

CM attends One Day International Business Summit Imphal International Airport is the third-busiest airport in North-East India : N. Biren



IT News
Imphal, Nov 24:

Under the UDAAN Scheme of the government of India there are plans to start international flights from Imphal Airport to Mandalay and Bangkok, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said today.

He was speaking at the Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the One Day International Business Summit, Gateway Manipur-Connecting ASEAN Countries at Sangai Hall, Hotel Imphal. The summit is organized by the Manipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in association with

the Government of Manipur. The inaugural session was followed by a Technical Presentation, Technical Session and interaction.

N. Biren Singh said that the Imphal International Airport is the third-busiest airport in North-East India and that ongoing development works including a new integrated terminal and Air Cargo terminal, will further consolidate the air connectivity infrastructure in the State.

Stating that the North East connects India to one of the most economically dynamic and politically significant geographies of the world, the Chief Minister

stressed that as the global power axis shifts to the Indo-Pacific, developing a secure and prosperous North Eastern Region as a convergence of India's "Act East Policy" and "Neighbourhood First Policy" will be vital pillar towards realizing a common vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Towards realizing this vision, improved connectivity will be critical to unlock the full potential and business opportunities in the region, he added.

Further highlighting that Manipur is the land gateway to ASEAN and beyond, the Chief Minister added that

better connectivity would have a positive impact on sectors like tourism, logistics, services sector, healthcare, education, IT and IT enabled Services towards ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth.

N. Biren Singh also stated that improvement of National Highways to Moreh is nearing completion and that completion of regional projects such as Trilateral Highway Project, Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and SASEC Road Connectivity Projects would be transformative for Manipur and the North-East of India.

He said rail network has reached Manipur and that there are plans for Asian Railways through Moreh-Tamu by extending the rail line beyond Imphal.

N. Biren Singh also spoke on the huge tourism potential of the State and highlighted the endangered Sangai Deer, Keibul Lamjao the only floating National Park in the world and the Shirui Lily found only in the Shirui Hills in Ukhrul.

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Manipur pitches to film producers to make the State their film location

IT News
Panaji (Goa), Nov 24:

Participating in the posh Film Bazar at the ongoing International Film Festival of India, IFFI, Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS) Secretary, Sunzu Bachaspatimayum pitched to film producers attending the Producers' Lab to make Manipur their next filming location.

State representatives of Bihar, Pondicherry and Manipur were given a platform to interact with 26 film producers of India and Bangladesh and convince them to come to their respective states to shoot their films and avail attractive incentives.

While the representative of Bihar informed the producers that Bihar is rolling out the country's most comprehensive film policy along with attractive incentives to the tune of Rs. 3.5 crores if producers chose to shoot their films in Bihar, the representative of Tourism Board of Pondicherry said the union territory that has white sandy beaches and French architecture is yet to formulate a film policy of its own, it nevertheless offers sponsorship to filmmakers shooting their films in the union territory.



Luring producers to make Manipur their film destination, MSFDS Secretary told producers that the state has a film policy which mentions of offering incentives to producers who shoots their film in the State of Manipur, the exact amount and conditions of the incentives is in the process of formulation. The Secretary informed the producers that the State, as of now, does not charges any location fees to shoot in Manipur and MSFDS

is the single window for processing all film related permissions for the state of Manipur, to be cleared in 10 days. He also assured the producers to help them in availing good discounts on their hotel bills depending on the number of crew and days of stay.

MSFDS secretary also said that the state is coming out with an comprehensive film location compendium to assist producers in deciding their locations in the State of Manipur.

Notably, MSFDS Secretary earlier pitched for infrastructural investment such as in high-end equipment like cameras, post production facilities and indoor shooting studios at the Invest India round table conference in the Film Bazar.

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NSF condoles indiscriminate firing in Assam-Meghalaya border

IT News
Imphal, Nov 24:

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) expresses its anguish at the indiscriminate firing which took place along the Meghalaya - Assam border in West Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya and West Karbi Anglong district of Assam during the wee hours of 22nd November 2022 leading to the loss of six (6) precious lives.

The Federation in a press release strongly condemns the barbaric and anti-social act which had outraged the sentiments of the entire North East region and beyond. While the general populace is collectively striving towards lasting peace and stability, to bring about a life of dignity and the shared purpose of peaceful coexistence and respectful relationships, such inhumane and diabolical act

negates the very aspiration of the masses and ought to be out rightly condemned by all right thinking citizens.

The press release further added, NSF appeals for peace and unity in the region as we continue to press forward in strengthened cooperation while also sparing no efforts to uproot those elements and practices which are against the social and economic progress of our people. We

must respect each other's history and basic human rights, accept each others differences and value the common interests so as to establish a secure future where the entire region will thrive in harmony.

The Federation appeals to the authority concerned that due process of law is followed through an impartial probe to settle the issue amicably at the earliest possible time, the press release added.

Loktak Lake under serious threat from anthropogenic activities: LDA Chairman

IT News
New Delhi, Nov 24:

Chairman of Loktak Development Authority (LDA), Manipur M. Asnikumar Singh today stated Loktak Lake, the largest fresh water lake in North-eastern India, is in under serious threat from anthropogenic activities such as encroachment, pollution, adverse conditions due to changes in water levels, and various developmental activities in and around the lake. This was stated by him while addressing the inaugural session of International Conference on 'Environmental Policy Discourses since the 1960s: Politics, Problems and Narratives of Environment Policies in Europe and Asia' organised jointly by Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Institute for Governance, Policies & Politics, New Delhi; German Research Foundation and Justus Liebig University, Germany at Committee Room, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

He also added that we have reached a point in our history where we cannot take a back seat and let others decide on the fate of the iconic Loktak Lake which is regarded as the cradle of Manipur's civilization.

