

## External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visits Ima Market

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 27:

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar on Sunday visited Ima Market in Imphal. Jaishankar is on a visit to Manipur from November 26-28.

Earlier on Saturday, Dr S Jaishankar said the central government was working to improve connectivity and infrastructure in the Northeast. Stressing the importance of improving connectivity in the Northeast as it would open up a gateway to the wider world, Jaishankar tweeted, "Assured that we are working to improve connectivity within the Northeast and to the wider world; and expand its access to global markets and workplace."

Jaishankar, who is on a visit to Manipur's capital Imphal, attended an interactive programme held at Classic Grande in the city on Saturday evening.

He tweeted "Delighted to interact with the business community in Imphal today



afternoon. Modi Government is giving utmost priority to the development of the North East, including Manipur. It is visible in both resources and attention."

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar stated that India's G20 presidency will be celebrated at various places

across the country, including Manipur.

He said, "Our upcoming Presidency of the G20 will showcase Northeast to the world, with attendant tourism benefits." The interactive programme attended by Jaishankar was hosted jointly by the Ministry of

External Affairs and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

Notably, India will assume the presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1. India will host over 200 meetings with the objective of securing global economic growth and prosperity.

## 'G20 presidency big opportunity for India': PM Modi at 95th edition of Mann Ki Baat

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 27:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today addressed the 95th edition of his radio programme Mann Ki Baat and said that assuming G20 presidency is a big opportunity for India.

During the 95th edition of Mann Ki Baat, PM said: "India, from December 1, will be assuming leadership of G20. It is a big moment for Indians." Talking on the G20 logo Row, PM Modi said G20 logo was selected after a public contest.

"People from across the country have written to me about how proud they are that India has got the G20 presidency. India has got this responsibility under Amrit Kaal," said PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat.

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about how proud they are that India has got the G20 presidency. India has got this responsibility under Amrit Kaal.

G20 presidency is an opportunity for us. We have to focus on global good, be it peace, unity or sustainable development, India has the solution to challenges related to these things. We have given the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', he added.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially handed over the G20 presidency to India at the end of a summit of the bloc's leaders in Bali. India will officially assume the G20 presidency from December 1.

PM Modi hails India's success in space

PM Modi said, "On Nov 18, India achieved a feat in the space sector when a rocket 'Vikram S' was launched into space. It was designed and

developed by the private sector and has several new features. Yesterday, India launched a satellite developed by India and Bhutan. It will send high-resolution pictures that will help Bhutan. The launching of the satellite is a symbol of strong relations b/w India and Bhutan."

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.

PM Modi also said that Mann Ki Baat is an important programme for him as it allows him to connect with the people of the country.

"We are moving towards the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat. It's an important programme for me to connect with the people of India," he said.

## KSA Jiribam observes 17th Foundation day

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, Nov 27:

The Kangleipak Students Association (KSA), Jiribam District Council observed its 17th Foundation day today at the RK Sanatombi Vidyalaya Auditorium.

The programme was graced by S. Indrajit Singh, SDO Jiribam while Ch. Achou, President, KSA Jiribam District Council, Th. Jini Devi, President JIMWAK and G. Ibohah Singh, Vice President, IPSA Jiribam shared the dais as functional Chief Guest, president and Guest of honour respectively.

On the speech of Chief Guest S. Indrajit Singh said



that KSA took major roles in moulding and guiding the students who are the future pillars of the nation.

To bring changes in the society, it requires times, so whatever the steps taken up by the KSA today, it benefits is for the welfare and future

development of students.

Talking on the contexts of Jiribam, he said Jiribam District is very important place as it is the life line of Manipur as well as in the district different communities people are residing together peacefully.

He also conveyed best

wishes to KSA for their endeavours in future which might bring positive outcome for Jiribam District.

As a part of the celebration, KSA, Jiribam District Council organised a District Level Open Quiz Competition for senior and junior categories.

Among the participants teams RK Sanatombi Vidyalaya, Jiribam begged first, second and third position for the senior category while from Junior level category Highway English School, New Life Academy and Blooming Flower Children Foundation School stood first, second and third position respectively.

