

## Paddy land conservation Act turns out to be a mockery; Many permanent constructions in Agricultural lands found

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 18:

The Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2014, amended in 2018-19, turned out to be a blatant lie, as government authority turned a blind eye to the construction of permanent building structures on the agricultural lands by some politically influential individuals. In an investigation carried out by team Imphal Times, many portions of the farming land have been found with permanent constructions violating the amended Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and wetland Act.

An investigation carried out by team Imphal Times found the construction of enormous buildings on an agricultural area of more than

20 hectares in the Imphal East's Chanung Village in Khundrakpam Assembly Constituency in Imphal East.

How and who permitted the construction of the structures on agricultural land is still confusing. As per the Paddy land conservation act, it is mandatory for individuals to get prior permission from the government if paddy land is to be converted into a commercial or educational area.

The State Government captained by Chief Minister N Biren Singh acts like they are hell-bent on protecting agricultural lands as the lawmakers emphasize the importance of agricultural land protection many a time in various events.

According to a reliable source, it is learned that construction at Chanung Village in the Khundrakpam



Construction of permanent structures at Chanung Village agricultural land (inset - Building)

Assembly constituency of Imphal East (adjacent to Chanung Mamang Ching) has been going on for the last few years, and an influential businessman is its

owner. However, the Imphal Times is unable to ascertain the nature of the construction and the owner. Therefore, an Imphal Times team visited the Sub Deputy

Collector Office in Khundrakpam to get an official statement; however, the SDC was not available in the office to comment on the matter.

Regardless, the constructions, considering the size of the area and the buildings, seem to have been done with due permission of the government. It shows how the powerful and influential people are blatantly violating the Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2014 (Manipur Act No. 10 of 2014) – the sole aim of which is to “conserve the paddy land and wetland and to restrict the conversion or reclamation thereof in order to promote growth in the agricultural sector in the State of Manipur.”

Mutum Churamani Meitei, president of Loumei Shimee Apun Lup (LOUSAL), expressed that unauthorized conversion of lands for buildings and commercial uses continues to violate the Act, which is alarming for the people, and

it is benefiting some few businessmen.

“In Manipur, there are around 1.95 lakh hectares of agricultural land; out of these, 88,820 hectares are in the hill areas while the remaining is in the valley. From the valley area, 20,000 hectares have been converted into fish farms, and Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) has utilized 9000 hectares,” Churamani said, adding that the State Government must be serious about conserving agricultural land and they should walk the talk.

Given the shrinking agricultural lands due to such escalating constructions despite the Act in place, the Agriculture Department must pull up its socks and look into the matter with extreme seriousness, Churamani added.

## District Administration Jiribam organises 5th Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders' Day

IT News  
Jiribam, Nov 18:

In Continuation of State Government's objective to make Government Citizen centric, proactive and programme implementation effective, the District Administration of Jiribam organised 5th Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders' Day today at Chingdong Likelai, DC Complex, Jiribam.

Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam W. Malemnganba Chenglei, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam Jameson Hangshing, MCS, T. Inaobi Singh, MPS, SDPO, Jiribam and M. Devananda Singh, SDC, Borobekra and other district level officers of various Government Departments of the district attended the event.

Certain public services which includes various benefi-



ciary oriented schemes like CMHT, PMJAY, Old Age Pension, CM Widow Pension scheme and Disability related benefits etc. were delivered by the concerned departments on the spot besides rendering of services to many individuals of the district by the departments such as Agriculture,

Horticulture, Social Welfare, CAF & PDS and Forest etc.

Forest Department distributed Parkia, Bokul, Bay Leaf, Ashoka Saplings etc. to the public as a part department's initiative to make the environment greener. Social Welfare Department also issued fresh Old Age Pension Schemes,

CM Widow Pension Scheme and CMST forms.

On the other hand, Agriculture department distributed Mustard Seeds, Peas, maize Seeds etc. to the selected beneficiaries under National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam heard the grievances of the public one by one and instructed the concerned department officials to redress the grievances. More than 61 applications of various issues were also received for redressal.

On the side-line of the event, DC W. Malemnganba Chenglei stressed the importance of organising such event and urged the public to harness the benefits arranged by the Government. He also thanked the Government officials of the district and public for making the event a grand success.

## The Manipur state government conducted yet another fake homecoming ceremony - KYKL

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 18:

“A farrago of fake news has been disseminated by the Manipur state government to paint the national liberation movement in a negative light over the years. All of them are designed to mislead people into believing that the movement is collapsing and will cease to exist soon. As part of the state's project of promoting fake news to squelch the national people's democratic movement underway in the state against Indian colonialism, fake homecoming ceremonies are often held. One of the most recent ceremonies of this kind was conducted on 16 November, 2022. A statement by the proscribed group Kanglei Yawao Kanna Lup (KYKL) said.

A. Yaiphaba, Secretary, Publicity and Research, KYKL in a statement said that as part of the ceremony, the state chief minister argued that Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have transformed the north eastern part of India, which was once regarded as an insurgency-hit region, as if they have deracinated the national liberation movement from it. Rather than celebrating their accomplishments, this roadmontade seems to be a hagiology of central leaders trumped up to gain their support for his regime. The state government must believe that this propaganda has the potential to incite rabble-rousing effects on the patriotic youths of Kangleipak thereby reigniting revolutionary flames even in the minds of renegades.

He said that the final point is to clarify that the three individuals included in the fake homecoming ceremony, Yumlembam Malemnganba @ Chinglemba (23) from Sugnu Bazar, Nameirakpam Mani from Patcha Part-1, Jiribam and Khundongbam Ranabir @ Joyson (35) from Heirok Part-2, are all renegades that deserted the party years ago.

