the Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies has already ceased after the 104th Constitution Amendment from January 25, 2020.

"Therefore, a similar time limit, if prescribed, for the special provisions in respect of the reservations

and representations provided in Article 15 and Article 16 of the Constitution, it could be a way forward leading to an egalitarian, casteless and classless society," Justice Trivedi observed.

Though not expressly said, Justice Trivedi's view on stopping quota under Articles 15 and 16 would also encompass EWS reservation.

Moreover, Justice JB Pardiwala concurring with the majority view upholding the EWS quota, said that reservation cannot go on for an indefinite period so as to become a "vested interest".

"Reservation is not an end, but a means to secure social and economic justice. Reservation cannot be allowed to become a vested interest. The real solution lies in eliminating the causes that have led to the social and educational backwardness of the weaker sections of the community. This exercise of eliminating the causes started immediately after the independence that is almost 7 decades back and still continues. The long standing development and the spread of education have resulted in tapering the gap between the classes to a considerable extent", Justice Pardiwala stated.

Large percentages of Backward Class members attained acceptable standards of education and employment. They should be removed from the backward classes so that attention could be paid towards those classes who are genuinely in need of help. Therefore, the method of identification and the ways of determination of backward classes need to be reviewed. It is also necessary to ascertain if the criteria for determining backwardness is relevant in the present times.

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Modi govt adopting zero-tolerance policy towards terror: MHA

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 13:

The Modi government is adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and will convey to the international community India's determination in its fight against the menace.

The Union Home Ministry said the government is organising the third Ministerial 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) conference on November 18 and 19 in New Delhi where representatives of 75 countries and international bodies will participate in the deliberations over two days.

Hosting of the NMFT conference shows the importance being given by the Modi government to the issue of international terrorism as well as its zero-tolerance policy against the menace and having discus-

sions on this issue in the international community, a home ministry statement said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be participating in the conference and will convey India's determination in its fight against terrorism as well as its support systems for achieving success against it.

The conference aims to progress the discussions on combating terrorist financing held by the international community in the previous two Conferences in Paris (2018) and Melbourne (2019), the statement said.

It also intends to include discussions on technical, legal, regulatory, and cooperation aspects of all facets of terrorism financing.

It attempts to also set the pace for other high-level official and political deliberations, focused on countering terror-

ist financing.

Globally, countries have been affected by terrorism and militancy for several years. The pattern of violence differs in most theatres, but is largely engendered by a tumultuous geo-political environment, coupled with prolonged armed sectarian conflicts, the statement said.

Such conflicts often lead to poor governance, political instability, economic deprivation, and large ungoverned spaces. The involvement of a compliant state often exacerbates terrorism, especially its financing.

India has suffered several forms of terrorism and its financing over more than three decades, hence it understands the pain and trauma of similarly impacted nations, the statement said.

In order to display solidar-

ity with peace-loving nations and to help create a bridge for sustained cooperation on countering terrorist financing, India was host to two global events in October – the annual General Assembly of the Interpol in Delhi and a special session of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee in Mumbai and Delhi. The forthcoming NMFT conference will further India's efforts to build understanding and cooperation amongst nations, it said.

Discussions at the 3rd 'No Money For Terror' conference will be focussed on global trends in terrorism and terrorist financing, use of formal and informal channels of funds for terrorism, emerging technologies and terrorist financing, and requisite international cooperation to address related challenges, the statement said.

With 734 fresh cases, India sees another drop in daily Covid count; active caseload at 12,307

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 13:

India logged 734 new coronavirus infections taking the tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,46,66,377, while the active cases dipped to 12,307, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,30,531 with three more fatalities, including one recorded by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has in-

creased to 98.78 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

A decrease of 199 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 4,41,23,539, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website 219.80 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on

August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

Two new deaths reported in a span of 24 hours are one each from Karnataka and West Bengal.

At least 326 killed in Iran anti-hijab protest crackdown

Agency
Paris, Nov 13:

Iranian security forces have killed at least 326 people in a crackdown on nationwide protests since Mahsa Amini's death in custody, Iran Human Rights said in an updated toll Saturday.

The Islamic Republic has been gripped by protests that erupted over the death of Amini on September 16, three days after her arrest for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress code for women.