Highlighting that the Government of Manipur is determined to make Loktak Lake an iconic wetland in the entire world, he stated that under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, the Loktak Development Authority (LDA) is moving ahead with community participation, research, policies and conservation activities to fulfil the mandate of conservation and sustainable management of the lake. He also added the LDA has constituted an Expert Advisory



Committee to address the issues related to the fast-changing ecological status and their impact on the socio-economic condition of the community dependent on them, led by Prof (Dr.) Rajiv Sinha of IIT, Kanpur and its report will be submitted soon.

Asserting that the State Government is also working on a long-term plan to conserve and preserve the lake, he stated that it has the Asian Development Bank with a detailed project report to rejuvenate the lake's ecology and improve the livelihood of those dependent on the lake for sustenance. He further added that the State Government has already approved the Short-Term Plan of WISE use of Loktak Lake and is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Environment.

Regarding the prevention of encroachers in the lake, he informed that an empowered committee, chaired by the Chief Minister of Manipur and constituted by senior Government officials and various Heads of Departments has already been formed to notify and demarcate the lake's boundary.

Stating that LDA has also been determined to safeguard the livelihood of the fishing community, he asserted that

LDA has suggested the State Government to regulate and come up with a fishing policy to check on the dwindling fish population and overfishing in the lake.

Maintaining that construction of floating homestays would provide ample employment opportunities to our youth, promote ecotourism in the state and decrease the dependency on the lake for sustenance, he reiterated that the Government is setting up guidelines for the construction of floating homestays that reflect our cultural heritage and are environment-friendly.

He also expressed that with a strong sense of hope and optimism, we can carry out the work of conservation and management of Loktak Lake and its associated wetlands.

The Conference was attended by more than 300 delegates including policymakers, intellectuals, academicians, research scholars from different countries. Various delegates from India and abroad showed keen interest in different steps taken up by the State Government to conserve Loktak Lake and expressed their desire to share ideas and thoughts regarding the same.

NEFIS condemns the State Govts of Assam and Meghalaya for the border firing incident which killed 6 people

IT News
Imphal, Nov 24:

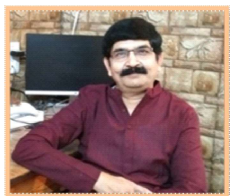
North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) strongly condemns the firing incident along the Assam-Meghalaya state border yesterday, in which 6 people were killed. The firing which happened in Mukroh village of West Jaintia Hills was related to the border issues which have remained unresolved between the two states ever since the formation of the separate state of Meghalaya.

It should be noted that the traditional living areas of various indigenous tribes inhabiting both sides of the border

overlap at many points. The people of the region access lands and forests across borders for their daily needs and for their livelihood. The present incident happened when some forest dwellers were prevented from transporting wood from Assam into Meghalaya. Due to the chronic apathy of the governments, the region has remained underdeveloped and thus the common issues of the indigenous people of the region remain unresolved. In order to shift the onus of their apathy, the governments have promoted disharmony among the people based on ethnic lines, instead of solving the issues once and for all. Thus, tensions along the border continue to simmer, and the present incident is the latest example.

NEFIS stands for protecting the democratic rights of the people and demands that the border issues should be immediately resolved between the two states in active consultation with the people of the region. The organization also demands that no decision concerning the people in the area be taken without the active consent of the people involved. NEFIS will be actively campaigning in the coming days for the resolution of the issue and to promote harmony among the various communities in the region.

Universal Brotherhood under the divine Fatherhood of God



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Today, while I was arranging my bookshelf, I had a look on my published write-up on Revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale in the 1990's. I feel myself lucky that I got an opportunity to meet Dada on many occasions in 1990 in Veraval (Gujarat), and his words still echo in my ears: "I don't try to mold anyone or sculpt them. I just see how a person can be used, each individual's capacity and capability." India has been the land of culture and many leaders have been produced by the

country who has done good to the country. One among them was renowned Activist and social reformer, Revered Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Dadaji). He was an activist philosopher who formed the family (parivar) of millions of Swadhyayees World-wide. He was recipient of 100s of awards including Magsaysay award, Templeton Award, Gandhi award, Tilak award etc. He was a leader of a spiritual self-knowledge movement in India that has today liberated millions from the shackles of poverty and moral dissipation. In 1991 Shyam Benegal created and directed the film Antarmad (The Inner Voice), based on Rev. Athavale's Swadhyaya movements or Prayogs, starring Shabana Azmi and Kulbhushan Kharbanda, among others. [13] In 2004 Abir Bazzaz also directed the documentary Swadhyaya, based on the life and works of Rev. Athavale.

Born to a Sanskrit teacher Vajjanath Athavale and housewife Parvati Athavale, Pandurang was one of their five children. The roots of spirituality and philosophy grew inside him from his childhood days itself. At the age of 12, Pandurang Athavale was given a separate course to study by his grandfather. It resembled the Tapovan system being followed in ancient India.

Impressed by his ideas, the Nobel Prize winner Dr. Arthur Holly Compton, offered him to provide his preaching at the United States which was a golden opportunity for Dada but he declined and stated the reason for the decline that there was much left to do for his native place, India and that he visioned India to be a model community practicing the Vedic ideas. His philosophy asks people to recognize the inner presence of God which, leads to a sense of self-esteem as well as an awareness of the divine presence within all persons. Dada's middle-class disciples started moving into rural villages to propagate Swadhyaya and to advance their teacher's belief that barriers of caste, gender, and religion must be transcended in order to recognize the true equality of all people.

Tatvadnyaan Vidyapeeth is an institution in which Athavale, himself, often gave discourses to the many youths that studied there. The youths study a broad variety of religious and spiritual subjects and live as they would have done in a "tapovan" thousands of years ago.