“Long ago, their names were crossed off the party's army list. Therefore, all Kanglei people are urged not to be misled by the news disseminated by the state government”, Yaiphaba said and added that the KYKL assures the people of Manipur that it will continue the national liberation movement until the sovereignty is restored.

## Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 promises a cultural and entertainment extravaganza

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 18:

The Directorate of Tourism, Government of Manipur is all set to unroll the 11th and the biggest edition of the Manipur Sangai Festival ever held since its inception in 2010. After a hiatus brought on by the global pandemic, the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 will bring together the ‘Land of Jewels’ to celebrate the Festival of Oneness and showcase the resilient spirit of unity in diversity.

The festival will be held from November 21 to 30, 2022 at Hapta Kengeibung MSFDS, City Convention Centre, Ibudhou Marjing Complex, Heingang and Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, at Imphal East District; Mapal Kengeibung, Kanglei



Manung Kengeibung, Imphal West District; Moirang Khunou, Bishnupur District; Behlang and Khuga at Churachandpur District and at Mao and Makhel at Senapati District. The star attraction will be the opening ceremony at the magnificent Sangai Ethnic Park in

Moirang Khunou which also houses indigenous tribal huts showcasing the diverse ethnic communities of Manipur and the splendor of indigenous handloom and handicrafts which reveal the rich artistic heritage passed down through the ages. In addition, there will be

regular cultural performances by artists from the different tribes of the state and from other states of India as well as International artists and cultural troupe throughout the festival at the Bhagyachandra Open Air Theatre at Hapta Kengeibung where the closing ceremony will be held on November 30, 2022.

While speaking about Manipur Tourism's expectations from the Manipur Sangai Festival, P.K. Jha, Commissioner (Tourism), Government of Manipur said, “Our goal for 2022 is to double the number of attendees that we witnessed in the last edition of this festival. We were quite pleased with footfalls we received in 2019 at the Manipur Sangai Festival, especially considering the scale of the festival as compared to the

upcoming edition of 2022.”

Spanning 10 days, the festival will feature – World War II exhibitions, film screenings, flower show, theme parks and other entertainment programmes like ‘Meet the Stars’, besides fun activities for children throughout the festival. The Cherry Blossom Festival at Mao and the village of Makhel in Senapati are other experiences that should not be missed. Visitors will also get to witness Sagol Kengei, a sport which has now evolved into the modern game of Polo, in its very own birthplace at the Men's International Polo Tournament and CM's Sagol Kengei Tournament at Kanglei Polo Ground. One can also enjoy the thrill of various Indigenous Sports and marvel at the athleticism

**\* Set to showcase the best of Manipur's culture and traditions**  
**\* State is all geared up to welcome delegates from South-East Asia countries**  
**\* Cultural evenings, light and sound show, MMA fights, indigenous sports, food stalls and many more**

of Thang Ta, Kukna Kengei and Yubi Lakpi etc. at Ibudhou Marjing Complex, Heingang this year.

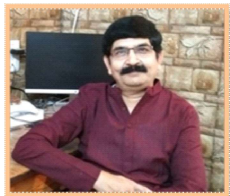
“In this edition of the Manipur Sangai Festival, we have been able to expand our publicity campaign for the festival in cities like Kolkata and Bengaluru. We organized a curtain raiser even at Kolkata

last month and received very encouraging response. We have also been reaching out to our target audience through multiple platforms which include print and digital media, radio, television, and other on-site publicity activities” said Waikhom Iboh Singh, Director (Tourism), Manipur.

contd. on page 4



# World Adults Day – Celebrating to create a supportive environment



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

when you're an adult that you will miss being a kid. Everything they told you as a kid was true. As a kid you have no responsibilities, no bills, and no worries. Adulthood is divided into three stages, early, middle, and late adulthood.

The definition in the dictionary states an adult means being completely grown: fully developed and mature. Becoming an adult, also known as young adulthood, is a very crucial stage in one's life. This is the climax of physical and health processes. This is the point in life when we make plans of our futures. It is the time when we think of what life will be like as an adult and make plans for the future. Everyone eventually becomes an adult but just because you turn eighteen does not mean you should be considered as one. Being an adult means being the bigger person in difficult situations.

An adult is considered to be "living at home" or "living with parents" on the basis of the adult's relationship to the head of the household. An adult is "living with parents" if at least one parent resides in the household. In 1910, the life expectancy for a female was 33 years, today it is 82 years. This represents a remarkable gain of almost 50 years of life. The past century has seen remarkable improvements in life expectancy. This is largely due to improvements in public health. With the growing medical advancements and awareness about health issues, women are living 6 to 8 years longer than the men. The number of people around the age of 60 or more is



likely to grow from 900 million to 2 billion up to 2050. Young adults are marrying later i.e. 29 for men and 27 for women. However, many youth experience setbacks by becoming parents too, dropping out of school, failing to find work etc. Adulthood can be hard, especially when you are not used to it. Doing taxes, keeping the house and yourself clean, handling a job and making sure you are having three meals a day, can be a little too much to ask. However, at the end of the day, it is indeed satisfying

that you have the whole house to yourself and you are living a self-made life.

Education is life—not a mere preparation for an unknown kind of future living...The whole of life is learning; therefore, education can have no ending. This new venture is called adult education—not because it is confined to adults but because adulthood, maturity defines its limits.