The protests were fanned by fury over the dress rules for

women, but have grown into a broad movement against the theocracy that has ruled Iran since the 1979 revolution.

"At least 326 people, including 43 children and 25 women, have been killed by security forces in the ongoing nationwide protests," Oslo-based IHR said in a statement posted on its website.

The latest toll represents an increase of 22 since the rights group issued its previous figures on November 5.

It includes at least 123 people killed in the province of Sistan-Baluchistan, on Iran's southeastern border with Paki-

stan, a figure which is also up, from 118 in IHR's last toll.

Most of those were killed on September 30 when security forces opened fire on protesters after Friday prayers in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchistan — a massacre activists have dubbed "Bloody Friday".

Those protests were triggered by the alleged rape in custody of a 15-year-old girl by a police commander in the province's port city of Chabahar.

Analysts say the Baluchi were inspired by the protests that flared over Amini's death,

which were initially driven by women's rights but expanded over time to include other grievances.

IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam called on the international community to act as soon as possible to halt the crackdown.

"Establishing an international investigation and accountability mechanism by the UN will both facilitate the process of holding the perpetrators accountable in the future and increase the cost of the continuous repression by the Islamic republic," he said in the statement.

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Why Discrete Mathematics is.....

Its importance lies in the fact that most key mathematical competitions such as American Mathematics Competition (AMC) or American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) are based on Discrete Mathematics. On the other hand, not many would know that it plays a significant role in Computer Science and is often called the Backbone of Computer Science. Those who major in Computer Science in universities and colleges rely on it heavily.

Use in computing

Discrete Mathematics is, in fact, the math of computing. Computers work on algorithms of bytes 0 and 1. Knowledge of Discrete Mathematics is a prerequisite for algorithms, probabilities, logic, graph theory, set theory, and so on. Graph theory is used in compilers, operating systems, and networks while Set theory is used in software

engineering and databases. On the other hand, probability theory is used in machine learning, networking, and artificial intelligence. In effect, Discrete Mathematics makes all aspects of Maths easy.

The goal of Computer Science is problem-solving with speedy solutions and Discrete Mathematics helps us solve real-world problems and daily projects and is comparatively easy to understand. Some of the basic use cases include identifying spam messages, choosing a valid password, steps needed to sort a list using a given method, and recognising the efficiency of one algorithm from the other are all now possible. All the advanced programming languages or emerging technologies leverage basic programming by calibrating the application of bytes.

As there is increased use of automation now, any task

that is repeated without manual intervention through machines or robots inherently relies on the application of Discrete Mathematics. The concept is used in creating automation and is popularly called Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning these days.

In daily life

Discrete Mathematics plays a significant role in big data analytics. Some examples that use concepts such as Graph theory are Google Maps. Encryption and decryption in cryptography that are used for masking data as part of cybersecurity are derived from number theory. Basic functionalities like password encryption and blockchain technology for mining and cryptocurrency also use number theory.

In Big Data, Discrete Mathematics also serves as a powerful means of managing very

high-dimensional data or drawing inferences from large noisy data. It helps turn massive data into meaningful data and algorithms that can be used to scale up computations of humongous sizes.

Thus, Discrete Mathematics provides an exciting means for problem-solving in a highly technology-reliant society and also opens up exciting careers for better sophisticated analytical and technical tools and improving problem-solving abilities.

It is time that Discrete Mathematics is included in school curricula starting from Class 6 onwards with a focus on graph theory, combinatorics, number theory, discrete geometry, and discrete probability. These modules will also help students who are not particularly strong in arithmetic or algebra to understand the concepts more easily.



"Jagdamba", the sword of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, which is under the purview of British Royal Family in London.

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 13:

The Maharashtra Government has begun renewed attempts to bring back the "Jagdamba" sword of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, so that it reaches India by 2024, to mark the completion of 350 years of the coronation of the Maratha king.

Marashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said that the state government would hold discussions with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to bring back the "Jagdamba", the sword of Shivaji Maharaj by 2024, to mark the completion of 350 years of the coronation of the Maratha king, who was crowned emperor of his realm at Raigad fort on June 6, 1674. Mungantiwar said that the state govern-

ment has already begun correspondence with the central government on this issue after Sunak became Prime Minister of the UK.