Athavale's lessons and learnings from Bhagavad Gita have been spread to millions of people. He has been instrumental in introducing a realistic social change in India's rural communities and believes that selfless service, without expecting returns, is the mantra that can bring humanity together. He always wanted to spread the message of equality, unity, and spirituality in the society. His vision was to have a United Global family by eradication of all the worldly problems based on the single principle of Universal blood maker, which was possible with the foundation of Swadhyaya Parivar.

Today Dada is not with us but his followers are continuing spreading and leading his vision to others "Universal Brotherhood under the divine Fatherhood of God."

Career Opportunities in the Built Environment sectors



By: Vijay GarG

With shortage of housing in urban areas being a problem today, a career in Built Environment has a lot of scope

Built Environment offers multiple opportunities to build your career.

Built environment is the study of the design, construction, and management of man-made surroundings. In India, according to McKinsey's report India's Turning Point, the Built Environment is expected to create over 24 million jobs in the construction of hospitality, residential units, commercial spaces, and more. A report by Mordor Intelligence says that the demand for commercial and industrial areas is expected to grow at a CAGR of approximately 13% between 2022 and 2027. The current shortage of housing in urban areas is estimated to be ~10 million units.

Thus specialised courses relating to Built Environment, such as Construction, Real Estate and Infrastructure will help students gain in-depth, immersive knowledge in the field and increase employment opportunities. Built environment professionals need to upskill themselves to adapt to the changing world of real estate and construction. Knowledge of new technology and software such as Building Information Modelling (BIM), Lean Construction and project management software like Primavera, MS Project and Candy will be necessary.

Areas for excellence

Listed below are some areas that Built Environment students can excel in: Transactions and Leasing: This requires a knowledge of construction, market trends, pricing, and valuation to facilitate high-value deals for retail or commercial spaces. Built Environment graduates can apply their knowledge to specialise in a particular property type and facilitate their leasing and sub-leasing.

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Rahul Gandhi, Savarkar and the Political Hypocrisy



By: M.R. Lal

Flashing a clemency letter written by V.D Savarkar to the British from the Cellular jail, Rahul Gandhi has once again done a favour to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) recently. The BJP has all its weapons ready against the Congress in its strong turf Gujarat, which the party has always been accused of turning into its Hindutva laboratory. Rahul Gandhi's untimely political gesture against Veer Savarkar needs to be categorised as the result of a political tutoring unsupplied with unadulterated facts. This could also be rated as his inability to sense the political temperature building up in the state of Gujarat. The results of the state's elections would definitely be seen as an indication to what the country is eagerly waiting for the mega battle 2024-the national elections. Modi with his arms and armaments is all set to break his own record and the tripartite political war that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) could transform the narrative about the Gujarat elections as, is going to be a show of strength of the Hindutva that the BJP has so far been nurturing.

Savarkar, for no reason could be counted as a coward by anybody with a sense of political understanding as the torture he had undergone was humongous. Despite his being blamed for writing the clemency letters repeatedly, the period that Savarkar spent in the Cellular Jail from 1911 to 1924 had been a period of harassment that no other political prisoners, who later rose to hold positions in an independent India did go through. But to consider his Hindu sentiments and intellectual

orientation to support a Hindu majoritarian state as an attitude of vehemence of a Hindu fanatic would equally help the Congress to alienate the party further from the community. The setbacks that the Congress party had at the hands of the Sangh Parivar consolidation both politically and culturally have been irretrievable. The Congress and its leaders have consistently been steering controversies on Savarkar ever since his death.

It was A.P.J Abdul Kalam who unveiled the portrait of Savarkar in the Central Hall of Parliament in 2003. The event was boycotted by the entire opposition and Sonia Gandhi, camping with other opposition leaders, wrote a letter to A.P.J Abdul Kalam asking him not to attend the function. Most of the parties that opposed the BJP government's move had justified their stand by saying that they did not want to 'give credibility to the activities and divisive policies' of Savarkar. Interestingly, the Congress had been perplexed and literally suffocated and struggling to justify its Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Najma Heptulla's attending the unveiling ceremony. The party seemed to have been confused almost every occasion when it came out sharpening its claws against Savarkar.

The reason why Savarkar's detractors and critics undervalue his patriotic personality is the letters that he is blamed to have written to the British administration. There are split views on his clemency letters. While one view points out his letters as mere clemency inscriptions, the other view sounds that he appealed for a reduction in his sentence and a transfer to another prison. But the fact of the matter is, despite the Congress and the other political opponents of the BJP driving their campaign against Savarkar's bravery, their detractive views have not so much trickled into India's nationalistic sentiments. Large numbers of Indians view the veteran freedom fighter as a unique personality who underwent unprec-

edented persecution in the dungeons of the British jails and his attempts for clemency, if any, with contextual intonation, could be justified as a well thought-out approach to come out revamped for a better fight against the colonial hegemony.

'The Indian War of Independence of 1857' written by Savarkar had been an intelligent tribute to the war heroes of the first Independent struggle against the British fiefdom. The first impulse of revolt in a large scale against the British Empire could have been minimised as a sheepish attempt of mutiny by a small number of Indian soldiers, if the book authored by V.D Savarkar did not gain publicity. The book is a well documented referential guide which did justice to all the martyrs of the rebellion and their sacrifice. The British had enough reasons to address the man in their secret confinement as the 'most dangerous'. Savarkar, as he begins his book categorically inscribes addressing the revolutionary upheaval as an outcome of the intense desire of patriots who wanted to set their country free and a passionate attempt to restore the ethos of their religion. This extraordinary revolt was not only against the British crookedness behind the greased bullets but also a war in the offing against the British Raj.