There is no doubt that one of the biggest social transformations is population ageing. Soon, the world will have older people than children and more people of old age than ever before. Their health is determined by and contributes to broad social trends. It is a fact that every adult is the heart of a child. We just gradually convince ourselves that we have to act more like adults. Inside every adult there's still a child that lingers.

## Eminent Female Mathematicians of India



By: Vijay GarG

### Human Computer Shakuntala Devi

Female mathematicians of India: When Vidya Balan, acted as Shakuntala Devi, India's first famous female mathematician and played with numbers, she redefined the idea that women can rule the domain of mathematics. While I am not undermining the abilities of men like Aryabhata and Ramanujan, but I am questioning the stereotype that surrounds them. In our country, it is assumed that maths is not a subject for women.

The numbers, problem-solving ability and figures are a language that only men can understand. But proving these stereotypes wrong, many women of past and present have achieved excellence in mathematics. They have written papers, discovered formulas and researched various fields of mathematics. Even though female mathematicians began gaining ground in the 20th century, the list is being crowded by many more. So in this article, we list some exceptional mathematicians of India and appreciate their work.

contd. on page 3

# Kantara – Magnificence of a Folklore Retold



By: M.R. Lalu

Did Kantara the Rishab Shetty blockbuster take you into a rare multiplex marvel giving you a mysterious jolt? I have no words to address the unsophisticated beauty of the village life that the movie takes us through. Its religious intellectualism woven in the innocence of a bunch of forest dwelling people took me back to my childhood. I witnessed it in the movie and was reminded of the impulses of spiritual powers that the non-Brahmin priest used to be obsessed with in a particular annual ritual at our local temple. The main attraction in the annual festival of the temple used to have a huge gathering determinately assembled to witness the morning *padayani* that went on for hours until the non-Brahmin priest, usually representing a scheduled caste community, breaking hundreds of coconuts and howling in all four directions with unclear sounds, normally known as his symbolic communion with the divine power. Throughout his spiritual exercise the *Oorali* as he is called in Malayalam appears to be possessed by some supernatural powers and capable to predict matters that affect the temple and the village. Sometimes his prediction on their inside the temple premises or anything of that kind used to get sorted out in public. His revelations were taken with rapturous attention and attracted reverence of the upper caste Hindus and all devotees of the local deity without any speak of doubt.

Kerala's socio-spiritual life is interconnected with various forms of rituals mostly dedicated to a pantheon of deities. A childhood without experiencing such rituals was rare in the society and the emotion that a child

grows up with, would certainly contribute to his impulses further and I, for all good reasons, have a non-judgemental view on Kantara, the movie that successfully took me through the domain of my childhood insistently taking my beliefs into a simmering point. I would rather call my movie experience a solid spiritual journey through the innocence and milder mannerisms of a village folk which came ready to revolt a system that provoked their spiritual intentions and at a point of realisation re-discover the real fantasy of spiritual incorruptibility by breaking barriers of the deceitful supremacy of a feudal mindset.

My village is known to have been protected by four divine guards in four directions. They are symbolically represented by four shivlings in the four corners of the village. And the temple situated at the centre of the village is known to have been under the guardianship of these local deities and the belief system would resist you to be critical on anything that comes as part of the annual rituals. Obviously, the pattern of rituals and the build up for the festivities may change from north to south of the state. Inevitably the essential meaning such rituals and celebrations come up with is basically the same and stand in unison with the protection of nature.

*Sarpa Kavu* or the abode of snakes or in common language, the sacred groves that the Kerala society protected in every village was considered as a pictogram of spiritual purity and ritualistic plurality symbolically maintaining the concept of amicable coexistence, a bridge that connected the essential spiritual oneness between men and nature. The rituals they performed were to please the divine forces which they recognised and believed would protect the entire village. Interestingly, all such divine elements are named in the lingua franca and their appearance and ritualistic expressions vary from place to place in different parts of Kerala.

Kantara's cinematic experience is an antique piece of visual luxury which is capable to press the viewer to his



seat and with the surprise of his acting marvel Rishab Shetty, the all in one architect of the movie serves us a buffet of genuine acting in the platter of the socio-spiritual echo system of a society. A genuine research on the impact of the spiritual art form *Kola* in the life of a small bunch of people in their benign social setting is meticulously presented in the movie and the spiritual inclination that it is capable to ultimately create in the viewer's perception comes in the last ten minutes when the protagonist is taken over by a divine possession. A bone chilling experience of artistic eloquence does not allow the viewer to leave the theatre without goose bumps of surprise and shock and there lies the earth shattering climax of the movie.

The spiritual art form *Kola* which is the central theme of the movie is a Karnataka version of the Theyyam of Kerala. The Malabar region of the state is blessed with this Hindu ritualistic experience every year especially in the districts of Kannur, Kozhikode and Kasaragod. Theyyam is performed by communities from the scheduled castes and tribes like Paravan, Pulayar, Malayan, Velan and scores of other communities. Most of the villages are known to be protected by a grama devata or a village deity and the theyyam or kolam performed every year is a dedication to Bhagavathy, the divinity in guard of the village. This must also be seen as spiritual art forms originated long before the advent of semitic religions in India and they essentially pass and take us through the reverence that

each society in this region held for the feminine form of divinity. Though Bhagavati, the female deity, is prominent in the theyyam art form, there are also many deities like Vettakkorumakan, Kathivanoor Veeran, Sree Muthappan and many others representing the male pantheon of gods.