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 27:

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will attend Manipur's Sangai Festival on Sunday, said a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Sangai Festival is the biggest tourism festival of Manipur. Manipur and Madhya Pradesh are partner states under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative.

CM Shivraj Chouhan is the chief guest of this festival.

Traditional dances of

Madhya Pradesh will be presented at the Sangai Festival. Mao tribe Naurata dance, Thai dance troupes, Maring tribe and Vaiphai tribe will perform traditional dances of Manipur by Navodit Art Institute of Madhya Pradesh.

Badhai Dance by Sagar's Durga Namdev and Apumba Inat Sindam Shanglein by Sugnu Laibau Jagoi will be performed. Before this, Imphal had participated in the Lokrang Mahotsav of Bhopal and now Bhopal is participating in Sangai Mahotsav of Imphal.

The theme of this festival

is the 'Festival of Oneness'. Sangai is the state animal of Manipur, which is found only in Manipur and this festival has been organised in grand manner this year after the COVID-19 pandemic (topic/covid-19-pandemic).

Under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (topic/ek-bharat-shreshthabharat), Government of India has been organizing such programs since October 31, 2016.

These programs will help in establishing cultural and social relations with the North-Eastern states of India from Central India.

## If Neglected, Contested Issue Over ST Demand for Meitei May Become a Flashpoint For Violent Ethnic Conflict

By: Rajkumar Bobichand  
Imphal, Nov 27:

While the Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee, Manipur (STDCM) has intensified its agitation by visiting the residences of the elected leaders and submitting memorandum for their demand to include Meitei in the list of Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution of India, the All Tribal Students' Union (ATSUM) vehemently opposes and urges the tribal leaders and Union Ministers not to concede the demand of the STDCM.

ATSUM's opposition to the demand of STDCM for inclusion of Meitei in the ST list under the Constitution of India has been brought to the notice of the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Union Law and Justice Minister, and Chairperson of the National

Commission for Scheduled Tribe, Government of India; besides the elected tribal leaders of Manipur to State Legislative Assembly and Indian Parliament.

A team of ATSUM on November 19, 2022 met Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda in New Delhi and apprised him of why the Meitei community should not be given ST status.

The ATSUM team, led by its President Paotinthang Lupheng and General Secretary SR Andria, called on the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda at his official quarter at Tughlak Road, New Delhi, and apprised him of the threat and insecurity felt by the tribal people of Manipur due to the alleged illogical and illegitimate demand of the STDCM for inclusion of Meitei community into Scheduled Tribes

categories of India.

Moreover, after meeting and submitting a memorandum to the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, the team of ATSUM met Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju on November 20, 2022 in New Delhi on the issue of STDCM demand for inclusion of Meitei tribe in the Scheduled Tribe list of India and submitted a similar memorandum pointing out the reasons why the Meitei community should not be given ST status.

The ATSUM said that they were compelled to submit a representation as the demand for inclusion of Meitei community in the ST category has been gaining momentum with most of the legislators from the valley including Manipur's lone Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba openly declaring

his support without taking into account the "irrationality" of the demand and sentiments of the tribal community of the State.

Besides meeting the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and the Union Minister for Law and Justice, the team of ATSUM team reached the office of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), Government of India on November 22, 2022 and called on the Chairperson of the NCST, Government of India, Harsh Chouhan, at his office in New Delhi, and with the submission of a memorandum discussed the persistent demand of the STDCM to recognise Meitei community as Scheduled Tribe.

The ATSUM leaders also explained that the STDCM demand for ST status is nothing but a policy of the Meitei community to circumvent the

existing laws in Manipur to enable them to buy and own lands in the hill areas. The ATSUM leaders also had a serious deliberation on the plausibility of the demand to jeopardize the constitutional protection of tribal people of Manipur with the Chairperson, the ATSUM said.

Earlier, before reaching out to the Union Ministers and NCST, a team of ATSUM led by President Paotinthang Lupheng and General Secretary Sinruwung Andria on November 15, 2022 knocked on the doors of Tribal leaders in the present Manipur Assembly, including Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency MP, Lorho S Pfoze, where they submitted a memorandum in regards to the ST demand made by the STDCM, which is not acceptable to them.