The narrative that was established in a post independent India describing Gandhi's nonviolent means of mobilization as the solitary winning strategy that India gained freedom with, could systematically undermine the contribution of a large number of revolutionaries. Savarkar, through his endeavours to gain freedom for India remained one of the best examples as a patriot to a genuine student of India's independence struggle. His sacrifice was untainted and decisively genuine than that of Jawaharlal Nehru and many others. The level of his patriotic intellectualism was indisputably visible as we see him jump from the ship midway when the British arrested and transported him to India.

As a young patriotic revolutionary, his political asylum at the shores of France did not sustain as a series of Anglo-French repatriates overturned his ambitious experiment to escape.

The Congress has consistently been in denial and deliberately oblivious to the momentum that the ideology that Savarkar nurtured and the pace with which it began to gain relevance in India. Savarkar's book 'Essentials of Hindutva' deals with the basics of Hinduism. This book has evidential revelations and ideological convictions shining with much clarity. No doubt, the Hindutva that the Sangh Parivar has been channelizing its energy for has mostly been extracted from the ideals that Savarkar had spoken about. To substantiate his ideas of Hindutva, Savarkar writes, "This one word, Hindutva, ran like a vital spinal cord through our whole body politic and made the Nayers of Malabar weep over the sufferings of the Brahmins in Kashmir. Our bards bewailed the fall of Hindus, our seers roused the feelings of Hindus, our heroes fought the battle of Hindus, our saints blessed the efforts of Hindus, our statesmen moulded the fate of Hindus, and our mothers wept over the wounds and gloried over the triumph of Hindus."

India's present political context is principally driven by the consciousness that an untouchable nationalist of the Congress, V.D Savarkar generated. To counter his eminence in the midst of a newly invigorated Hindutva sensationalism will be a herculean task for the Congress. If it keeps hammering on projecting him as the underdog of India's independence struggle, except his grey beard, nothing about his understanding and appearance would narrate Rahul Gandhi's maturity. But of course, his political rant on Savarkar had given him a media mileage, though his Bharat Jodo Yatra could not create a pan India narrative for change.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

Myanmar-Bangladesh's growing trade and business ties in 2022 year



By: Samina Akhter

(11,362.97 tonnes) in the 2021-2022 six-month mini-budget period (October-March).

"Bangladesh increasingly purchases locally farmed rohu. Myanmar's border trade with Bangladesh sees a trade surplus. The import is extremely less. The traders called for a legitimate trade of cattle as well. There are many steps to do if that normal trade can generate revenue for the two countries and curb inflation in border areas. Myanmar's border export with Bangladesh amounted to \$10.733 million in the past seven months this FY. The surplus of trade can increase the interest of the entrepreneurs, fish farmers and growers," U Thet Oo, head of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department, said.

The Maungtaung border post in Rakhine State has been suspended since the end of September. The export is flowing out of the Sittway border post to Bangladesh. Trade via the Maungtaung border saves time and trade flow is smooth. It takes about five hours to reach the Bangladesh border through Sittway.

Myanmar bagged a total of \$10.733 million from exports of 8,620 tonnes to Bangladesh in the past seven months. The State also received revenue of \$24,100 from licence fees of 26 vessels plying to Bangladesh's Port.

Myanmar exported goods worth US\$2.11 million to Bangladesh through the Shwemengam border post of Sittway and the Kanyinchang border post of Maungtaung in September.

Myanmar shipped goods worth \$1.88 million to Bangladesh through the Sittway border post and goods valued at \$0.23 million via Maungtaung.

As transport to Maungtaung was suspended, trade via Maungtaung decreased. Approximately 1,129 tonnes of fisheries products worth \$1.42 million were exported via the Sittway border post, which accounts for 75 per cent of overall exports to Bangladesh in September.

The Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry stated that weather conditions and transport difficulties damaged the trade at the Maungtaung border post. The traders cannot deliver the goods to Maungtaung through Sittway amid the transport barriers and erratic weather conditions so the trade volume via Sittway significantly increased.

The cross-border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh saw only exports, showing a total trade surplus. The fisheries products are the major export items in the trade.

Myanmar sent area nut, coconut, jengkol, silver pomfret, anchovy, dried fish, broom, mushroom, ginger, onion, chickpea, dried plum, tamarind seed, footwear, lower garment (longyi), Thanaka, instant coffee mix, sunflower seed and instant noodle to Bangladesh. Meanwhile, apparel, consumer goods, PVC pipes, plastic water storage tanks and hand-drawn pumps are imported into the country.

Myanmar started the exportation of 21,300 tonnes of high grade rice to Bangladesh by MV VTC Ocean, which docked at Sule Port of Yangon

under the agreement of the two countries.

The Myanmar Rice Federation and Bangladesh Food Department inked a contract to export 250,000 tonnes of high-grade rice this year, and the export cargoes will be carried by MV VTC Ocean according to the implementation of the contract.

Myanmar conveyed 5,160 tonnes of rohu to Bangladesh through two cross-border posts in the first five months (April-August) of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

However, the border trade has come to a halt since September amid transport security concerns, according to the Maungtaung border post.

Rohu is processed in Yangon and they are sent to the Sittway border post by cold-storage trucks or ships after pre-shipment inspection. Then, they are shipped to Bangladesh by motorboats. Myanmar has begun exporting rohu to Bangladesh through Sittway and Maungtaung border posts since 2016.

Agriculture and livestock are the backbones of Myanmar's economy. Commercial fish farming businesses are found in some townships in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions. Two-year-old rohu grows two to five kilogrammes at the farming ponds. Those rohu weighing below two kg are sent to domestic markets. The large ones are exported to external markets. As rohu has grasped market shares in the international markets, farmers have expanded rohu farming more than before.

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SC questions 'lightning speed' appointment process of Election Commissioner Arun Goel

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 24:

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the "haste" and "tearing hurry" in appointing Arun Goel as Election Commissioner.

