

CM inaugurates Keithel Store at Goa through Video Conferencing

IT News
Imphal, Nov 17:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated a Keithel Store branch at Mapusa, Goa today through Video Conferencing. Keithel Store is an exclusive store of Manipur under an initiative of Pann Corporation, Pune.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister lauded and appreciated the Pann Corporation for their initiative, innovation, effort, hardwork.

Expressing happiness with the opening of the second Keithel store at Goa after a store at Pune which was inaugurated in 2021, and their efforts to open branches internationally, the Chief Minister said it is quite encouraging.

He further stressed on the need to create awareness that the things available under (Manipur Organic Mission Agency) MOMA, Government of Manipur are only organic products as the store is supported by MOMA. This



will attract more customers, he said, highlighting the present trend worldwide of people preferring organic products more.

He also said that the State government is also promoting and encouraging natural and organic farming in the State.

Wishing the young entrepreneurs success in their endeavors, the Chief Minister further stressed that he can be contacted through the "CM da Haisi" on any issues.

The programme was also attended by Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Minister Konthoujam Govindas Singh, Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Minister Leishangthem Susindro Meitei, MLA Th. Shyamkumar, MLA Sanasam Premchandra Singh, among others.

According to the Pann Corporation, Pune, The Keithel Store is a one-stop store for all the indigenous

products of Manipur giving products of the State a market space in the city of Pune. The Keithel Store Pune is supported by Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA), Government of Manipur. A MoA was signed on between the representatives of PANN & MOMA on 15th March 2021. The Store at Pune was officially inaugurated on 8th Sept 2021 by Chief Minister, N Biren Singh in a virtual function.

6 cadres surrendered as PREPAK yesterday has nothing to do with the party – PREPAK

IT News
Imphal, Nov 17:

Proscribed group People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) said that the Home Coming ceremony organized by the government of Manipur at 1st MR Banquet Hall yesterday, where 31 cadres of five different rebel groups had laid down their weapons and surrendered to the Chief Minister who is also in charge of Home Department of the government of Manipur is a drama to get fund from the central government.

In a statement, Mangal Khuman, Publicity Officer, Dept. of Publicity & Propaganda of PREPAK said that the six cadres they stated to

be PREPAK among the thirty-one cadres are not related to either the PREPAK or its army wing Red Army.

The statement also denounced the government for trying to segregate the unity of PREPAK by mentioning a new group called PREPAK (VC).

"There is no rebel group called PREPAK (VC)", Mangal stated in the statement and warned the Home Department

for using such name as the PREPAK had time and again clarified to the people of the state that no such organization called PREPAK (VC) exists.

On the other hand, the PREPAK termed the organizing of such home coming ceremony as a drama to spread false propaganda about the movement to the people of the region. It also ridiculed the government over its speech

which stated that the revolutionary movement have been suppressed since the coming of the BJP government, stating that such speech is to please their master at the center.

The statement also stated that the PREPAK has been waging war against the colonial regime to restore the lost independence for years and will continue to do so until the goal is achieved.

India is surpassing China in total population after only 5 months

By Dr. Gyan Pathak
New Delhi, Nov 17:

India celebrated 14 November as Children's Day, and exactly five months after on 14 April, 2023 would surpass China crowning itself the world's most populated country. The world has already celebrated the arrival of 8 billionth baby on Earth, as it signified a milestone for humanity in terms of achievement in human health with the increased expectancy of life at birth.

14 April 2023 would thus not only be a milestone, both for India and China, it may also mark the beginning of unprecedented multiple crises on account of new known and unknown challenges of the future on account of its adverse impact on living conditions. There are already numerous unresolved crises including food and energy security, climate change, and growing domestic and international conflicts exacerbating the crises. Moreover, global population would continue to rise, and within 15 years, an

other one billion will be added to become 9 billion. Only after reaching peak in the early 1960s, the world population would start decelerating to reach 10.4 billion in the 2080s.

India and China, both would have over 1.4 billion population each by 14 April 2023. It is only theoretical argument that more population means more hard to work, and both the countries would potentially garner the so called population dividend. However, in practice, both the countries will not be in position to provide work for its growing people, which would further put burden on the responsibility to feed their people, especially those who will have no job and means of livelihood.

COVID-19 pandemic has already indicated that providing access to health would be another major challenge coupled with the food crisis. India will have to face greater challenge on this account since the pandemic have increased the ever increasing inequality among the haves and have-nots, pushing mil-

lions of people below poverty line. It has changed the world of work in which the economic growth is creating too little new jobs to offset the unprecedented level of growth in population. Without complete coverage of the entire population under social security, majority of the population cannot feed themselves. Even during the pandemic India needed to provide foodgrains to 800 million of people out of about 1390 million population.

India's population growth has always been much more than the projection. In 2000, the country was projected to surpass China's population by 2045, but by 2017 it was projected to become world's most populous country by 2027. However, only after 5 years the latest UN projection of 2022, said that India would surpass China's population to wear the crown of the most populated country in the world. No resource in the country is growing at this rate, and hence we are heading towards a multiple crises.

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India played down importance of Human Rights at United Nations periodic review

By Ravi Nair
New Delhi, Nov 17:

The Solicitor General of India, Tushar Mehta while presenting India's fourth periodic report at the United Nations ("UN") Human Rights Council session in Geneva on November 10, stated that human rights defenders should conform to the law of land.

That is a no brainer. Unless, one had the moral courage of a Mahatma Gandhi, whose name Mehta is undoubtedly aware of, but is perhaps less conversant with Gandhiji's teachings on the primacy of the moral law. "Gandhi's seditious trial of 1922 was one that brought into sharp focus the conflict between obedience to the law of the land and obedience of one's moral conscience in opposing an unjust law", lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan aptly said in a lecture on Gandhi Jayanti in 2020.