The team of ATSUM first

went to the official residence of the Minister of Animals husbandry & Agriculture and Transport, Khasim Vashum and appealed to him to oppose the ST demand by the STDCM.

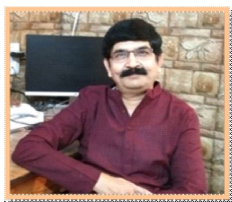
The ATSUM also met the Chairman of the Hill Areas Committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly; Dipu Gangmei but he said that there is no need to panic due to the demand made by certain communities for inclusion as ST saying that in a democracy everyone has the right to demand. The most important thing is its genuineness and there are competent authorities like the National ST Commission, the Union Government and State Government who will study and act upon it, he said.

In their memorandum, the ATSUM, time and again, unequivocally expressed its

stated position on the contested demand of the STDM for inclusion of Meitei, the majority community of Manipur, in the ST list as it poses serious threat to the land and existence of tribal people with the empirical reasoning that the Meitei community are an advanced community marked by 2000 years of civilization, unbroken lineage of kingship, superlative cultural advancement with its exquisite classical dances purportedly shown as the finest form of arts, Meitei Language (Manipuri) recognised under the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution, urban civilization for eons, participation and signing of international treaties with the British in 1762 AD and 1826 AD, academic advancement with high literacy rate.

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## No caste - No bar - save lives - donate organs



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

27th November is celebrated as Indian Organ Donation Day to commemorate the contributions made to society by deceased donors and their families. The main objective is to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to take a pledge for the same. This day strives to encourage people to donate their healthy organs after death in order to save more lives. The first-ever organ donation was done in 1954 when Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his identical twin brother. Doctor

Joseph Murray conducted the procedure for which he has also won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for advances in organ transplantation.

Donating organs like the kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, etc can help save the lives of those who are suffering from chronic illnesses. Numerous people lose their lives due to the unavailability of healthy organs that could save them. This day aims to help people realise that volunteering to donate their organs after death can be life-changing for many. The term organ donation means donating one's organs that are in healthy condition after a person dies. Organs including kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, and liver can be donated to save people who are suffering from any chronic illnesses. By observing World Organ Donation Day, people around the world will realise that volunteering to donate their organs after death can be life-changing for many who are patiently waiting. The day also focuses on sensitising and motivating people towards assuring them to donate organs and save more lives. Organ transplantation is nothing less than a miracle of the twentieth century, which has improved lives of hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide. An organ donor could save up to 8 lives and enhance the lives of more than 100 people through tissue donation. Organ donation is a social act and it's considered to be an honor. Organ donation can happen from a brain-dead owner or a living donor.

One person can save up to eight lives from chronic illness by pledging to donate their heart, kidney, pancreas, lungs, liver, intestines, hands, face, tissues, bone marrow, and stem cells. Donating one's organs is giving someone a new life, anyone can volunteer to be an organ donor irrespective of their age, caste, and religion. Nearly 5 lakh people die in India every year for want of organs, while 2 lakh people die of liver disease, 50,000 of heart diseases. Of the 1.5 lakh people awaiting kidney transplant, only 5,000 get one. The emergence and spread of Covid-19 has brought great challenges to the healthcare system. While the country has lost hundreds of thousands to the illness, the effect on those suffering from non-Covid illnesses has been equally profound. The gift of an organ is like a gift of life. But, organ donation is not widely known or understood yet. Thus, people may feel that only the heart or liver, or kidneys can be donated. But, organ donation is much more than that. There is no age limit for this act of gifting life to the one in need. Organ donation has no age criteria. There are two systems for organ donation practiced worldwide, the *family consent system* and the *presumed consent system*. Organ donation from deceased donors is slowly gaining momentum in India.

Organ donation is a helpful act by the donor that can help in saving a life of a person and also could help in improving the quality of life for many individuals. Organ transplantation is one of the greatest achievements that modern science has been able to accomplish.

## Clash ahead

By: Sauro Dasgupta

The showdown with Imran Khan has been a terror for the Pakistani establishment.

As Prime Minister, Mr Khan had given an extension to General Bajwa but when the former not only visited Putin at the beginning of the Russian war in Ukraine, but when he also praised India for its foreign policy of keeping its interests first and not necessarily siding with the West, all his opponents were rattled.