The Gulika Daiva played by Rishab Shetty in Kantara is the Gulikan in theyyam. The deity is believed to have come from the toes of Lord Shiva and was blessed with his divine powers. The Gulikan is also known to be the God of death. This theyyam is performed post midnight in the sacred groves of Malabar by the Malaya community. The local folklore tells that Gulikan will be a secret companion or a divine presence throughout a person's life witnessing all his karmas from his birth to death. Every single aspect of the village festival has a bearing on the societal wellbeing of the people. Depiction of divinity through these art forms stimulates the collective spiritual progress of the society and leads its people to take strides in their personal pursuits for spiritual wellbeing.

Kantara as a movie, has not only succeeded in helping the viewer touch the realm of magical realism but also a well knit phantasmagoria of village life, fantasy, innocence, romance, spiritual power and also had established a deeper connection between the theme and the viewer's spiritual cognition.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

## Why Myanmar, Bangladesh seek close friendship through military diplomacy?



By: Samina Akhter

After mortars landed in Bangladesh's soil as Myanmar military attacks against the Arakan Army (AA) in Rakhine State, officials from Bangladesh and Myanmar's junta promised to mend bilateral ties.

The north-western Rakhine region in Myanmar, which borders Bangladesh, has seen a number of airspace violations over the past few months as border guards there have fought local militants.

In the meeting at Cox Bazar between the Bangladesh's Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) and Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) on Oct 30,

Myanmar border guards have apologized to their counterparts in Bangladesh for these events and promised that airspace violation will not recur.

The meeting follows Bangladesh strong protests against the violation of airspace and the landing of shells inside Bangladesh territory.

Despite so, Myanmar's BGP team's leader, Col Ye Wai Soe still lamented that Bangladesh is now shel-

tering members of Myanmar's separatist groups who have crossed the border and are committing crimes there.

In a fresh turn of events, Bangladesh and Myanmar militaries decide to warm the tie. The meeting leads to more discussion and of course, more plan on cooperation — such as joint-border patrolling, exchanged information and enhancing more military cooperation.

Above all, both sides also discuss the prompt repatriation of the Rohingyas — the issue that Lahor has asked for the past few years.

Approximately 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh in 2017 as a result of a military crackdown on them, and this occurred more than five years later. Not one Rohingya traveled back to Myanmar.

The turn of event reflects the inevitable geopolitics and bi-lateral diplomacy of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Despite spats over border issue, it is undeniable that both countries have had a long-standing relationship, shared history dating back generations.

In terms of geopolitics, the 271-kilometer Bangladesh-Myanmar border is strategically significant for Bangladesh, despite the fact that it is militarized due to Myanmar's continuous internal strife. Bangladesh might establish routes through Myanmar to access China to the east and other Southeast Asian countries to the south if this issue is resolved.

Relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar were formalized on January 13, 1972. However, due to

the presence of several unresolved issues such as Rohingya refugees and maritime border demarcation, the scene has changed in an unfavorable way, and ties between these two neighbors have not always been as friendly as envisioned.

Apart from India, Myanmar is the only other country on Bangladesh's border. Therefore, the Myanmar is perceived as Bangladesh's strategic benefits as a land-bridge to China and Southeast Asia countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Myanmar is also a country with abundant natural resources. Myanmar's forests and natural resources, such as gas, oil, and stones. From economic spectrum, maintaining good relations with Myanmar is more in Bangladesh's interest for reasons of national security.

It is feared that the acrimonious bi-lateral relationship can pose threat to national security threat to Bangladesh and Myanmar. Without close collaborations, human trafficking, narcotics as well as cyberthreat will only thrive.

To address certain common bilateral concerns, what expects to happen is military trainings. It is hoped that these joint-military resources can take part in UN peacekeeping operation (UNPKO) and disaster management cooperation.

Improved military ties between Bangladesh and Myanmar can aid in the smoothing of ties and the resolution of long-standing issues such as the Rohingya crisis, maritime disputes, and border-related trans-border crimes Both forces from Myanmar

and Bangladesh.

This military collaboration is expected to be the prelude to more collaborations between Nay Pyi Taw and Dhaka such as medical cooperation, sports events, adventure activities and tourism.

Also high on agenda is the Tatmadaw and Bangladesh military may collaborate on disaster management systems. Natural disaster has become a major threat in Bay of Bengal. For instance, Sitrang Cyclone last month severely affected communities in India and Bangladesh while Cyclone Nargis in 2008 brought Myanmar to its knee, forcing the junta government at that time to open country and accept help from ASEAN's disaster management's task forces. Bangladesh, India, Myanmar could work together. Both Myanmar and Bangladesh have several opportunities to work in order to lessen the risk of environmental degradation and loss.

While Myanmar is alienated and grew inward, relationship between Nay Pyi Taw and Dhaka reflects the necessity and inevitability of two neighbor countries that share physical geography, culture and long history.

The most effective strategy to progress together and maintain a peaceful relationship is to talk and enhance people-to-people connection between two sovereign countries. This is especially essential when the countries in question are neighbors.

(The author is a Dhaka, Bangladesh based author and columnist)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com).

For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

# Rahul Gandhi Rakes Up Old Savarkar Controversy

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Nov 18:

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi stoked a controversy during his ongoing "Bharat Jodo Yatra" in Akola district of Maharashtra on Thursday, claiming that veteran freedom fighter Barrister Vinayak Damodar Savarkar begged for mercy and had pledged his support to the Britishers.

Speaking to media Gandhi cited from a letter purportedly written by Savarkar to the Britishers during the freedom struggle pledging his support to them. "Sir, I beg to remain your most obedient servant," Savarkar said and signed on it, he claimed.

"Savarkar betrayed Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel by supporting the Britishers", Rahul Gandhi alleged.