The Centre vehemently resisted the observations, with Attorney General R Venkataramani saying the whole issue pertaining to the appointment of Goel be looked into its entirety.

At the outset, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph perused the Centre's original file pertaining to Goel's appointment as EC, and said, "What kind of evaluation is this? Although, we are not questioning the merits of Arun Goel's credentials but the process."

As the bench questioned the "lightning speed" with which Goel was appointed as an EC and also that his file did not even move within departments for 24 hours, the Centre through Venkataramani vehemently urged the bench not to make observations without looking into the entire issue pertaining to the appointment process.

During the hearing, lawyer Prashant Bhushan attempted to make submissions before the bench when the attorney general was arguing.

"Please hold your mouth for a while," the top-most law officer told Bhushan.

The top court reserved its



verdict on a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of ECs and the Chief Election Commissioner and asked the parties to file written submission in five days.

Justice Ajay Rastogi, who is also a part of the bench, told Venkataramani, "You have to listen to the court carefully and answer the questions. We are not on individual candidates but on the process."

The attorney general said he is bound to answer the questions of the court.

The top court said the 1985-batch IAS officer got voluntary retirement from service in a single day, his file was cleared by the Law Ministry in a single day, a panel of four names was put up before the prime minister and Goel's name got the nod from the President within 24 hours.

The bench, which also comprised Justices Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, said none of the four names in the panel were

"carefully hand-picked" by the Law Minister so that they could complete a six-year tenure.

Venkataramani responded that there is a mechanism and criteria for selection and there cannot be a scenario where the government has to look back at every officers' track record and ensure that he completes the six-year tenure.

Under the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, an EC can have a tenure of six years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Referring to Goel's appointment, the Attorney General said his profile is important and not the voluntary retirement which is being made an issue.

The bench said the 1991 Act says that the EC's tenure is of six years and the government has to ensure that the person who holds the post completes the stipulated period.

The 80th Commemoration of the British passenger-cum-cargo ship "S.S.Tilawa" held

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 24:

The 80th Commemoration of "S.S.Tilawa", the British passenger-cum-cargo ship, that sank in the middle of the Indian Ocean, during the Second World War, claiming 280 lives, was organised by the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMS) in Mumbai on Wednesday evening.

The British India Steam Navigation Company liner "S.S. Tilawa", which set sail at 5 PM on November 20, 1942, from Ballard Pier in South Mumbai (then Bombay), for Durban, South Africa via the Seychelles, Mombasa and Maputo, was torpedoed and sunk off Seychelles, by a submarine during WWII.

There were 222 crew members, 732 passengers, 9 lifeboats, and over 6,000 tons of cargo, including 60 tons of silver bullion for the South Africa Mint.

In the early hours of November 23, 1942, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, 930 miles northeast of the Seychelles, the Japanese Imperial Navy I-29 submarine reportedly twice torpedoed "Tilawa" and sank her. After the first torpedo attack, the first officer transmitted SOS messages. However, nothing could be done and with the second torpedo hit, the ship sank quickly. For the next 2 days, all aboard fought for their lives and saw their fellow passengers and loved ones drown to death, as per www.tilawa1942.com.

678 persons were rescued by a Royal Navy Cruiser HMS



(Left): Arvind Jani, the last known survivor of "S.S.Tilawa", speaking at the 80th Commemoration of "S.S.Tilawa". (Right): Descendants of those who perished in the mishap.

Birmingham and S.S. Carthage and brought back to Ballard Pier on November 27, 1942.

The wrecks of the ill-fated vessel, along with her cargo of 2364 bars of silver with a value of approximately £32 million, were located in December 2017 after 66 months of exploration by London-based Argentinum Exploration Ltd.

On Wednesday, Mukesh Solanki and his son Emile Solanki (living in Toronto Canada), the descendants of late Nichhabhai Chibabhai Solanki, who perished in the unfortunate tragedy, were present at the event at the Grand Hotel, Ballard Pier. The event was hosted in association with the Maritime Mumbai Museum Society (MMS).

The last known survivor, Arvind Jani (83) who was 3 years old at the time, was also

present.

Jani from South London U.K., who was just 3 years old when his mother, Vasantagauri, tied her little baby with her saree on her back, grabbed a rope and jumped into a lifeboat.

"We believe the Indian people should know this piece of missing Indian history from the Second World War. Such maritime historic preservation is also an integral mission for the MMS. Their leadership team extensively supported our efforts to organize this historic event, Emile Solanki Founder of tilawa1942.com said. A commemoration was also organized at the Royal Bombay Yacht

Club, Mumbai, India.

It is believed that S.S. Tilawa was the only passenger cargo liner attacked in the Indian Ocean during the war. Solankis have raised following questions: Why did the Japanese attack a passenger cargo liner? Did the Japanese know about the precious cargo onboard? Was Tilawa a military threat? Did Tilawa contribute to the war effort? Why did the British and Indian Government authorize a merchant ship to carry passengers? Why did Tilawa not have an escort or have its route patrolled for enemy attack? These are some of the questions raised on www.tilawa1942.com.

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Myanmar-Bangladesh's growing trade and business....

Approximately 1,000 tonnes of rohu from Yangon city are delivered to Sittway and Maungdaw border posts in Rakhine State with Bangladesh. Rohu from the other two cities is also sent to the border via sea route and road transport.

Rohu and other dried commodities such as onion, tamarind, ginger, and dried plum are shipped to Bangladesh through Rakhine State, while wide striped longyi for men (PalaykatPasoe - cotton sarong for men), plastic gallon containers, footwear and construction materials are imported to Myanmar. Exports surpass imports in cross-border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The value of border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh amounted to \$16.229 million in the first half of the current FY, comprising exports worth \$16 million and imports worth \$0.03 million, as per the statistics released by

the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar delivered 319 tonnes of coconuts to Bangladesh through the Maungdaw border trade post in the first half of the current financial year 2022-2023, with an estimated value of US\$0.128 million.