It would have been appropriate if the present Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi, having given short shrift to academic independence, being part of the Union Government's delegation, had proffered advice on the interplay between domestic and international law domestically and in the comity of nations to his head of

delegation.

Mehta in his remarks was referring to the pointed and excellent recommendations of Germany, Greece, The Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the U.S.A., Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Estonia, the Czech Republic, and many others.

As per a quick count, 29 countries called on India to ratify the UN Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, in their individual statements.

Seventeen countries, ranging from Australia to Iceland and Chile, urged India to put a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Many of them, like Mexico, also asked India to consider signing the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

Namibia, Benin and France called for India to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW"). India has acceded to CEDAW but has so far not signed the optional protocol, which allows the Committee on the Elimina-

tion of Discrimination Against Women to hear complaints from individuals. Three African countries – Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Cameroon – and a Pacific nation, Marshall Islands, referred to ending caste-based discrimination, especially in preventing violence and improving access to utilities. The Leaflet will be carrying a detailed analysis of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations after they are made public on 16 November.

Mehta's rebuttal was the usual cocktail from the Union Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs' long-playing record: India is a democracy, courts provide remedies, and there is a terrorist under every bed.

The irony was lost on Mehta as being the representative of a State party that voluntarily surrendered a small part of its sovereignty when it signed and ratified international treaties related to international human rights and humanitarian law. His advisors forgot to tell him that tales of King Canute asking the waves of international scrutiny to go back exist only in fairy tales. The very fact that India was undergoing an intensive review was indicative that all was not well in the wannabe Hindutva dispensation.

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More continue to assist inmates at Old Age Home Langjing



IT News
Imphal, Nov 17:

More and more people working at different sectors continue to provide assistance in the form of money and kinds for the inmates of the Old Age Home, Langjing Achouba in Imphal West.

Today, 73 years old

Laishram Damayanti Devi of Keishampat Leimajam Leikai donated a sum of Rs. 20,000/- (Twenty Thousand) to the Founder of the Old Age Home Langjing Dr. Mayengbam Kamala Devi and Secretary KC Gita to help for completion of the construction underway for the inmates.

On the other hand

Thongam Debajani Devi, Deputy Commandant, 136 Bn., Assam and Moirangthem Somorani Devi, Deputy Commandant, GC, Lamjing of Khundrakpam Mayai Leikai also donated blankets, and edible items including potatoes, Rice, edible oil dal and snacks for the inmates at the aged home.

Awareness programme on food safety

IT News
Imphal, Nov 17:

Awareness programme on delivery or sales of safe and hygienic food for the vendors dealing with edible items was held today at City Convention Center here in Imphal.

Director of Health, Dr. Kh. Sashee Kumar Mangang, Dy. Secretary of Food Safety Department Sonia Oinam, Joint Director of Food Safety Dept. Dr. S. Rajen Singh and Nodal Officer of FASSAI Dr. Ch. Sanajaoba Meitei attended the programme as dignitaries on the dais.

The awareness programme is being organized to ensure that vendors on food business deliver hygienic and safe food to customers.

Chongtham Tomba coffered on with Sahitya Ratna National Award

IT News
Imphal, Nov 17:

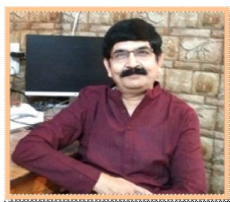
Chongtham Tomba Singh, founder president of the United Chongthas and resident of Nagamapal Singbiung Leirak has been awarded the Sahitya Ratna National Award by the Bahujan Sahitya Academy, India. The award was handed over on November 13, during



the 3rd National Conference of the Bahujan Sahitya Academy held at Garwal Bhavan, Kerol Bagh in Delhi.

Mention may be made that Chongtham Tomba has been researching about the left-out history of the state for over 8 years and he had contributed many articles in newspapers of the state. Presently he is a columnist at the Naharol Thoudang newspaper.

Road etiquette can reduce traffic chaos



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Road safety is a concern for all irrespective of gender. It is a matter of fact that lack of etiquettes on the road is seen is going to be much dangerous for the lives of citizens. Road safety is a priority and concern to all of us and there is a need of regularly reinforcing this message. The true costs of accidents are rarely assessed, and can only be of full value if assessed to formulate future projections of loss probability and effective safety management. It seems as if no one is interested in striking at the root of the traffic problems: poor driver education. The road users should avoid driving recklessly. The other example of neglecting while driving or riding are using hand phone while driving, driving when you are sleepy, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and playing loud music while driving. If the authorities are interested in proper traffic management, the RTOs need to be modernized and upgraded.

It is a matter of fact that lack of etiquettes on the road is seen is going to be much dangerous for the lives of citizens. No one follows the traffic rules and even not the traffic police can handle. Bikers are often a headache and we need to focus more on such offenders. The other example of neglecting while driving or riding are using hand phone while driving, driving when you are sleepy, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and playing loud music while driving. Roads are a mess today not because of the bad quality of work, but bad planning. Lane sizes, pedestrian crossings, traffic signals or left-turns are poorly designed. All of this reckless act can be overcome by taking some steps such as use Bluetooth phone devices when receiving or making a call while driving. If the authorities are interested in proper traffic management, the RTOs need to be modernized and upgraded. Duty timings of traffic cops should also be extended to man this busy junction to check erring motorists. Many people drive at 6-7 in the evening with their high-beams on, which can blind the driver on the opposite side.

Also, lane-driving must be made mandatory. Drivers must be sensitized about the rights of the pedestrians. Roads are a mess today not because of the bad quality of work, but bad planning. Lane sizes, pedestrian crossings, traffic signals or left-turns are poorly designed. We should fix these at the earliest.

Lack of knowledge about correct use of high-beam headlights creates problem at night. People just get a license with little knowledge about honking and lighting norms. Many people drive at 6-7 in the evening with their high-beams on, which can blind the driver on the opposite side. This is a bad practice as it can result in accidents.