While as expected BJP lambasted Gandhi, the Congress's ally Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) too slammed the opposition leader. When asked by reporters at Shivaji Park in Mumbai, Uddhav Thackeray said that he did not agree with whatever Gandhi has said. "Our views are clear on this issue. We have highest regard for Savarkar for his sacrifice to achieve independence".

"We are aware of extreme inhuman conditions Savarkar faced in the jail. Now it is time that the freedom achieved after relentless struggle is safe guarded since the country is heading towards slavery. We are intentionally asking this question by those who had earlier formed the Govt with the Peoples Democratic Party led by Mehbooba Mufti in Kashmir", Thackeray said in an appar-



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addressing media in Akola in Maharashtra. (Photo: MPCC)

ent dig at BJP. Incidentally the Shiv Sena has been demanding that "Bharat Ratna" be conferred on Savarkar since long.

MP Rahul Shevale (Eknath Shinde faction) demanded that Gandhi's yatra be stopped immediately. Veer Savarkar's great grandson Ranjit Savarkar said that Gandhi is under misunderstanding that the Congress will get votes by defaming Savarkar by levelling false allegations. Gandhi should be arrested for making offending remarks against the most dedicated freedom fighter, he added.

**History**  
While the veracity of the letter brought before media by Rahul Gandhi is yet to be verified, it is true that Savarkar had submitted 04 mercy petitions to the Britishers. But the fact remains that he was the only freedom fighter in the country who was sentenced to 50 years imprisonment. Besides, other freedom fighters-Ma-

hatma and Pandit Nehru had adopted a conciliatory approach toward the Britishers on different occasions.

In terms of jail terms, Mahatma Gandhi served 7 years in Indian jails and 05 months in African jail and most of the time his jail term was reduced. Lokmanya Tilak served 8 years imprisonment in Mandalay jail (Myanmar (Burma). He did not seek any clemency.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru served 9 years jail term. He was released from the Central Jail Nabha (Punjab) in 1923, only after he signed a bond that he would never enter the princely state again. Savarkar served 14 years jail term in Cellular Jail (Andaman) and was confined to 13 years to Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra-27 years. He submitted four clemency petitions.

Savarkar remains the only freedom fighter having served the longest jail term. At Cellular Jail, he was subjected to unconscionable tor-

ture and inhumane treatment that tested the very limits of his conviction. He was restrained in chains, flogged, and resigned to six months of solitary confinement. The British made him pound coir with his bare hands where his hands were often dripped with blood. He had to manually turn a massive wheel, that would squeeze coconuts for oil and had to produce about 30 pounds a day. He was often made to do it despite his good conduct. Yet Savarkar did not lose his mental balance and maintained composite calm.

The flippant critics fail to acknowledge the incredible strain placed on the political prisoners in Cellular Jail at Port Blair. Savarkar was struggling with continually disintegrating health, including a yearlong stint in the prison hospital.

Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivram Rajguru were straightaway hanged on March 23, 1931 in the Lahore conspiracy case.

# PEC relieved with release of Japanese journalist Toru Kubota

IT Correspondent  
Geneva, Nov 18:

Press Emblem Campaign, the global media safety and rights body, expresses happiness over the release of Japanese journalist-filmmaker Toru Kubota along with 6,000 political prisoners in a mass amnesty. However, it maintains the demand to release all detained and imprisoned journalists by the Myanmar (Burma/Brahmadash) military junta, led by Min Aung Hlaing, at the earliest.

The military rulers on Thursday also released three other imprisoned foreigners namely Sean Turnell (an Australian citizen who was economic adviser to former State counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi), Vicky Bowman (a former British envoy) and US citizen Kyaw Htay Oo. But even today, over 40 local journalists and 13,000 political prisoners are living behind bars in the southeast Asian country.

"We had earlier expressed concern over the continued arrest and imprisonment of journalists and human rights defenders in Myanmar follow-



ing the junta's notorious electronic transactions law. No less than 140 journalists have been arrested since the military coup in February 2021. The military generals even continue harassing the media persons, who dare to make critical comments against the regime in Naypyitaw. By now, a good number of media outlets close their offices and shift to hideouts for their operation," said Blaise Lempem, president of PEC (www.presseemble.ch).

PEC's south & southeast

Asia representative Nava Thakuria informed that Japanese media personality Toru Kubota was arrested on 30 July from Yangon and faced 10 years of imprisonment from a military court on 6 October. Toru covered a protest demonstration against the brutal military rulers for international media outlets and he was accused of spreading false information about the Rohingya people. He was made guilty of inciting violence under the new electronic law of Myanmar military dictators.

# India logs 656 new Covid infections, active cases decline to 7,034

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 18:

India logged 656 new coronavirus infections taking the tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,46,67,967, while the active cases declined to 7,034, accord-

ing to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,30,553 with seven fatalities which includes two 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 141 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 disease surged to 4,41,30,380, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website 219.84 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.

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

The five deaths reported in the last 24 hours include one each from Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Contd. from Page 2

# Eminent Female Mathematicians....

**Shakuntala Devi**  
**Shakuntala Devi on shehepeople**

Born in 1929, Shakuntala Devi was the first female Mathematician from India. She was fondly known as the "human computer" for her ability to perform lengthy calculations in her mind, faster than a computer. She once extracted the 23rd root of 201 digit number in just 50 seconds! 1980, she multiplied 13 digit numbers in just 28 seconds. For this feat, her name was etched in the 1982 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records. She was recognised for "Fasted Human Computation". Devi wrote several books on maths and her techniques of problem-solving.