Shivaji Maharaj had three swords - Bhavani, Jagdamba and Tulja. Of these Bhavani is in hands of his descendants, Tulja has been lost and Jagdamba is in Buckingham Palace, London.

The Jagdamba sword was stated to be given to King Edward VII while he was still the Prince of Wales during his visit to India around 1875. It was presented to the British royal by the young Raja of Kolhapur - Shivaji VI Chhatrapati Narayana Rao - a member of the Bhonsle dynasty who reigned under a regency until attaining his majority. Shivaji VI had incidentally become the youngest knight ever to be

honoured with the title of Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India in 1877. The transfer of the sword was viewed as a coercive action, with the future King presenting another sword as a counter-gift to the 13 year old king (now housed at the New Palace Museum in Kolhapur).

Attempts made to bring back sword so far

The first attempt to bring back the sword was made by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, when he visited London to fight a suit of libel he had filed against the journalist Sir Valentine Chirol for derogatory references made in Chirol's book-"Indian Unrest". Subsequently, the Marathi poet and playwright Ram Ganesh Gadkari, who wrote under the pen name of "Govindnagar", made references to the sword in a poem.

After independence, the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Yashwantrao Chavan, pursued the matter. Later, Chief Minister A R Antulay announced efforts to bring the sword back, and started collecting documents to build a case for India. At the time, however, the sword was referred to as the "Bhavani" sword, and the British argued that a sword of that name is already there in Maharashtra's Satara district. In fact it is the sword "Jagdamba" which is to be brought back to India now.

Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Uppal's name included in the list of "100 Inspiring Indians-2022"

IT Correspondent
Bathinda (Punjab), Nov 13:

In the book "100 Inspiring Indians-2022", you will find stories of real heroes of our country who have always had a vision, but are still working hard to make our country a better place. To honor these inspirational aces of our country, Golden Sparrow and Dr. Tilak Tanwar initiated a mission called -100 INSPIRING INDIANS to search for 100 Indi-



ans who have accomplished extraordinary work in their

respective fields. I would like to thank Dr. Tilak Tanwar for his prolific writings, motivational speeches, and motivational attitude.

This book is available on major online sites and is a great source of inspiration for high dreamers. An overview of my achievements is included in this book, which may serve as an inspiration to others. A wonderful book has been written by Dr. Tilak, and I congratulate him once again.

While Many Are Demanding ST Status.....

"It is very much necessary to take into review the method of identification and the ways of determination of Backward Classes, and also, ascertain whether the criteria adopted or applied for the classification of Backward is relevant for today's conditions," Justice Pardiwala said.

Justice Pardiwala quoted Dr.BR Ambedkar to state that the idea was to bring social harmony by introducing res-

ervation for only ten years. However, it has continued past 7 decades.

"Reservation should not continue for an indefinite period of time so as to become a vested interest", Justice Pardiwala stated.

In his minority view on the Constitution Bench, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat reminded Baba Saheb Ambedkar's observations that reservations should be

seen as temporary and exceptional "or else they would eat up the rule of equality".

What is very significant in the Supreme Court Constitution Bench judgement on November 7, 2022 upholding the Constitutional validity of 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS), excluding Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is the statement made by the Judges

that Reservation Policy can't continue indefinitely, should be revisited for "Casteless Classless Society and Reservation Policy should have a time limit.

If India's Reservation Policy comes to an end as stated by Supreme Court Judges, it will give a shock to those vested interests who want reservation policy to continue for an indefinite or extended period of time.

India's first privately built rocket set for November 15 launch

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 13:

India's first privately developed rocket — Vikram-S — is set for a November 15 launch on a sub-orbital mission with three payloads, Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace has announced.

The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambh' (the beginning), will carry payloads of two Indian and one foreign customers and is set for launch from the Indian Space

Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota.

"Heartbeats quicken. All gazes are up to the sky. The earth is listening. It all points to 15 Nov 2022 for launch," Skyroot Aerospace said on Friday.

The launch is scheduled for 11:30 am, Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana told PTI.

Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace startup, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and

Indonesia on the sub-orbital flight on board Vikram-S.