There's no concept of lane-driving. All they understand is that the road is their race track and they need to be the first one even if that means overtaking a guy who just gave the indicator to take a turn. At traffic signals, people taking a right-turn tend to stop in the middle of the lane, thus blocking the traffic. If we go through the statistics of road accident data reveals that around 1,374 accidents and 400 deaths take place every day on Indian roads, resulting in 57 accidents and loss of 17 lives on an average every hour. SC has also expressed its concern at the high number of road accident fatalities - 1.5 lakh - every year in India.

Stringent laws against drunk and rash driving, proper and effective enforcement of the laws and the tough and sincere judiciary in dealing with the accidents alone could ultimately have a positive effect in dealing with the ever growing accidents. Cops tend to overlook the bikers who ride without a helmet and indulge in rash driving, but they fine someone, who may be in a hurry to reach hospital, for over speeding. If people drive more sensibly, our roads will be safer for all. Let's stop giving excuses, instead look for solutions on the basis of suggestions received from experts and concerned citizens. People must be taught road etiquette, which could reduce 50% of disarray on streets.

Letter to the Editor

Kind attention Hon'ble CM

Sir,
With due respect, I am a proud citizen of the great city of Imphal, I love the zoological park (zoo) of our city and I am so grateful that Honorable CM notices every corner of Manipur and takes the needful action whenever necessary. I see that you are working hard on improving the tourism sector of our state. On this account I would like to draw your attention to our CM and all other Print and Media for our State Zoological garden which no one has spoken about in the last many years. As it will also attract tourists where we can see the Sangai in live if we improve some infrastructure.

However, during a recent visit, I felt very sad witnessing the poor condition of the animals kept there. Later I appealed to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, New Delhi. Further case was forwarded to Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003. Further Director Iroisemba Zoo was looped in.

Later had a conversation with the Director (Iroisemba Zoo) where he agreed that there is a lot of room for improvement required in the Iroisemba Zoo in terms of infrastructure and all other aspects. And he has taken up cleanliness & maintenance drives under his capacity.

And it is flooded most of the time in State lake Manipur as it is located in a low lying area. They need proper infrastructure because of heavy rain. Even news agencies are also not covering any news about it as they don't get T.R.P from this. There are lot of 20-30 years old cages which will fall at any time soon.

So, there is much need for the intervention of respected/honorable people CM like you Sir. I kindly request you to urgently look into the matter and take necessary actions.

With Sincerely

Bikramjit Rajkumar

Sagolband Mabudhou Mantri Leikai

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Burning Hay Straw is a suicidal for Environment



By: N. Munal Meitei

Now is the peak season for harvesting in Manipur. Everywhere long spiral smog are seen from hay straw burning right from morning till late night. But straw burning is illegal and it affects soil fertility, moisture, organic matter, microbial population and worst air pollutant leading to the environmental degradation.

The unhealthy acts of stubble burning were not seen in the past. On the harvesting day itself, people used to make bundle & collect in heaps and latter stacked in their homesteads for fodder and other purposes. But now people hardly rear the cattle and also due to lack of spaces, hay stubble are burnt to save labour and wages. People also have less knowledge about the environmental impacts from the stubble burning. Thus, burning at the harvesting site itself is a common practice in the state.

In absence of viable industries, agriculture is the main occupation in Manipur with about 80% of the total

populations. Major part of state's domestic product and employment up to 22.13% (2011 census) of the work force are in agricultural sector. Out of 22,327 sq.km geographical area, 12.98% is used for cultivation and 52% of it is confined in the valley. The total cultivated area of the state is about 2,89,500 ha in which about 82% are utilized for paddy.

A rough grain to straw ratio is about 1.0 to 1.5. In Manipur, the average rice yield is as high as 3.2 to 3.6 tons per ha or pari and the subsequent hay stubble production is about 5.7 tons. Therefore, our state produced 14,02,628 tons of hay stubble annually.

Burning crop residue is a crime under Section 188 of the IPC and under the Air and Pollution Control Acts, 1981. National Green Tribunal directs all state governments to take up for coercive and punitive action to the violators of stubble burning. The penalties are; farmers with below 2 acres land while on burning have to pay Rs. 2500, 2 to 5 acres for Rs. 5000 and more than 5 acres for Rs. 15000 as the environmental compensation. But strict implementation is not seen everywhere and the sad part is the farmers still burnt and prefer to pay the fines because paying fines save them more than to keep the NGT norms. Therefore, it is important to diagnose and address the fundamental problems that force the farmers to burn the stubble without obeying the NGT guidelines in the

national interest.

While on hay stubble burning, the loss of nutrients per ha amounts to 339 kg Nitrogen (N₂), 6 kg Phosphorus(P), 140 kg Potassium (K) and 11 kg Sulphur(S) and many soil beneficial nutrients. Therefore with this rate, the total loss of nutrients in Manipur would be around 80.50 million tons N₂, 1.42 million tons P 33.22 million tons K and 2.61 million tons of Sulphur over and above many more important trace elements annually. The heat while on straw burning penetrate about 1 cm into the soil, elevating the temperature from 33.8°C to 42.2°C killing the bacterial, fungal and earthworm populations which enhance soil fertility.

The amount of greenhouse gases emitted, when 1 ton of stubble is burnt are 2 kg of SO₂, 60kg CO, 4.7 kg CH₄, 1460 kg of CO₂, 3 kg particulate matters and 199 kg of ash. These are the pollutants that hamper the climate which hindered our seasonal rainfall every year. At the same time, if we could allow them to decompose without burning somewhere at a corner of the paddy field, then the soil could get back 156-170 kg Nitrogen, 10.15-20.75 kg Phosphorus, 66-70 kg Potassium and 5-5.70 kg Sulphur from the hay straw of 1.25 acre paddy field. Thus, the total nutrients saving in Manipur would be around 113.6 million tons of NPKS annually. While burning the heap up stubble near to the trees along the roadside also kill the valuable plants.