Some books by her were "Puzzles to Puzzle You," "Super Memory: It Can Be Yours" and "Mathability: Awaken the Math Genius in Your Child." Apart from mathematics, she also tried her hands in astrology, writing crime fiction, politics and supported the LGBTQ. However, at the age of 83, in the year 2013, Devi passed away due to prolonged illness. But her legacy remains alive even today.

**2. Raman Parimala**  
Born in 1948, Raman Parimala lived in a progressive household. She had a natural interest and excellence in maths since her

school days. That was when she decided she wanted to do something in the field of mathematics. Even though women at that time were not allowed to take up careers apart from teaching or medicine, her father supported her immensely. Today she is one of the most well-known mathematicians of today. She has expertise in the field of algebra that has been refined by her contributions and research. She used number theory, algebraic geometry and topology to make outstanding contributions to the field of algebra. One of her most notable works is publishing the first example of nontrivial quadratic space over an affine plane. For her work in algebra, she has received much recognition.

She is the Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi), Indian Academy of Science (Bangalore), and the National Academy of Sciences (Allahabad). Parimala was felicitated with the highest science award in India, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 1987. In 2020, The Ministry of Women and Child Development chose Parimala's name among 11 women in science to be honoured with a Chair in their name. Parimala says, "Maths has a beauty of poetry, its abstractions are combined with perfect rigour."

She enjoys teaching too and encourages her students, especially women, to pursue a career in maths.

**3. Dr Mangla Narlikar**

"Maths is male-dominated. Girls are bad at maths or calculation" Dr Narlikar often heard this during her college days. But she refused to believe in any of them because she topped in every exam (of BA and MA in Maths) and was a maths wizard ready to count stars. However, after her masters, she got married to a scientist and moved to Cambridge. Although her in-laws and husband were supportive of her career, Dr Narlikar devoted herself to housework and tending for three kids. Meanwhile, she also pursued her PhD in mathematics. And some years later, she began teaching maths at various colleges. She worked as a lecturer at the University of Bombay and Pune.

Meanwhile, she also wrote papers on mathematics like Theory of Sieved Integers, Acta Arithmetica 38, 157 in 19, Mean Square Value theorem of Hurwitz Zeta Function, Hybrid Mean Value Theorem of L-Functions, Hardy Ramanujan Journal 9, 11-16, 1988 and more. She specialises in pure mathematics. Her papers were focused on making complex problems of maths simple to

understand. This talent brought her to an NGO where she taught maths to girls living in a slum. She also wrote a few books on maths and was later appointed as the Chairman of Balbharti. She says, "If you want to learn universal ethics and norms, Math is a brilliant teacher."

**3. Sujatha Ramdorai**

Sujatha Ramdorai first and the only Indian to win ICTP Ramanujan Prize in 2006 and also a winner of the Shanti Swarop Bhatnagar Award in 2004. She is currently a professor at Maths at the School of Mathematics at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. Ramdorai is also a member of the Scientific Committee of several international research like the Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research, Banff International Research Station, International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics. She is also a member of the National Knowledge Commission and more.

Ramdorai has worked in the field of the algebraic theory of quadratic forms, arithmetic geometry of elliptic curves, the study of motives and noncommutative Iwasawa theory. In an interview, she said, "For women, a scientific career perhaps offers more flexibility in combining a career with family life. Scientific policies could

be shaped towards making them sensitive to the problems of women. I truly feel that there is a whole new world in science waiting to be discovered and claimed by women For her the magic in maths is that one can achieve excellence by just understanding it.

**4. Dr Neena Gupta**

Dr Neena Gupta is an Associate Professor at the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata. She is the youngest mathematician to receive the Shanti Swarop Bhatnagar award in 2019. She received recognition for her work in affine algebraic geometry and for suggesting a solution for the Zariski Cancellation Problem which mathematicians from 20th and 21st centuries have been trying to solve. Gupta published her first research paper on the maths puzzle Zariski Cancellation in the year 2014. And soon after she received Indian National Science Academy-Young Scientist Award. Gupta's field of research is mainly Commutative Algebra and Affine Algebraic Geometry. "Maths is for someone who can solve the problems on their own. The pleasure which I get in solving problems in mathematics is much more than any award," Dr Gupta says.

# Certificate Lost

I have lost my original Certificate of Class-X, issued by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM), bearing Roll No. 11094 and Registration No. 0702685020 of 2009 on the way between Imphal MG Avenue to Singamei. Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
**Khangembam Dina Devi**  
D/o, Kh. Damu Singh  
Singamei Leishangthem Leikai  
#8794965133

# Document Lost

I have lost my original Diploma Certificate of General Nursing and Midwifery of the L Chaobi Nursing Institute Porompat, Pong Lambi issued by the Manipur Nursing Institute, Imphal, bearing Roll No. 13208 and Registration No. 8493 of the year 2017 on the way between Chandel to Imphal on 15/09/2022.