With this mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation.

It aims to disrupt entry barriers to cost-efficient satellite launch services and space-flight by advancing its mission to make spaceflights affordable, reliable and

regular for all, the statement said.

Set up in 2018, Skyroot has successfully built and tested India's first privately developed cryogenic, hypergolic-liquid, and solid fuel-based rocket engines using advanced composite and 3D-printing technologies.

Skyroot Aerospace successfully raised USD 51 million through a Series-B financing round, in September this year. It had raised USD 11 million in Series-A capital raise in July last year.

India to be one of top three economic powers in next 10-15 years: FM

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 13:

India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers globally over the next 10-15 years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday.

Speaking at the US-India Business and Investment Opportunities event here, Sitharaman said, the global economic outlook remains challenging and the Indian economy is not insulated from the impact of global economic developments.

However, she said, India has carved out its growth trajectory supported by the above-normal south-west monsoon, public invest-

ment, strong corporate balance sheets, upbeat consumer and business confidence and receding threat of the Covid pandemic.

"India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. It has recently surpassed the UK to become the fifth-largest economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers globally over the next 10-15 years," she said.

Listing out some of the important measures taken by the government to boost the economy, the finance minister mentioned about Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes across sectors, PM GatiShakti programme and semiconductor mission.

"We recognise foreign

capital flows as a vital component of India's growth story. Key reforms include simplification and rationalisation of the Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) regulations, increase in aggregate foreign investment limit, introduction of Common Application Form (CAF) for registration of FPIs, and opening of new channels of debt investments like the Voluntary Retirement Route (VRR) and Fully Accessible Route (FAR)," she said.

The success of these measures is reflected in the sustained investment flows entering India through the FPI route, she said.

Significantly, she said, the US is the top source country of FPI investment in India, with the Asset under

Custody (AUC) of FPIs from the USA standing close to USD 234 billion as on September 30, 2022.

On India's digital prowess, Sitharaman said it will define India's growth and development in the next decade — medium to long term.

India has built an entirely new digital economy by leveraging the foundations of over a billion bank accounts, a billion mobile phones, and a billion digital identities (Aadhaar), she said.

"Today, we have a powerful story on Digital Public Goods (DPG) to tell the world. The economy is seeing an exponential increase in new-age FinTech firms. India has the highest FinTech adoption rate as compared to the global average," she said.

Assam Rifles pay homage to bravehearts



IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

On 13 November 2022, Khuga Battalion of Assam Rifles paid homage to its Braveheart's, who in the richest traditions of the Armed Forces, made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty for the motherland in border district of

Churachandpur.

Always choosing the integrity & security of the Nation before self, Commandant along with four Riflemen and two non-combatants of 46 Assam Rifles laid down their lives in Churachandpur district of Manipur on 13 November 2021.

The Battalion paid homage by remembering the Fallen Sol-

diers, reaching out to their family members and paying their respect. As part of Battalion's commitment towards wellbeing and growth of Veer Naris and dependents of the brave sons of Motherland, the Battalion felicitated the Veer Naris and paid their homage at the Memorials constructed in the paternal villages of the Braveheart's.

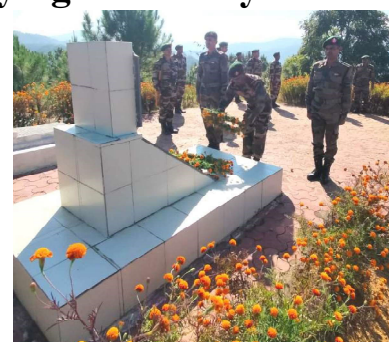
Assam Rifles conducts Wreath Laying Ceremony

IT News
Imphal, Nov 13:

Modi Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted Wreath Laying Ceremony on the '5th Anniversary of the Chandel IED attack' of 18 Assam Rifles occurred on 13 Nov 2017, at COB Chandel, Manipur.

The solemn ceremony was conducted to remember the fallen heroes and pay due homage to the two Braveheart's of 18 Assam Rifles who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

During the event, the soldiers of Modi Battalion were also briefed about the incident.