To save hay straw, state government may decide to establish the industries which utilize the hay stubble for various purposes, like producing ethanol, paper and packaging material, including hard boards, rough paper and fodder. The other method involves use of hay straw for biomass energy plants to generate electricity. In Punjab, thirteen such plants have been established. In Manipur also, we may innovate for such power generating plants which will surely reduce the environmental problems and social impacts.

Rearing of cattle is another option, because hay straw is a good fodder for cattle. We may also use Seeders Machines which can put the straw back into the earth to enhance the soil nutrients. Rice harvested with machines has better crushed and are easy to put back inside the soil.

Mushroom cultivation also known as Protein cultivation is one of the most prospective eco-friendly practices to fight unemployment and malnutrition. Rice straw which contains 41% cellulose, 14% lignin, 0.8% nitrogen, 0.25% P₂O₅, 0.3% K₂O, 0.6% SiO₂ and with pH 6.9 is best for mushroom cultivation.

The soil health is our future life. Therefore let's not burn the hay straw but utilize it to uplift our rural economy and to save the environment for the future generations.

(The author is a Environmental-ist, email-nmunal@yahoo.in)

Of Grit, Guts and Gallantry: Celebrating Veer Lachit

By: Kangkana Goswami Bharadwaz



Picture for representation only

upwards the Brahmaputra. Losing the will and courage to confront the enemy, a few from Borphukan's contingent started retreating. It was at such a crucial point, when a severely ill Lachit Borphukan announced his uncompromising determination to take on the mammoth enemy at any cost and complete the task assigned to him by the king. He also loudly proclaiming that he would "die fulfilling his duty to his king and country, even if it meant he had to do it by himself". Undeterred by any dissent, Lachit Borphukan boarded a boat and with seven other boats advanced towards the Mughal fleet, tricked the Mughals in naval warfare and launched an all-out guerrilla assault against the enemy. Such show of gallantry along with the naval prowess of the Ahoms shook the confidence of the invaders, broke their will-power, battering and butchering the enemy's ill designed imperialist tendencies and forcing them to retreat. Accepting and acknowledging defeat in the hands of the Ahoms, the Mughal Commander-in-Chief Ram Singh wrote, "Glory to the king! Glory to the counsellors! Glory to the commanders! Glory to the country! One single individual leads all the forces!"

The unparalleled unapologetic patriotic temperament of the Ahom general is a testament of impenitent love for his land even at the stake of his family. His emotional indulgence and sense of loyalty

towards his mother land is intense, so much so, that he did not mind heading his own maternal uncle for his sluggish, half-hearted and lackadaisical attitude in matters of national security. It was an instance when Borphukan instructed to build several mud embankments in Guwahati to restrict the movement of the Mughal cavalry to trick and subterfuge them to take the naval route, knowing very well their weakness in naval preparedness. One such embankment in Agyathuri was supposed to be completed overnight, failing which the Mughals could barge into Guwahati gaining an extra edge for an ensuing battle on the plains. Borphukan expected his subjects to understand the expediency of the matter and work throughout the night to get the task completed. However, on his midnight inspection visit when he found the soldiers asleep, he rushed to question his maternal uncle who was the supervisor of the project. On being asked about the rational behind such half-hearted attitude, his maternal uncle reasoned that the soldiers were extremely tired. A furious Lachit couldn't tolerate such neglect, procrastinating and non-indulgent disposition of his uncle and the very next moment chopped off his head ferociously stating, "Dekhokhoi Momai Dangor Nohoy!" (The country is above all)

Lachit Borphukan was also known for his integrity and adherence to battle-

field norms. Lachit's principled pursuit of war-field rules found expression when he instructed his men not to attack the retreating Mughal contingent while they were taking the route through the Manas River in the western boundary of the Ahom Kingdom.

The Battle of Saraghat can be seen as one of decisive battles because of which, history registered Northeast India as the only region in India that the Mughal couldn't invade and in spite of multiple attempts were left licking the dust, vanquished, defeated and made to retreat.

In sincere efforts to place on record the heroic story of Lachit Borphukan on the world stage, the BJP led Govt. in Assam has decided to take the onus of accrediting the legend with due honour, regard and attribution. The officials of the Assam government is working on a war footing to successfully celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of the Ahom General, slated to be staged in Delhi this year. In February this year, former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind had officially inaugurated the yearlong celebrations and in sync with the same, the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has urged and appealed other states to include a chapter on Lachit Borphukan in their academic curriculum.

It fills one's heart with immense amount of happiness, pride, contentment and emotional surge to see posters, banners, hoardings and full train brandings of the national warrior displayed at several prime locations in Delhi, marking the start to a grand and majestic celebration on the 24th of November this year in Vigyan Bhawan. The event is also expected to be graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah among several other top brass leaders. Given the amount of valiance showed and sacrifice made by the son-of-the-soil, it is high time that the story of the unsung hero permeates into the heart of every man of India for them to feel and sense the true essence of patriotism in letter and spirit. On Coming 24th November this year, let's drench our patriotic self in celebrating the saga of the warrior who played the 'Sentinel' to the Northeast. A story of Grit, Guts and unconventional Gallantry!

(The author is a Media Panelist, BJP Assam Pradesh)

Churachandpur all set for spectacular show

IT News
CCpur, Nov 17:

Churachandpur has geared up for a spectacular show for the Sangai Festival in the district even as Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur Sharath Chandra Arjoju has appealed maximum cooperation for the grand success of the 3-day tourism gala event to be held for the first time in the district.

Addressing a press meet today at his office chamber, Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur Sharath Chandra Arjoju, IAS said that the District Organising Committee of MSF Churachandpur is all set for the Sangai Festival and has been making all out efforts to make the festival a success with the active supervision of the MSF Organising Committee.