The military has been instrumental in getting maximum Western largesse for Pakistan and the opposition was quite pro-US.

An unholy combination of the opposition, military and judiciary ganged up against him and managed to oust him.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan unilaterally nominates the military chief, seeking to serve the party's dynastic family interests and the business interests of the military. It works that way, not withstanding any encroachment on the powers of the Prime Minister. Thus Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed General Asim Munir, a hardliner and someone very hostile to Mr Khan as the new Chief of Army Staff. In fact, the day Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed was replaced as the Director General of ISI by Lt. Gen. Nadeem Anjum, power was slipping out of Mr Khan's hands.

Mr Khan has been conducting long protests and marches against the establishment and their corruption, misuse and their violence on any dissident they might find. Opponents of the current regime have been assaulted, striped and murdered.

There was an assassination attempt on Mr Khan as well. A journalist who didn't fall in line with the establishment was killed in Kenya, much like some other Pakistani dissenters killed in Canada, Sweden, etc.

That even the apparently soft-spoken Director General of the ISI and the Director General of the ISPR organized a press conference to 'refute' the charges that Imran Khan brought against them explained the degree of fear that they have in their minds about him.

Despite having governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, Mr Khan is unable to get any security. In Sindh, opponents of the regime are facing continuous atrocities with no help from any quarters. In fact, the mafia and the police in the ruling alliance's states have been reactivated to take on dissenters.

At the Pakistan Azadi Marches, Mr Khan has been highlighting all the precious work done by him in the past. Indeed, the welfare schemes launched by him are in jeopardy. The prospering economy under him is on the brink of ruin. There is record high inflation and severe unemployment. All of these, along with Mr Khan's track record of excellence and dedication works in his favour. As the establishment is tottering and a clash seems inevitable, Mr Khan is rising like the Phoenix.

(The author is a PG 2 student, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University)

## Supreme Court has responsibility in ensuring an impartial Election Commission

By: Arun Srivastava

With the Supreme Court questioning the Centre about resorting to unnecessary "haste" and "tearing hurry" in appointing Arun Goel as Election Commissioner, the saffron Think Tank and academician supporters of the Narendra Modi Government have turned belligerent and have indiscreetly alleged that it was trying to grab the power of the executive.

These people have also been feeling aggrieved at the Supreme Court seeking to know from the government why the criteria for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner was strictly not being adhered to. The CEC must complete a six year term in the office. But in recent times, precisely during Modi Raj no CEC was in the office for the whole period. In fact the supporters of Modi were so enraged that they questioned why judges with short period were being appointed. Justice U U Lalit was in the office for 74 days and the present incumbent Justice Chandrachud would be for only two years.

Nonetheless the intellectuals conveniently tend to forget that a judge even if he becomes the Chief Justice of India has to retire once he completes his tenure. But it is not the case with the CEC. He has to be in the office for six years. 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. During the eight years of the NDA government, there have been eight CECs.

This mechanism of appointing the CEC is virtually a design to deny the level playing field to others. The mission of the ruling party has been to win the elections at any cost. With CEC on side of the ruling party none can dare to question the sanctity of the electoral process. If at all there is any complaint or resistance it is rejected or rubbished by the EC. The people saw what happened in UP in 2022 assembly election. The loser became the winner. The political parties have made the mockery of the Anti Defection Law. But the CEC has been a silent spectator to the murder of the Law. The latest example is of Maharashtra.

This was the reason that it was argued that the government must constitute a commission for appointment which would not only look into the tenure of the CEC but would also take stock of his competence. But it is a fact that a competent person, a bureaucrat, is disliked most by the present dispensation. He is pariah. No doubt every government prefers to have his favourite as the CEC. But it cannot be denied that the earlier Congress government did not strictly follow this dictum. T N Sheshan created history for his strong administrative actions. He reformed the election procedure and was in fact a terror for wrong doers.

In appointing Goel, the Modi government brazenly violated the rules and norms. It finalised the name of Goel just within twenty four hours of preparing the panel of names. The procedure lacked transparency. It was the reason that the bench, which also comprised Justices Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and CT Ravikumar, had observed that 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. Goel was selected just within 24 hours of his opting for voluntary retirement.