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

Sd/-  
**Hulang Thanihring Anal**  
Yangkhehchong Khutha Village  
Chakpikarong Sub Division  
Chandel District



# Vikram-S, India's first private rocket, lifts off from ISRO spaceport

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 18:

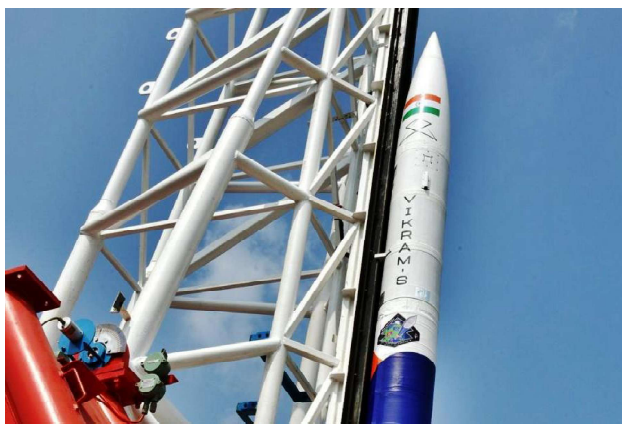
It was a historic moment when Vikram-S, India's first privately developed rocket, lifted off precisely at 11.30 AM on November 18, 2022 from Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launchpad in Sriharikota.

Developed by Hyderabad based startup Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited, the 6-metre tall vehicle hit a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometers and then splashed into the Bay of Bengal about five minutes after the launch. This mission was titled Prarambh.

The rocket Vikram-S is a single-stage solid fuelled, sub-orbital rocket developed over two years by incorporating advanced technologies including carbon composite structures and 3D-printed components. Equipped with a gross lift off mass of 545kg, and payload mass of 80 kg, Vikram-S carried with it three customer payloads, which will map the measurement and validation of certain flight parameters and payload integration processes.

This was a technology demonstration flight to showcase the capabilities of the company. The rocket will help validate the technologies that will be used in the subsequent Vikram-I orbital vehicle of Skyroot that is planned for launch next year, subject to technical clearance by IS-SPACe.

Founded by Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka in June 2018 Skyroot Aerospace is a two-time national award-winning space startup, with 200 employees, and is the largest funded private space start up in India with ₹ 526 crore raised as capital till date. "We started four years ago and when we started there was no policy but we took that leap with faith. But now the policy has come up and we got support from



ISRO," Mr Chandana said. "Vikram-S rocket meets all flight parameters - 89.5 kms peak altitude achieved and completed required mission," he added.

At a press meet after the launch Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, called this a "New beginning, a new dawn. This is the beginning of building India's own space ecosystem." He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, opened up the space sector for private stakeholders in June 2020 and this has enabled unlocking of the immense potential of the Indian Space Sector.

S. Somnath, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Secretary Department of Space (DoS) said, "We thought it's a difficult journey but they (Skyroot team) proved us wrong."

Pawan K Goenka, Chairman of IN-SPACe, Department of Space said that 55 years ago

was when our first Rohini was launched and today we are starting another journey but the difference is this is by a private player.

He further said that this maiden rocket launch for Skyroot Aerospace is perhaps the most important milestone for the Indian private space sector since the space reforms announced by Government of India and hints at the rapid transformative journey we're witnessing in India's space sector. "Though one small step, it is a giant leap to demonstrate the capabilities of the Indian Space sector," he added.

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has been operating as a single-window, autonomous nodal agency of Department of Space (DOS) to boost the private space sector economy in India.

It has given five authorizations to the Space NGEs for undertaking space activities in India, in six months and signed Sixteen MoUs. Till date, IN-SPACe has received more than 150 applications from Space NGEs for Authorization, Facilitation, and Promotion.

Friday's mission is considered to be a significant milestone for Skyroot Aerospace as it would help test and validate majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of orbital class space launch vehicles, including many sub-systems and technologies that would be tested before lift-off and post lift off phases of the launch.

"Fun-Sat", a 2.5 kgs payload belonging to Chennai-based aerospace startup Spacekidz, has been developed by students from India, the United States, Singapore and Indonesia.

The 545 kg Vikram launch vehicle consists of the Vikram II and Vikram III series.

It took Skyroot Aerospace about two years to develop and has been built using advanced technologies including carbon composite structures and 3D-printed components. The firm founded by Pawan Kumar Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka in June 2018 is a two-time national award-winning space startup, with 200 employees, and is the largest funded private space start up in India with ₹ 526 crore raised as capital till date.

# DC Thoubal appeals to take benefits of various Govt schemes

IT News  
Thoubal, Nov 18:

"Meeyamgi Numit" (People's Day) was successfully organised by the District Administration Thoubal today at the Counting Hall of Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex for the month of November. As done in the preceding months, Shri A. Subhash Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Thoubal, heard various grievances and demands of the public personally.

Speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner said "Meeyamgi Numit" was held to meet the grievances of the people living in the village and far flung areas. He said

the District Administration could solve the problems and grievances of the public. He said most of the grievances are related to old age pension schemes, CMHT cards and the District Administration is trying its best level to resolve the problems and grievances of the public along with the concerned departments at the earliest. He appealed to the people of the District to come forward and place their grievances and take the benefits of various welfare schemes introduced by the Government.

Deputy Commissioner also distributed CMHT card to two beneficiaries.

Around 109 written applications were received today relating to different schemes

including 28 applications for CMHT Card, 37 application for old age & 12 for Widow pension card and grievances related to other departments like PHED, Police among others.

Twenty (20) stalls of different departments were opened to meet the demand of the public including Police, CMO, ICDS, ZEO, MSPDCL, Veterinary, Agriculture and Fishery.

In today's "Meeyamgi Numit", SP Thoubal Jageshchandra Haobijam, IPS, CMO Thoubal, Dr. Y. Nokul, all Sub-Divisional Officers, and other District level Officers of different departments attended the programme to address the grievances of the general public.

# Daily direct flights from Delhi to all states in Northeast under consideration

Agency  
Aizawl, Nov 18:

DoNER Minister G.K. Reddy on Thursday said daily direct flights between Delhi and all eight states of the Northeast region is under consideration.