The Manipur Sangai Festival, Churachandpur will be held at the pristine border village Behiang and the picturesque Khuga resorts from the 24th - 26th November, 2022. The festival is set to witness cultural sublimation, musical extravaganza, ramp walk to promote local handloom & textiles, indigenous games, and savoury delicacies of all types and tastes, including local cuisines.

Shri Sharath Arjoju said that Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh will grace the inaugural programme at Geljang Re-



sor, Khuga on Nov. 24th at 10.30 AM. Later in the day, he will also grace the programme at Behiang Public Ground, Behiang.

The programme at Behiang will start from 1 PM onward with cultural programme and a Sangai Musical night - where artistes and musical bands (both local and from outside) are to perform live - will be the major attraction. At Geljang, the programme will start from 10.30 AM and go on till 3 PM. The three-day event will culminate with the much anticipated ramp walk for eminent fashion designer Robert Naorem by former Miss Universe and actress Lara Dutta Bhupathi in the evening of Nov. 26 at Lamka Public Ground. The programme at Lamka Public ground will be held from 3 PM-6

PM, the DC said.

Presentation of colourful cultural items by different communities of the State, live music concerts, display of local talents, showcasing of local handloom and handicraft products, savoury cuisines and other entertainment items like traditional fashion parade, ramp walk by celebrities will be the major highlights of the programme at all the venues.

Shri Sharath Arjoju further said that there will be no entry fee for visitors at all the venues so that all enthusiasts could enjoy and revel in the festivity. He added that preparations for the event have been on with various DLOs taking up different work assignments under the supervision of the district administration.

At the same time, the DC also

appealed to all to extend maximum cooperation for the grand success of the festival and take part in it enthusiastically. He appealed the shop owners and residents along the roads and venues to beautify and improve the aesthetics of the urban landscape in the town areas.

"I invite all to join in the three-day gala event. The programme highlights the communities' amazing talent and diversity," he said. He then appealed all concerned to extend warmth and hospitality particularly to visitors during the festival.

Also he appealed to all concerned including CSOs, Village Authorities, students' organisations, philanthropic organisations, etc to take it as an opportunity to showcase the tourism potential of the district to the rest of the world.

Bombay High Court Directs Fresh Testing of Johnson & Johnson Baby Powder

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 17:

The Bombay High Court has permitted Johnson & Johnson Private Limited to manufacture baby powder at its Mulund facility in North East Mumbai and has ordered the fresh testing of samples. But the sale or distribution of the baby powder will not be permitted for the time being.

On Wednesday while hearing the petition filed by Johnson & Johnson, challenging the cancellation of cosmetic manufacturing license of its baby powder facility by Food and Drug Administration, Maharashtra, a division bench comprising Justices S V Gangapurwala and S G Dige, directed the FDA to send fresh samples of the baby powder from its Mulund plant to three laboratories for testing.

During an earlier hearing, the Court had called for the re-examination of samples of baby powder manufactured by Johnson & Johnson in government or government-approved labs.

Accordingly Additional Government Pleader Milind More submitted a list of labora-

tories to the court. From the list, the parties selected - the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Western Zone, Mumbai, FDA laboratory at Bandra-Kurla Complex and Intertek Laboratory, a private laboratory in Mumbai.

The Court in its order clarified that the samples will be collected from the manufacturing facility by the FDA officer in the presence of a representative of the petitioner company, within 3 days from Wednesday and will be sent to the laboratory within 3 days thereafter. The court stated that laboratories should send test report within a week from the date on which the sample is received.

The bench permitted Johnson & Johnson to manufacture the baby powder at its own risk, but affirmed the order of the FDA that no sale of the product or handing it over to the distributor for sale would be permitted.

The FDA, Maharashtra had drawn and tested samples in Pune and Nashik in 2019 and the Govt. Analyst had declared that "the samples do not comply with IS 5339: 2004 (Second Revision Amendment No. 3) specification for Skin powder for infants in the test pH."

Subsequently the FDA referred the samples to the CDSCO, West zone. The

CDSCO confirmed the report of Govt. Analyst and issued a final report stating that "the sample does not conform to IS 5339: 2004 concerning the test for pH".

The FDA issued a show cause notice to the firm under Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, as to why action like suspension or cancellation of a manufacturing license or product manufacturing license should not be taken against it. The FDA also issued instructions to recall the stock of the said product from the market.

"The product Johnson's Baby Powder is popularly used in newborn babies. The sample declared "Not of Standard in pH and the use of the product may affect the health of the skin of the newborn babies". In the interest of the public health at large, the FDA, Maharashtra cancels the manufacturing license of the Johnson's Baby Powder, the FDA stated in its order dated September 15.

The company claimed that the FDA Joint Commissioner issued an order on September 15 cancelling its licence, effective from December 15. However after 5 days, the commissioner reviewed the order and directed the company to stop manufacture and sale of the baby powder manufactured at a facility in Mulund, with immediate effect.

Shraddha Walkar's Murder, the Police to Interrogate Aftab's Parents

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 17:

While Delhi police are investigating the brutal murder of Shraddha Vikas Walkar (26) allegedly by her live-in partner Aftab Amin Poonawalla (28) in New Delhi on May 18, the Vasai police are likely to interrogate Aftab's parents since they recently shifted residence from Vasai to Mira Road on the outskirts of Mumbai.

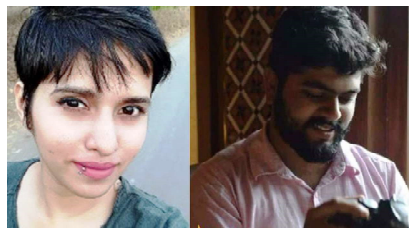
Aftab reportedly called on his parents residing at "Unique Complex, Diwanman" located at Vasai West before he was arrested on November 12. He met his father, mother and younger brother. He also spoke to a couple of people including the housing society secretary Abdulla Khan.