It obviously implied that he was made to resign by the authorities only for being appointed as the CEC. Selection through creating panel was merely a hoax. In this perspective remark of the Attorney General R Venkataramani ought to be taken seriously 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. He also said for appointment it is the profile that is important and not the

voluntary retirement which is being made an issue. Obviously for the convenience of the government there is no need to follow the 1991 Act that says EC's tenure is of six years and the government has to ensure that the person who holds the post completes the stipulated period.

This hurry of Modi government in appointing Goel smells of some design. Goel is being brought into office just a fortnight ahead of Gujarat assembly election. For Modi the Gujarat election has major implication. An insight into campaign would make it crystal clear that it is not the BJP but Modi who is in the fray. He has so far addressed not less than 30 meetings and taken out a number of roadshows. A defeat will completely erase his image and charisma.

The manner in which the law ministry chose Goel, made the five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph which had perused the Centre's original file pertaining to Goel's appointment as EC, to observe; "What kind of evaluation is this? Although, we are not questioning the merits of ArunGoel's credentials but the process." 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 were put up before the prime minister and Goel's name got the nod from the President within 24 hours.

It was the fear of being exposed that the Centre had objected to apex court's order for producing the original file as it desired to know whether everything was "hunky dory" in the appointment process as claimed by the government. Justice Joseph sought to know from the Attorney General R. Venkataramani; "This (file) was moved on 18 November, then the names were examined. Then the Prime Minister comes in..is it (usually) done in such haste? With such tearing urgency?"

On his part, Venkataramani re-

sisted judicial scrutiny of the appointment and said there was no "trigger point", inviting the top court's intervention in the current system to select an election commissioner. The AG was simply performing his duty to defend the actions of the government. It is not that Goel was that only suitable candidate. There were many from later civil service batches who could have been appointed. This would have also meant compliance with the law that warrants an election commissioner to have a tenure of six years in office, he argued. But more than that they would not have served the interest of the government in best manner. The list which featured the name of Goel incidentally had the names of other 44 officers. But they believed to be unfit for the task in the eyes of the law ministry.

Though Venkataramani told the bench: "These questions (on appointments) will crop up. How many appointments in public offices happen in 12 or 24 hours? Can we get into all such instances?" The court remained firm. "Tell us how he was chosen ahead of three others," Justice Joseph asked. The Constitution has vested enormous powers on the "fragile shoulder" of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and it is important that "someone of strong character" is appointed to the post, the Supreme Court has said.

Justice Roy wondered whether it was normal for civil servants to take voluntary retirement. "Does it happen like this normally?" he asked. Justice Joseph also said that while the law contemplated a direct appointment to the position of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), in the government had made it a "promotion-based" one. He added that direct appointments were being made until 1989. The frustration of the bench at the happenings clearly manifest in the observation; there is need to appoint a Chief Election Commissioner with 'character' like the late T.N. Seshan.

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## Strengthening EU-Bangladesh relations through EU-Bangladesh First Political Dialogue

By: Kamal Uddin Mazumder

Since the earliest interactions between European institutions and the newly independent nation in 1973, relations between the EU and Bangladesh have been improving for close to 50 years. However, the Political Dialogue in Dhaka on November 24th signaled an expansion of collaboration and prepared the path to establishing an even stronger foundation for the relationship.

A high-level Political Dialogue that will now be held annually, alternating between Brussels and Bangladesh's capital of Dhaka, was convened for the first time in Dhaka. It will offer strategic direction and boost cooperation in foreign and security policy. Its significance to the European Union was demonstrated by the EU's request to start negotiations on a Partnership Cooperation Agreement with Bangladesh at the inaugural meeting.

It was an acknowledgement of Bangladesh's socioeconomic transition by the EU. The nation received praise for continuing to be the biggest winner of the EU's Everything but Arms preferential trade program. Bangladesh asked the EU for help in extending trade benefits through 2029 as it leaves the category of least developed nations.