It is commonly used in religious events beyond health benefits. That being so, there is a steady demand from Bangladesh for Myanmar's coconut. Coconut is one of the export items to Bangladesh through Bangladesh.

There are three types of coconuts cultivated in the southern Rakhine State, delta and coastal regions of Myanmar; tall, dwarf and orange coconut. They can be grown at least 27°C and under rainfall ranging from 30 to 70 inches. It yields between seven and ten years for tall coconuts, while coconuts can be harvested within three to five years for dwarf coconut trees

and orange coconuts produce fruits within five to seven years. A tree can produce about 100 coconuts on average.

Coconut's health benefits are quick digestion, good cholesterol level, anti-ageing, rich in copper and iron, killing bacteria and viruses, hormone balancing, nutritional facts, better memory, bone health and metabolism. The coconut water content is around 200-1,000 ml in one coconut. Coconut water boosts the immune system and has other benefits. It is widely used in making traditional snacks. The coconuts produced from Yangon Region and Manaung, Kyaukpadaung and Thandwe in Rakhine State are sent to Bangladesh through the Maungdaw border trade post.

Additionally, Myanmar has been exporting coconuts to Thailand through a legitimate trade channel since 2015. Myanmar delivered 319

tonnes of coconuts to Bangladesh through the Maungdaw border trade post in the first half of the current financial year 2022-2023, with an estimated value of US\$0.128 million.

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Additionally, Myanmar has been exporting coconuts to Thailand through a legitimate trade channel since 2015. (The author is a Dhaka, Bangladesh based author and columnist)

Career Opportunities in the Built Environment....

Asset Management: Real estate asset managers are responsible for asset allocation, risk management and transactions, and dealing directly with the land and structures. They must understand market dynamics and companies in specific industries based on expertise in real estate property fundamentals.

Quantity Surveying: This science provides specialised financial and contractual services and advice to clients. Quantity surveyors are responsible for estimating costs and maintaining the budget. They are involved at each stage of a construction project to ensure that the budget is not exceeded.

Strategic Consulting: This involves performing due diligence, conducting market studies, and offering strategic advisory on leasing and portfolio services. Consultants also facilitate real estate portfolio positioning, strategy, financial analytics, and modelling.

Real Estate Valuations: The

valuation of a property is crucial for investment decisions. The primary purpose is to determine the value of new real estate opportunities and the company's current real estate assets.

Project Management: This means executing a project within a set time frame and budget and involves project documentation, tracking, planning and communication.

Facilities Management: This ensures that the company's amenities are in

harmony with those who use them. Facilities Managers oversee people and organisations, as well as space and infrastructure.

Investment Banking: Real estate divisions at investment banks devise investment avenues by formulating specialised investment products such as repackaging mortgages into residential mortgage-backed securities (MBS), collateralised mortgage obligations (CMOs) and commercial mortgage-backed securities

(CMBS).

Contract Management: Contract management or Contract Lifecycle Management involves the management of contracts from vendors, customers, partners, or employees.

Sales and Marketing: Marketing is a crucial instrument for a construction company to realise its full potential. The marketing department is usually in charge of increasing product awareness and creating high-quality leads.

Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, **Tongminlun Haokip**, have lost my Registration Certificate, bearing Registration No. 1002601014 of 2010, issued by the Manipur University, Canchipur on the way between Langol to Lamphel on November 22, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Tongminlun Haokip
S/o Onkhomang Haokip
Lamphel, Imphal West - 795004

Document Lost

I, the undersigned, **Athokpam Derrick Singh**, have lost my Admit Card and Marksheet of Higher Secondary Examination 2021, bearing Roll No. 24410, issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between my residence and DC Office, Lamphel on November 10, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Athokpam Derrick Singh
S/o Athokpam Dusan Singh
Thangmeiband Hijam Leikai
PS - Imphal, Imphal West District

Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, **Langpoklakpam Sakhenba Meitei**, have lost my Registration Certificate of Higher Secondary Examination, bearing Roll No. 14143, Registration No. 30202 of 2018, issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Wangjing to Thoubal on November 12, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Langpoklakpam Sakhenba Meitei
Wangjing Lamding
Contact No. 9233075561

Name Change

I, the undersigned, **Warepam Bobby Singh**, do hereby declare that I have renounced relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name **Warepam Premkumar Singh** as I have assumed my new name **Warepam Bobby Singh**.

From now on I will be known as **Warepam Bobby Singh** and my new name **Warepam Bobby Singh**, should be recorded in all my documents, such as educational certificates, Bank documents, service records, identity documents and also the documents relating to my family members and children instead of **Warepam Premkumar Singh**.

Sd/-

Warepam Bobby Singh (47 years)
S/o - Late Warepam Babudhon Singh
Oinam Mayai Leikai, P.O. & P.S. - Nambol
Bishnupur District, Manipur

Verify Aadhaar before accepting it as a proof of identity: UIDAI

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 24:

Before accepting an Aadhaar either in physical or electronic form for establishing identity of an individual, entities should verify the Aadhaar.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) maintains that verification of Aadhaar number following the consent of the Aadhaar holder is the right step to establish genuineness of any form of Aadhaar (Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, Aadhaar PVC card, and m-Aadhaar) presented by an individual.

It prohibits unscrupulous elements, and anti-social elements from indulging in any possible misuse. It also promotes usage hygiene, and reasserts UIDAI's stand that any 12-digit number is not an Aadhaar. Tampering of Aadhaar documents can be detected by offline verification, and tampering is a punishable offence and liable for penalties under Section 35 of the Aadhaar Act.