Subsequently Poonawallas shifted their residence to Mira Road. They are missing after Manikpur (Vasai) police issued a summons to them. The police are wondering whether they had an inkling of their son's misdeeds. The police sources said that they will interrogate

the Poonawallas to find out whether knew about the ghastly crime soon.

The crime began unfolding when Shraddha's colleague Laxman Nadar contacted her father Vikas Walkar (59) somewhere in September and informed him about her phone remaining switched off for long time. Then Walkar approached the Manikpur police who initially refused to register the missing complaint due to jurisdiction issue. Subsequently they registered the complaint on October 12 at the instance of a higher official. They traced Aftab's location through call data and called him to Vasai on November 03 for interrogation. Then the case was transferred to Mehrauli Police Station, South Delhi district, who registered the FIR on November 10 based on the statement of Walkar.

An investigation was initiated during which the police found that Aftab, with whom Shraddha was in a live-in relationship, allegedly killed her in May. He reportedly chopped



Shraddha and Aftab (Photo@shraddhawalkar)

her into 35 pieces and disposed of them one by one. Now Delhi's District Court Saket has given permission to conduct Narco analysis test of Aftab.

Shraddha was working in as customer service representative and then was elevated as team leader at an IT firm that supports hyper local commerce located in Malad in North Mumbai. She was residing at Sanskruti Complex at Vasai West. Shraddha's mother Suman passed away on January 23, 2020. She has a brother Sriyay.

Went to a junior college in Diwanman Studied bachelor of

management studies from a Santacruz college, left mid-way, went to Pune to do "business". Both met on dating app "Bumble".

Both were in live-in relations since 2018. They resided at Yashwant Pride Kirti Complex at Naigaon in 2019. In July 2020 they shifted to Regal Apartment in Evershine Complex, Vasai. In August 2021, they shifted to another place after the live-in license agreement expired. Thereafter they shifted to the Mehrauli area of New Delhi in March.

While Vikas Walkar burst out his anger saying Aftab

should be hanged, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut too echoed the similar sentiments saying such people should be hanged in the open market. Call it love-jihad or call it something, but our girls are dying. No one should bring in politics in such matters. If someone does politics in this matter too, he is an enemy of society, he added.

In Vasai, Shiv Sena activists staged protest demonstrations and hanged a symbolic effigy of Aftab on the Ambadi bridge on Wednesday. The agitation was led by District Coordinator Kiran Chendvankar. They demanded that Aftab be hanged at public place. The police later confiscated the effigy.

The BJP activists led by MLA Ram Kadam held demonstrations in Ghatkopar in North East Mumbai and demanded stringent punishment to the accused terming the unfortunate incident as love-jihad. Some activists also demanded that the dating apps be banned since Shraddha and Aftab first met on Bumble dating app.

India reports 635 new Covid-19 cases in a day; active tally dips to 7,175

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 17:

India logged 635 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid cases to 4,46,67,311, while the active cases declined to 7,175, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 5,30,546 with 11 fatalities which includes nine deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.02 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.79 per cent, according to the ministry website.

A decrease of 386 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The number of people who have recuperated from the dis-

ease surged to 4,41,29,590, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website 219.83 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide 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.

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

The two deaths reported in the last 24 hours include one each from Delhi and Maharashtra.



By: Vijay GarG

With the progression of technology, digital learning is becoming more dominant as opposed to traditional learning. Information is easily accessible at the tip of our fingers and learning is now

seamless.

Educational technology has shown various changes while undergoing this digital transformation. The teaching process, assessments and even the physical appearance of the classrooms have all gone through modifications thanks to the digital revolution.

Here are some of the advantages of technology's influence on digital education:

Personalised Learning

Not every student is the same. Different students learn at different paces and it is essential to understand this. With e-learning, each student can be attended to with maximum attention and

their learning needs can be facilitated efficiently.

Improved Communication

Sometimes communication between the teacher and student can be ineffective and cause a hindrance to learning. With technology, the classroom can be converted into a network and the teachers can post assignments effectively. Furthermore, the students can also convey their queries to their classmates and teachers with a record of past discussions, for reference.

eBooks and Quick information

The days of browsing through large books, looking for information, have gone. With the

information available more easily, due to the wide array of resources, a lot of time is spared and can be used more productively. And with eBooks, students save a lot of money and energy which is exhausted lugging heaps of books along, for their classes.

Effective Assessments

Assessing the work of students via digital means can be documented for the teacher's reference. This data can be cross-checked to analyse trends across the class amongst the students. Also, with such information, they get a much clearer idea of the student's advancement and can intervene more effectively.

Multiple device access

With e-learning, the students can access all their classwork i.e. notes, assessments and lessons, across numerable devices. Thanks to this, they are not restricted to the option of bringing in a particular device for their class and the curriculum can also be opened across multiple devices at the same time, should there be a need.

Distribution efficiency

Online courses can easily be adapted to screen sizes across various devices. Course developers can make changes with ease because the changes will effectively be reflected in all versions.

As a result, institutions are becoming more flexible with online courses. Technology can prove to be a valuable resource for teachers and students by giving them access to new opportunities. Whistling Woods International understands the

rise of technology in education and has developed their new eLearning program for enthusiasts in the field of creative arts-Virtual Academy. Come witness the redefinition of online education like never before by clicking here.

Name Change

I, the undersigned, Gangmei Pradeepkumar do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Pradeepkumar** as I have assumed my new name **Gangmei Pradeepkumar**.

Sd/-

Gangmei Pradeepkumar
Mantripukhri Marcyane Lamlongei

No city, town in Manipur in non-attainment city list of Central Pollution Control Board

IT News
Imphal, Nov 17:

So far there is no city or town in Manipur in the list of non-attainment city of the Central Pollution Control Board, said a clarification issued by the Manipur Pollution Control Board (MPCB) regarding a local news report claiming air pollution in the State to be the worst in the NorthEast region.

Highlighting that non-attainment cities are those cities that exceed the standards prescribed by CPCB, it said, at present, there are non-attainment cities in Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya in the North East.