The EU responded by highlighting the necessity of Bangladesh's National Action Plan for Labor's full implementation, which in turn acknowledged its commitment to up-

holding workers' rights and workplace safety. Given the investment in safer and more environmentally friendly factories, this would need equitable pricing and shared responsibility for compliance-related features.

Shahriar Alam, the state minister for foreign affairs of Bangladesh, headed the delegation, and Enrique Mora, the deputy director of the European External Action Service, led the team from the EU. Their extensive conversation focused on common ideals such as democracy, fundamental liberties, the rule of law, inclusivity, and respect for human rights.

Beyond the present focus areas of trade, migration, governance, humanitarian assistance, and development cooperation, the Political Dialogue sought to deepen EU-Bangladesh collaboration. On climate action, digital transformation, connectivity, and security, both parties decided to cooperate more closely.

The two sides discussed curbing violent extremism and combating terrorism. Bangladesh reiterated its stance of having zero tolerance for any form of terrorism. Both parties reaffirmed their shared conviction that humanitarian and human rights standards must be upheld in order for counterterrorism measures to be effective.

In order to tackle transnational organized crime, including migrant

smuggling, human trafficking, and money laundering, there is a need for more cooperation. A thorough discussion on migration is already under way, and the EU plans to partner with Bangladesh in a Talent Partnership to promote beneficial global labor mobility.

The kindness of the people and administration of Bangladesh toward more than a million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar was once again praised by the EU. Bangladesh expressed gratitude to the EU for its political and humanitarian assistance but emphasized the potential risk that the protracted refugee crisis poses to regional security and stability. The international community needed to take more action to set the stage for the Rohingyas' voluntary, secure, honorable, and sustainable repatriation.

On the necessity of using every effort to put an end to the violence in Ukraine while upholding international law and respecting the UN Charter, Bangladesh and the European Union concurred. Both sides were extremely anxious about the toll that war would take on the world economy.

One of the six distinguished world leaders working as advocates for the UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance is Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh is a pioneering country in UN peacekeeping operations

and the current head of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. Both parties emphasized the crucial part that women play in conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian assistance, and post-war reconstruction.

Bangladesh applauded the EU's dedication to combating climate change and in particular for facilitating the COP27 agreement on the critical issue of a compensation fund for the loss and damage suffered by nations, including Bangladesh, that account for a negligible portion of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Overall, there were many shared interests that might be discussed, highlighting the importance of the planned Partnership Cooperation Agreement and the Political Dialogue. The UN should be at the center of an effective, inclusive, rules-based multilateralism that is needed to address today's and tomorrow's global challenges.

The World Trade Organization is at the center of the stable trading environment, which is something that the EU and Bangladesh place a high value on. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both parties committed to fostering new synergies for collaboratively fostering a safer, greener, more resilient in the digital age, and stable world.

(The author is a Researcher and Strategic affairs analyst, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

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# Right to privacy not absolute, Centre tells SC on plea on seizure of electronic devices

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 27:

Right to privacy is not absolute and can be subjected to restrictions, the Centre told the Supreme Court on a petition seeking guidelines to law enforcement agencies on seizure, examination and preservation of digital and electronic devices and their contents, *Live Law* reported on Sunday.

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by five academics, who have sought directions to the investigating agencies and the police, including seeking permission from a judicial magistrate before accessing or seizing electronic devices and specifying how the material is relevant or linked to the alleged offence.

In a counter affidavit filed on August 5, the Centre had stated that the plea was not maintainable. However, the

court was not satisfied with the government's response and had asked the Centre to file a fresh response.

On November 11, the court had imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the Centre for not replying to the plea. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and AS Oka had asked the government to file the response within two weeks.

In its latest reply, the Centre argued that any blanket order regarding the return of digital and electronic devices of a person under investigation would be inappropriate, according to *Bar and Bench*.

"While the right to privacy exists in all jurisdictions across the world, the regulation of same through statutory law is permissible and there can be no blanket exclusions," the Centre said.

It also said that the accused persons in such cases may be allowed to seek cloned

images of the hard drives of the devices seized by the investigating agencies, reported *Live Law*.