Minister Reddy inaugurated the 10th International

Tourism Mart in Aizawl, organized by Union Tourism Ministry.

He said the offices of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) would be opened shortly in all the northeastern states.

Reddy said that the objective of the ITM is to highlight

tourism potentiality of the northeast region in domestic and international markets.

Northeastern states' Tourism Ministers, senior officials of northeastern states and Heads of the Tourism and Hospitality Organisations participated in the three-day ITM.

Contd. from Page 1

# Manipur Sangai Festival 2022.....

The Department also organized curtain raiser events at Kangla Western Gate at Imphal West and Mao at Senapati District on November 15, 2022. In its effort to showcase the immense tourism potential of Manipur and its cultural diversity, the Government of Manipur has centred the theme of this edition of the festival on ONENESS. As the grandest and most extravagant festival of Manipur, the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 is expected to welcome national leaders,

polymakers, industry experts, business delegates, cultural performers, exhibitors and visitors from various countries around the world.

For better traffic management and smooth passage of the visitors during the festival, the Department sought co-operation of the general public and advised responsible driving to the youths of the State while appealing to the public to abide by parking rules during the festival. Movement of commercial and private heavy vehicles will

be restricted during the festival and security arrangements around the city will also be beefed up in order to ensure safety of the visitors. CCTV cameras will be installed at all the main venues.

Entry tickets will be priced at Rs. 50/- (Adults) and Rs. 20/- (Uniformed Students) and season tickets for stall owners will be priced at Rs. 1000 (30 times entry). Tickets will be available online at [www.sangaiticket.com](http://www.sangaiticket.com) and all venues and through authorised agents.

## Sports

# Urvashi Singh, Sarjubala Devi to headline Pro Boxing show in Colombo

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 18:

Decorated Indian pugilist Sarjubala Devi and pro boxer Urvashi Singh will headline the Pro Boxing show in Colombo on November 26.

Urvashi is set to take on Thai national champion Thanchanok Phanan in a 10-round contest. The fight, sanctioned by the World Boxing Council (WBC), has two titles up for grabs - the WBC International Super Bantamweight title as well as the WBC Asia Silver title.

In the co-main event, Sarjubala Devi, a silver medalist in the 2014 AIBA World Boxing Championship in Korea and a former Youth World Boxing gold medalist, will clash with another Thai boxer Khwanchit Khunya (4-12) in a 4-round flyweight contest. Oksana Semenishina, WBC International Secretary from Lithuania will serve as the supervisor for the title fight. The 27-year-old Urvashi, who turned pro in 2018, has a 9-3 record that includes six knock



India's Sarjubala Devi in action.

out wins.

"I have watched Phanan's videos, and I know how she moves, I don't think I'll need 10 rounds. I should be able to comfortably win by KO in the 6th round," Urvashi was quoted as saying in a media release.

Her opponent, the 20-year-old Phanan (12-4) has been

competing in the international circuit for the past few years. She lost by a 7th-round stoppage last month against Singapore boxer and reigning WBC Asia Super Bantam champion Samantha Quek.

Sarjubala, who has represented India at the Olympics, turned pro in January this year. The Manipuri fighter had made

an impressive debut in professional boxing with a solid unanimous decision victory against Lulu Kayage of Tanzania in Dubai in February.

"It's been an emotional few months for me because it's been almost 6 months since I made my debut in Dubai. A few injuries along the way disrupted my plans. I am good

now, I am really excited to fight here in Colombo on the 26th," Sarjubala said.

She has now signed a fight management contract with International Matchmaker Roshan Nathaniel.

The event also features a WBC Asia Continental title defence by Delhi boxer Sachin Dekwal (11-1) against Philippine boxer Jules Vitriano (11-5).

The event, which is sanctioned by the Indian Boxing Council (IBC), and is being promoted by well-known Dubai based Boxing Promoter Dunstan Paul Rozairo of DJMC Events and International Matchmaker Roshan Nathaniel, who is also the Technical Director of DJMC Events.

The event features eight international fights.

IBC President Brigadier PKM Raja said "We are thankful to DJMC Events, Mr. Rozairo and Roshan for the wonderful work they are doing with Indian women boxers. Getting this show to Sri Lanka is a huge step in promoting boxing in South Asia."

# FIFA World Cup 2022: Last dance for Lionel Messi as unified Argentina ready to give all for their captain

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 18:

The 2022 FIFA World Cup is going to be the last dance for Lionel Messi to get his hands on the coveted trophy. Messi, who is arguably the greatest player to ever play the game, has won every trophy except for the glorious World Cup and this time it's probably the last chance for him to fulfil his dream. The 35-year-old came extremely close to lifting the trophy in 2014 but Germany's Mario Gotze snatched it from him in the extra time at Brazil's World Cup final. Several photos of gutted Messi went viral from that final as he received the Player of the tournament trophy but it was quite visible that he didn't care much about that because he failed to achieve his childhood dream.

Argentina usually enter every World Cup as one of the

favourites and 2022 will be no different. The reigning Copa America champions are considered as the title contenders by many footballing greats including Messi's former Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola.

In the 2018 World Cup, France knocked them out of the tournament with a thrilling 4-3 victory in the round of 16. However, a lot has changed in Argentina football since that WC. Lionel Scaloni has revamped the Argentine team with some young talented players in the squad who are willing to put everything to win the World Cup for their team and especially for their captain and idol Messi.

The Albicelestes are riding on a magnificent 35-match unbeaten streak stretching back to 2019 and they are probably the most in-form teams alongside Brazil in the World Cup.