Further stressing that two Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations have been installed at Manipur University and DM University, it said that the average data generated during the months of March to October, 2022 for Imphal City are more or less near the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

It clarified that ambient air

quality data for a limited short period cannot be the basis for assuming the overall air quality status of the region.

Particulate emissions tend to be on the higher side during the dry season, but, the assertion that air pollution in Manipur is the highest in NE India is not true as it is obvious from the list of non-attainment cities that there are five stations in Assam, two stations in Nagaland and one station in Meghalaya that have higher air pollution levels than Manipur over a period of time, it stated.

Necessary action will be taken up if any station is listed as non-attainment city in the State as per directives of CPCB, it said adding that the main causes for increase in air pollution is due to vehicular emission, construction activities, road development works, harvesting related activities, etc. Regular sprinkling of roads under construction will improve the ambient air quality, it said, adding that the State

government has also promoted e-rickshaws in Imphal core areas.

The station at DM University started transmitting Ambient Air Quality Data on a real time basis from month of March, 2022 whereas the station at MU started transmitting data from the month of April, 2022. This monthly air quality data for the two stations are transferred electronically to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The statement also highlighted that seasonal variations are there in the Ambient Air Quality and that PM₁₀ is highest at MU in the month of October, 2022 and lowest in July, 2022. PM₁₀ is highest at DM University in the month of March, 2022 and lowest in August, 2022. The relatively higher PM₁₀ at MU is probably due to highway development works under ADB project, it said adding that the Central Pollution Control Board will assess the data on a yearly basis in order to determine the status of Air pollution in Imphal city.

Domestic LPG cylinders to come with QR codes soon

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 17:

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders will soon come with QR codes that will help regulate the domestic cylinders, Union petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday. The code-based track and trace initiative will give a boost to resolve issues of pilferage, and tracing and ensure better inventory management of the cylinders.

"Fueling Traceability! A remarkable innovation - this QR Code will be pasted on existing cylinders & welded on new ones - when activated it has the po-

tential to resolve several existing issues of pilferage, tracking & tracing & better inventory management of gas cylinders," said the petroleum minister releasing a video on his Twitter profile.

The video, from the event 'World LPG Week 2022' being held in Uttar Pradesh, shows Puri interacting with officials and enquiring about the feasibility of the idea. A digital solution - QR (Quick Response) codes - are machine-readable optical labels that contain details about the item they are attached to.

Hindustan Times's sister publication Live Hindustan also reported that 20,000 of the first

batch of LPG have been issued with the code while in the months ahead, all 14.2kg domestic cylinders will be fitted with the code. The initiative is expected to combat issues of theft and provide security for cylinders, have information on their safety tests, and where it was bottled among other things in a bid to enhance customer service.

At the event, Puri talked about affordable and clean energy and said encouraging innovations in the LPG energy mix, efficiency, conservation, Bio LPG, Synthetic LPG, etc would facilitate favourable growth and also help progress towards the climate change fight.

Contd. from Page 1

India played down importance of Human....

India is a country teeming with the poor, the illiterate, the unemployed and the exploited. The oft repeated promise of Achhe Din (good days) is subject to the law of diminishing returns.

Mercifully, there are certain groups of people who refuse to give in to pessimism, who refuse to throw up their hands in despair, who refuse to be defeated. Most importantly, they know the waving of the saffron wand has led to greater immiseration of the poor.

With little or no opposition presently at the national level, the Saffron government hopes to proclaim the Hindutva millennium in 2025 post the 2024 elections on the centenary celebrations of the saffron incubus. They forget that like in physics, politics allows for no vacuum.

Voluntary organisations work hard. The overwhelming majority of them, with no international funding and little access to domestic resources, against all

odds, seek to improve the lot of their co-citizens. They work for little or no remuneration, their sole motivation being to help and organise others less fortunate. And they actually manage to make a difference.

One would think that organisations engaged in altruistic work would receive great public support - moral, if not physical and financial. But quite contrary, there are certain members of society who not only don't help, but actually manage to throw in a spanner or two into the working of these organisations, which is no party to begin with. Unfortunately, these members wield quite a bit of power in the country. They are, in fact, all allied to successive governments of every hue.

The government can easily use the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code for preventing such funding of unlawful activity, rather than relying on the FCRA. The political reality is that the FCRA provides a method

to the government through which it can suppress and curtail the activities of civil society, which can stand as a bulwark against those who seek to subvert parliamentary democracy, be they denizens of the emergent militarised deep State in unholy concert with those who bring no lustre to the colour saffron.

Why would the Indian government want to prevent foreign financial assistance to Indian NGOs, a feature which can only help further their worthy cause? The answer is not a pleasant one. The fact is that many of them are engaged in work which exposes much of the government's malfunctioning, mismanagement and malpractice in their running of the country. Thus, in the garb of national security, the government is actually trying to prevent these skeletons from being pulled out of the closet for public viewing. It is seeking to escape accountability by keeping a tight control on one of the few institutions that can bring it to

book - civil society. And its weapon - the FCRA.

"We are a democracy", the State affirms, and yet, lurking in this confident proclamation is a deep disdain for international institutions and contempt for the idea of transparency. Few in the Indian establishment acknowledge this incongruity; in fact, most would rather have it this way.

It is ironic that even as India opens up its economy to foreign investment, it continues to suffer from xenophobic attitudes in other areas. Foreign direct investment in sectors such as power, telecom, information technology and even defence production is no longer considered a threat to national security. However, the entry of humanitarian organisations wishing to assist victims of a natural disaster is apparently too dangerous. So is the holding of an international conference, or a request by an independent human rights expert to visit the country. Such paranoia is a reflection of the country's insecurity, not strength.

India is surpassing China....