The petition has been filed by Jawaharlal Nehru University professor Ram Ramaswamy, Savitribai Phule Pune University professor Sujata Patel, professor of Cultural Studies at Hyderabad's English and Foreign Languages University Madhava Prasad, professor of Modern Indian history at Jamia Millia Islamia Mukul Kesavan and theoretical ecological economist Deepak Malghan.

In the case of urgent seizures, the petition submitted that reasons for not seeking permission should be provided to the owner of the device in writing. The owner of the electronic device should not be forced to reveal passwords, ideally, a copy of the hard drive should be taken and not the original, and the hard disks

must be examined in the presence of the owner of the device.

"The powers of search and seizure, particularly because they engage fundamental rights, ought to be therefore read and supplied with adequate safeguards such that they are not abused to defeat such rights," the petition stated.

The plea also mentioned that several persons from whom devices have been seized in alleged offences registered in the recent past belong to the academic field or are noted authors.

"The academic community does and stores its research and writing in the electronic or digital medium, and the threat of damage, distortion, loss or premature exposure of academic or literary work in the event of seizure of electronic devices is considerable," the petition added.

IT News  
Panaji, Nov 27:

Learning, being a continuous process, hundreds of delegates at the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) starting from film practitioners, film critics to students and enthusiasts are attending several masterclasses and in-conversations sessions with eminent onscreen and off-screen film personalities, including members of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Los Angeles.

On the 7th day of the festival today, an in-conversation session on 'nuances and techniques in cinematography' with renowned cinematographer Supratim Bhol, Manoj Paramhansa and Rathnavel was held at Maquinez Palace-I, Panaji.

During the session moderated by film critic Bhawana Somaaya, the acclaimed cinematographers highlighted that one's cinematography technique depends on the knowledge, thoughts, beliefs accumulated in one's life when they read poetry, books, draw a painting among others.

Another master class on 'guiding light' with renowned Bollywood DOP Anil Mehta

followed later in the afternoon at the same venue where the celebrated DOP reiterated that for him while taking up any project and guiding is always the screenplay and the situations that the characters are thrown into. He added that as a DOP one is expected to deliver despite any amount of pressure and cited examples of his works by Laagan, Khamoshi etc.

The jam packed Masterclass of Anil Mehta was followed by another, the first Masterclass in India on 'Academy Colour Encoding System (ACES)' with Joachim Zelli and Steven Tobenkin of Oscar Academy.

An in-conversation ses-



ion on 'corporate culture in film industry' with Anees Bazmee, Mahaveer Jain, Abhishek Sharma and Vikas Bahl was also held looking at how corporate culture is creeping into the film industry.

As many as 23 masterclasses and in-conversations series are being held throughout the festival.

The masterclasses and in-conversation sessions are being organised to encourage the best practices in filmmaking for the film enthusiasts and students by Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute of India, Kolkata, the National Film Development Corporation, NFDC, and the Entertainment Society of Goa.

# Two Paramilitary Jawans on Election Duty, Killed in Firing by Colleague in Gujarat's Porbandar

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Nov 27:

Two Jawans attached to paramilitary force were killed on the spot and two others were injured, when another jawan deployed by the Election Commission (EC) at Porbandar ahead of ensuing Assembly elections in Gujarat, opened fire on his colleagues for some unknown reason on Saturday night.

The incident occurred at Tukda Gosa village located about 17 km away from Porbandar taluka of Porbandar District Headquarter, where the EC has deployed paramilitary staff to maintain law and order along with local police.

The accused was identified as S Inaachashingh, a Rifleman constable attached to the 3rd the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) (SAP 1445), Manipur, who fired indiscriminately from his assault Rifle AK-47 on the other police staff.

The deceased were identified: Th Thoiba Singh and Kh



The security personnel deployed in Porbandar ahead of first phase of elections. (a representational image) @SPPorbandar

Jitendra Singh, both attached to 3rd the IRB, (SAP 1445) Manipur.

The injured were identified as Chorjit, Rifleman constable attached to the 3rd IRB (SAP 1445) and Rohikana attached to 4th IRB. The injured have been admitted to Bhavsinhji General Hospital, Porbandar, a note dated November 26 prepared by Assistant Sub In-

spector J P Nandaniya, Control In-Charge, Police Control Room read. The further investigation is going on, the note added. One of the injured received a bullet injury in his stomach, while other one was hit on his leg.