UIDAI has requested the state governments by emphasizing the need for verification before usage, and has

urged the states to give necessary direction so that whenever Aadhaar is submitted as a proof of identity – authentication/verification of the resident is performed by the concerned entity using Aadhaar as an identity document.

UIDAI has also issued circulars addressing requesting entities, authorized to do authentication/verification, and other entities emphasizing the necessity of verification, and specifying the protocol to be followed.

Any Aadhaar can be verified using the QR code avail-

able on all forms of Aadhaar (Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, Aadhaar PVC card, and m-Aadhaar) using mAadhaar App, or Aadhaar QR code Scanner. The QR code scanner is freely available for both Android and iOS based mobile phones, as well as window-based applications.

Residents may voluntarily use the Aadhaar number to establish their identity by presenting their Aadhaar either paper or electronic form. UIDAI has already issued dos and don'ts for residents, and residents can use their Aadhaar confidently.

Assam Rifles celebrates Sangai Festival

IT News
Imphal, Nov 24:

Sangai Festival is celebrated every year in Manipur to promote the State as a World Class Tourism Destination and to promote the same, Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) has established an Assam Rifles Pavilion in the ongoing Sangai Festival 2022 from 21 - 30 November 2022 at MoirangKhunao, Bishnupur District.

Loktak Battalion is committed to spread the awareness about the Armed Forces amongst local as well as foreign populace who have thronged the Assam Rifles Pavilion in thousands of numbers since its opening ceremony on 21 November 2022.

The Assam Rifles Pavilion showcases the glorious history and unconditional contribution of gallant soldiers of Assam Rifles being the oldest Para Military Force of the nation. It also

exhibits the numerous Civic Action & Development Programme executed by the Assam Rifles in the State. The Pavilion has been a show stopper in the festival as fascinated & curious youth including students are visiting the Pavilion to see the Weapon Display. This opportunity is being utilised by the Loktak Battalion to impart knowledge to local youth regarding various avenues available to join the Armed Forces through Technical Entry Scheme (TES),

National Defence Academy (NDA), Indian Military Academy (IMA), Officers Training Academy (OTA) as well as Agniveer Scheme. Young students are also being informed regarding admissions in Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Sainik Schools & Military Schools.

The Assam Rifles Pavilion has been visited by many Militaries as well as Civil dignitaries and witnesses exuberant footfall of more than 600 plus daily.

AR conducts Medical cum Awareness Camp

IT News
Imphal, Nov 24:

In continuation with the efforts of Assam Rifles in outreaching local population of remote areas and providing them basic healthcare, Churachandpur Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a Medical cum Awareness Camp at Dongjyang village, Churachandpur district on 24 November 2022.

The medical camp was conducted to aid the villagers who have mere access to basic healthcare services. The event commenced with an awareness lecture on Healthy Habits & Disease Prevention to sensitize the villagers about the basic hygiene issues & viral diseases including prevention tips, causes, symptoms & treatment.

Contd. from Page 1

Imphal International Airport is the...

He said Manipuri Dance is one of the classical dances of India, Sankirtana ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur are inscribed on the Representative List of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and that the Manipuri Cinema and theatre have also brought laurels for the country.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the proud sporting culture of the State and said the small state has already produced numerous sportspersons including 19 Olympians. He said an Olympic Park is being constructed in honour of the Olympians.

He said Manipur is also the birthplace of Modern Polo. He has inaugurated the 'Annual Sagol Kangie Tournament' traditional version of polo, from this year to preserve the link between modern and traditional polo.

N. Biren Singh also highlighted Manipur's close historical associations with the World

War-2 and said Battle of Imphal was the turning point of one of the most grueling campaigns of the war.

"We have preserved and developed the INA Headquarters", the Chief Minister and further highlighted the Imphal War Cemetery which contains 1600 Commonwealth burials of WW-II and Japanese constructed India Peace Memorial.

The Chief Minister also spoke about the Manipur Start-Up and said that Venture Fund was launched and Credit Guarantee Scheme set up for MSMEs and StartUps in Manipur.

Further stating that the State government continues to give priority to develop and promote local food products, handlooms and handicrafts, he said Aromatic Black Rice and Pineapples are some of the produce exported recently to Europe and Middle East.

He also highlighted the implementation of the 'One product One district' and that the State

is in the process of identifying One Product for Each Sub-division.

He said, "I believe the deliberations and discussion of today's business summit would provide new insights and fresh perspectives to pave the way for Manipur."

The Chief Minister also welcomed the participants to the Manipur Sangai Festival and said "I hope you all will get to experience the rich cultural heritage of Manipur during the festival and take back lasting memories."

The inaugural session was also attended by Minister Counsellor (Commercial) Royal Thai Embassy, Thailand Saithong Soiphet, Minister Counsellor (Commercial) Royal Thai Embassy to India Surapat Phosana, General Secretary, India Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industries, SM Abdul Kalam Azad and CEO, Textiles Sector Skill Council Swapra Mishra.

MPWDWA condoles on demise of Sitarra Begum

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Nov 24:

The Meitei Pangal Women Development Welfare Association (MPWDWA), Jiribam has expressed condolence on the untimely demise of Sitarra Begum.

The press statement of Meitei Pangal Women Development Welfare Association stated that the late 'ema' Sitarra Begum had shown them mark of wisdom and courage which enables them to take part in the various important activities of the Association.



Expression profound sorrow and grief over the demise, the Meitei Pangal Women Development Welfare Association recalled the significant contribution of Sitarra Begum and her sincere efforts and contribution in the major movement of Manipur.

The Organisation also extended their condolence to the bereaved family and offered prayers to Almighty Allah to grant her Jannatul Firdous.