A Stanford study has indicated that by 2100, India's population would shrink by 41 crore. However, it would not even be a good thing to happen, because when population growth becomes negative, knowledge and living standards stagnate for the population that gradually vanishes. The study emphasised that it would of course be a harmful outcome. India's population density is estimated to fall significantly by that time, which would fall from the present 476 person per sq km to 335.

The population growth in India and China must be understood by Indian planners in its correct perspective and ramifications, since the largest populated tag for both the country significantly differ, and hence the crises. For example, China is presently the world's largest populated country, but its population density is only 148

persons per sq km. Despite India being the second largest at present, its population density is 476 person per sq km which is over 3.2 times per sq km. It means the total natural resources available to Indians is only 1/3rd of that of Chinese. It must also be noted that China's economy even at present is nearly six times larger and India's.

Thus, Indians have or will have much more on stake than of the Chinese people, and therefore India needs to be preparing for any eventuality. India's population will be increasing even after it surpasses China on 14 April 2023. By 2025, its population density would increase from the present 476 to 486 by 2025, and then 514 by 2050. It means India would have less and less per capita resources until 2050 after which the population would start declining, as against the global population density of only 62.4

by 2025 and 68.5 by 2050.

India would therefore be in a difficult position on account of growing population until 2050, and new challenges would emerge thereafter when the population starts declining. India thus needs to plan in advance to face the challenges - both is short and long term.

The very year 2023, when India would become the most populous country, the world is heading towards a "dire global food shortage" from this year's "crisis of affordability" as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned G20 leaders recently. The world is on its way to "a raging food catastrophe" he has warned.

The warning should be taken seriously by India since it houses the largest number of poor in the world, a major contributor in South Asia having about half of the world's poor. Russia-Ukraine wars has exacerbated the conditions of the poor due to disruption on food, fertilizer, and energy supply. If India is to feed its people and take care of its other requirements, it must focus on these three at present.

Climate crisis has also increased the incidents of droughts, floods, and other natural and man-made disasters. The increasing pressure on population on resources will have other consequences too, such as conflicts among people, that may trigger law and order problems. Ensuring equitable access to resources and services, such as health services, transport, energy etc would put a greater challenge.

All these means that India needs a paradigm shift in its present planning structure and implementation of pro-people policies, rather continuing the profit oriented mindset of the Narendra Modi government.

Sports

Manipur tops North East Olympic Games for second consecutive time

Agency
Shillong, Nov 17:

Powerhouse Manipur clinched the top position in the Northeast Olympic Games for the second consecutive time with 237 medals, including 85 gold, as the second edition of the regional multi-sport event concluded here on Wednesday.

Manipur also won 76 silver and 77 bronze while Assam was a close second with 201 medals (81 gold, 60 silver and 60 bronze) in the event competed among the eight states of the country's northeast region from November 10.

Arunachal Pradesh ended at third place while host state Meghalaya was fourth with 149 medals (36 gold, 35 silver, 78 bronze), a much better show than their sixth-place finish with 39 medals in the first edition.

Manipur had also topped the medal tally (80 gold, 49 silver and 33 bronze) when it hosted the inaugural Games in October 2018.

Manipur, which has produced Olympic medal-winning



athletes such as boxer MC Mary Kom and weightlifter Mirabai Chhanu, overtook Assam on Tuesday and consolidated their top position by winning 17 medals, including seven gold, on the final day.

The U-17 Manipuri women's football team, which has a few national team players in its ranks, beat Arunachal Pradesh 3-0 in the final on Wednesday.

Around 3000 athletes competed in 18 disciplines at 12 venues spread across Shillong. The first edition in Manipur had 12 disciplines.

The Games are being organised by the government of Meghalaya and the state Olympic Association under the aegis of Northeast Olympic Association (NEOA). The Meghalaya government fully funded the event.

Arunachal Pradesh was to host the second edition of the Games in 2019 but there was a change of plan following the COVID-19 pandemic and Shillong was named the host city.

Nagaland will host the third edition of the Northeast Olympic Games.

Hosts Meghalaya emerged as team champion in athletics while Manipur took the

honours in archery. Assam won the team championships in shooting.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said the Games had run smoothly despite the infrastructure limitations.

"There were infrastructure limitations but, by and large, the Games had run smoothly, without much problems. The number of participating athletes were double the number in the first edition. So we are happy."

"Infrastructure development takes time. But in the next one or one and half years, we are working towards having world class facilities in the state. We are investing a lot of money for sports infrastructure development," Sangma, who is the Chief Patron of the Games, said.

Meghalaya Olympic Association working president John F Kharshing said the Games were a celebration of sporting excellence of the eight states of northeast India while also promoting solidarity among them.

Youth World Boxing Championships: Lashu advances into quarter-finals; four Indians progress on second day

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, Nov 17:

Indian boxer Lashu Yadav made her way into the women's 70kg quarter-finals after thrashing Poland's Marta Czerwinska by unanimous decision on second day of the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain.

Besides Lashu's commanding 5-0 win, Preeti Dahiya and the country's two male pugilists also made progress into the next stage.

Preeti blanked Colombia's Claudia Daniela 4-0 in the women's 57kg Round-of-32 bout.

In the men's section, Harsh exhibited an equally dominant display against Hungary's Levente Olah to pocket the 60kg opening round match

comfortably by 5-0 margin.

Ashish, on the other hand, was given a walkover in his 54kg round-of-32 contest against Nima Bayati of Iran.

Meanwhile, India's unbeaten run in the prestigious event came to a halt after the Asian youth bronze medalist Pranjal Yadav endured a close 2-3 loss against Uzbekistan's Oltinoy Sotimboeva in a hard-fought women's 81kg Last-16 encounter.

Six Indian male boxers will be seen in action on the third day of the competition. While Asian youth champion Vanshaj (63.5kg), Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (51kg), Aman Rathore (67kg), Rocky Chaudhary (80kg) and Bharat Joon (92kg) will fight in their respective round-of-32 matches, Rhythm (+92kg) will play in the pre-quarterfinals.