Sports

NE Olympics: Manipur dominates wushu and taekwondo



Agency
Shillong, Nov 13:

Manipur had a brilliant day in the wushu and taekwondo events at the 2nd North East Olympic Games 2022 on Saturday.

In wushu, which was held on the NEHU campus, the men's taolu gold was won by Salam Marshal Singh from Manipur. Tomboy Boro of Assam secured the second position and the third position was secured jointly by Kyrshanbor R Songthang of Meghalaya and Pongchoi Reham from Arunachal Pradesh.

The women's taolu event

was also won by a martial artist from Manipur Yumlembam Echangtombi Devi. Yani Eru from Arunachal was second, while the two bronze medals were claimed by Espiranza S Songthiang from Meghalaya and Nistha Dutta from Assam.

At the Assam Rifles Indoor Stadium in Laitkor, the venue for taekwondo, Manipur stole the show in the junior girls' kyorugi, winning gold in the U-42kg, U-44kg, U-46kg, and U-55kg events by Martin Wahengbam, Irom Bijaya Devi, Priyadarshini Mayengbam and Salam Charlei Devi. Assam netted two gold medals, which were won by Anshika Singh (U-49kg) and

Nayatri Chetia (U-52kg).

The junior boys' kyorugi was a more mixed affair, with Nagaland taking one gold via Tenloi Phom (U-45kg); Assam two via Debasis Chetia (U-48kg) and Rahul Phukan (U-51kg); Manipur one via Arubam Kishan Singh (U-55kg); Mizoram one via Lalremmuana (U-59kg); and Arunachal Pradesh via Nared Jomoh (U-63kg).

More martial arts are scheduled for the following days, even as taekwondo and wushu will conclude on Sunday. Judo will begin on Sunday at the Laban SC Indoor Stadium and karate on Monday at the SAI Training Centre in NEHU.

Shiva Thapa wins historic silver as India finish Asian Boxing Championships with 12 medals

Agency
Amman (Jordan), Nov 13:

Shiva Thapa capped off India's magnificent campaign by clinching a historic silver medal as the country concluded the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships with 12 medals in Amman, Jordan on Saturday.

This was Thapa's third silver and sixth medal overall at the prestigious tournament, which makes him the most successful male pugilist in the championships' history. His previous two silver medals

came in 2017 and 2021. He also clinched the title in the 2013 edition and secured bronze medals in 2015 and 2019.

Up against Abdullaev Ruslan of Uzbekistan in the men's 63.5kg final, Thapa made a cautious start and looked growing in confidence as the bout progressed. However, his quest for a second gold in the Asian Championships was halted by an unfortunate injury which he suffered to right knee in the second round of the bout. With the Guwahati-born boxer in no condition to continue, his Uzbek opponent was

declared as the winner by the referees with RSC verdict.

With the addition of silver on the final day, India accumulated a grand total of 12 medals in the competition, which included four gold, two silver and six bronze. Out of the 12 medals, women pugilists contributed to seven as India claimed No.1 position in the women's section followed by Kazakhstan, who finished second with three gold medals. The 2022 edition of the championships saw a fierce competition in the presence of 257 top boxers from 27 countries.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) won the gold medal along with Alfiya Pathan (+81kg), Saweety Boora (81kg) and Parveen Hooda (63kg). Minakshi (52kg) claimed silver while Ankushita Boro (66kg) and Preeti Dahiya (57kg) bagged bronze medals each.

On the other hand, Narender (+92kg), Sumit (75kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) and Govind Kumar Sahani (48kg) managed to win bronze medals in the men's category.

Mukesh Ambani enters race to bid for English football club Liverpool: Report

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 13:

Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani has entered the race to bid for world-renowned English football club Liverpool FC's takeover, reported a leading English daily.

The English Premier League giants have been put up for sale by their current owners Fenway Sports Group (FSG), who bought the Merseyside club in October



2010 and have reportedly appointed Goldman Sachs and

Morgan Stanley to assist them in selling the team.

According to 'The Mirror', the FSG are willing to sell the club for 4 billion British pound.

Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries and rated by Forbes as the eighth richest person in the world, has enquired about the club, the English daily reported.

Few associated with the Mumbai-headquartered Indian multinational conglomerate, however, could not confirm the development.