Significantly, this is the first time the state of Manipur is participating in the forward looking Film Bazar and even has a Manipur pavilion to attract film crews from around the globe to shoot in Manipur which is yet to be explored on films.

The most exhausting Film Bazar, organized by National Film Development Corpora-

Manipur pitches to film...

tion, NFDC, under the ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India that began on 21 Nov concludes today, completing its 4 days of networking, film financing and film marketing platform.

In the special Golden Jubilee of Manipuri Cinema package at IFFI, Manipuri film 'Look at the Sky' by the young

SRFTII graduate, Ashok Veilou from Pural, Senapati district and the first Manipuri feature film 'Matamee Manipur', directed by Deb Kumar Bose was screened at the Maquinez Palace, Panaji as its second day schedule. Director, Ashok Veilou and veteran actor K. Tomba Singh were felicitated before the screening.

Sports

FIFA World Cup:

Croatia held to goalless draw by Morocco; Japan gets 2 late goals to beat Germany 2-1; Spain thrash Costa Rica 7-0; Belgium beat wasteful Canada

Agency
Doha, Nov 24:

Croatia, runners-up at the last World Cup, were held to a 0-0 draw by Morocco at the Al Bayt Stadium on Wednesday in their opening Group F match at the tournament in Qatar.

The Croats, beaten by France in the 2018 final in Moscow, had the better of the chances, with Dejan Lovren having an effort cleared off the line and Nikola Vlasic's close shot saved by the legs of Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou.

Morocco striker Youssef En-Nesyri might have given the north Africans an early lead but was unable to get a decent touch onto Hakim Ziyech's dangerous cross. In the second half Achraf Hakimi's powerful free kick was parried by Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic.

Belgium and Canada play at 1900GMT in Wednesday's other Group F match at Al Rayyan.

Another World Cup day, another World Cup shock.

Substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored late goals Wednesday to give Ja-

pan a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Germany.

Both Doan and Asano play for German clubs.

"I believe it's a historic moment, a historic victory. I think about the development of Japanese soccer, thinking of players, for them this was a big surprise," said Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu, who had five Germany-based players in his starting lineup and three, including the scorers, on the bench.

"They're fighting in a very strong, tough, prestigious league. They've been building up their strength. In that context we believe that those divisions (Bundesliga and second division) have been contributing to the development of Japanese players," Moriyasu said. "I'm very grateful for that."

Ilkay Gundogan had given four-time champion Germany the lead with a first-half penalty. But Doan, who plays for Freiburg, pounced on a rebound to equalize in the 76th minute after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer blocked a shot from Takumi Minamino.

Then Asano, who plays for Bochum, sprinted clear of Nico Schlotterbeck and beat Neuer from a narrow angle in the 83rd



Japanese players celebrate winning the World Cup group E soccer match against Germany at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar

minute of the first competitive meeting between the two nations.

The match was played a day after Argentina's 2-1 upset loss to Saudi Arabia.

Before Wednesday's game, Germany's players covered their mouths during the team photo in an apparent rebuke to FIFA following its decision to stop plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in host nation Qatar.

Nancy Faeser, Germany's sports minister, attended the

match at the Khalifa International Stadium and was sitting beside FIFA president Gianni Infantino while wearing the same "One Love" armband that FIFA had outlawed with its threats of consequences.

It was only the third time Germany had lost its tournament-opening game after defeats against Algeria in 1982 and Mexico in 2018. In the other World Cup openers for Germany, the team had won 13 matches and drawn four.

Third match, Spain shred-

ded Costa Rica 7-0 on Wednesday in a brutal destruction in their Group E opener which launched their bid to lift a second World Cup. Avoiding the fate of giants Argentina and group rivals Germany, who lost 2-1 to Japan earlier on, Luis Enrique's fancied side sparked at Doha's Al Thumama Stadium, dominating possession and taking their chances mercilessly. Ferran Torres netted twice and Marco Asensio, Dani Olmo, Gavi, Carlos Soler and Alvaro Morata were also on the scoresheet for

the Euro 2020 semi-finalists in an emphatic romp.

In the past the 2010 World Cup winners have paid the price for profligacy but all three forwards Luis Enrique selected netted in the first half to pay back his trust in them.

The coach placed Asensio at false nine, flanked by Olmo and Torres, starting with Morata and Ansu Fati on the bench.

The coach opted to deploy Manchester City midfielder Rodri Hernandez in central defence, alongside club teammate Aymeric Laporte, correctly anticipating his team would monopolise the ball.

It took only 11 minutes for La Roja to open the scoring, with Gavi stabbing a pass forward for Olmo to receive in the area and the RB Leipzig winger taking one sublime touch to turn and another to stroke the ball gently past Keylor Navas.

Costa Rica, who were a surprise package at the 2014 World Cup, beating Italy and Uruguay and drawing with England to top their group, were sliced apart again for the second goal 10 minutes later.

Belgium kicked off their 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign

with an unconvincing 1-0 win over Canada on Wednesday night.

The result saw the Red Devils go top of Group F, with Canada in last place after the first round of fixtures.

But those positions could easily have been reversed had the North Americans taken just a fraction of their chances.

Canada ended the game having registered 22 shots - 13 more than Belgium - but none of them found a way past Thibaut Courtois.

Indeed, only three of Canada's shots required action from Courtois, including an 11th-minute penalty that the Real Madrid goalkeeper palmed away after a tame effort from Alphonso Davies.

Belgium looked disjointed and sluggish for much of the night at Ahmed bin Ali Stadium.

But they breached the Canadian defense just before half-time when a long pass from Toby Alderweireld found Michy Batshuayi, who rifled home with his left foot.

Wednesday had earlier begun with a 0-0 draw between Croatia and Morocco elsewhere in Group F.