The Election Commission has deployed additional police force in Gujarat ahead of assembly polls scheduled to be

held on December first and fifth for 182 seats of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. 89 seats will go to the polls in the first phase of elections, while the election for remaining 93 seats will be held in the second phase. The campaigning is scheduled to end at 5 pm on Monday. The counting of votes is slated to be held on December eighth.

# 343 fresh COVID-19 cases in India

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 27:

India on Sunday recorded 343 fresh coronavirus infections that pushed its tally to 4,46,71,562, while the number of active cases came down further to 5,263, according to Union health ministry data.

The death toll due to COVID-19 climbed to 5,30,612 with four more fatalities, including three reconciled by Kerala and one reported from Maharashtra in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.01 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.80 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

A decrease of 132 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 4,41,35,687 and the case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 219.90 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered 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 last year, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year.

# Contd. from Page 2 Supreme Court has...

On November 17, 2022, while hearing a petition for the setting up of an Independent Body to choose Election Commissioners, Justice K.M. Joseph of the Supreme Court made a significant observation: "The Election Commission of India (ECI) is perhaps the envy of the world. Perhaps one institution which has come in for a lot of compliments, largely due to the reforms of T.N. Seshan. He had succeeded in putting in place a lot of rules to reduce human discretion to the minimum. By doing this, he eliminated fear. That is, the Election Commissioners just had to follow the rules and did not have to bother about coming under pressure from any political party."

Just after Modi came to

power his primary aim has been to win the elections. With this elections and the electoral system have become farce. It is generally said that the 2019 General Elections has been one of the least free and fair elections that the country has had in the past three decades or so. In the past, despite the efforts of criminal elements, musclemen, and unscrupulous politicians, the persons who graced the ECI did their best to ensure that elections were conducted as freely and fairly as possible. Forced by the manner in which elections were conducted some former Election Commissioners and CECs were forced to question the decisions of their successors in office."

(IPA Service)

# Name Change

I, the undersigned, Tongbram Lukamani Devi do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Rajkumar Ongbi Lukamani Devi** as I have assumed my new name **Tongbram Lukamani Devi**.

Sd/-  
Tongbram Lukamani Devi  
Singamei Chingamkhong  
Chongtham Leikai

# Career Guidance

# The Future of Students



By: Vijay GarG

Despite the Russia-Ukraine war, Indian students studying in educational institutions in Ukraine continue to study there, marking a major crisis. Despite the fierce war, more than 1000 students left Ukraine and did not return to the country. The future of these students and their families is at stake. Many scholars argue that these students

could not pass the entrance exams to medical and engineering colleges in India and that they became doctors and engineers through loopholes. Want to be this argument is illogical. No single exam can be a measure of a student's intelligence and future growth.

Of course more meritorious students pass the entrance exam and less meritorious students fail but merit obtained at a stage of life comes from many sources and resources. Parents with fewer resources cannot provide the facilities for children that parents with more resources can. The urban-rural divide also works against students in rural areas. More economic resources. Wealthy parents get their children admitted in private sector medical and engineering colleges,

but parents with less resources cannot afford to do so. Parents of students studying in Ukraine are also not without resources but a large number of them belong to the middle class and lower middle class.

The cost of education in Ukraine is less than the cost in private sector educational institutions in India; So these parents send their children to Ukraine, China and other countries. These children aspire to become doctors, engineers etc. worthy of attention The fact is that these students or their parents have never made any major demands from the government; For example, it has never been demanded that the MBBS done by them in Ukraine, China, Nepal or other countries should be treated as equivalent to a degree awarded

in India; Their degree is recognized only after passing the examination conducted by the government and the concerned medical commission. Very few of these students pass the exam; Unsuccessful students are in para-medical or health field in European countries. They try to get jobs. War has made their situation more complicated.

Thousands of students have returned to the country but the circumstances of many are such that they cannot return even if they want to. Their parents have taken loans and sent them there to study; If they return they see a bleak future; Therefore, despite the threat of war, they are continuing their studies there. War is a large-scale event that causes great upheaval in human life. Arise

from large scale events The solutions to the problems that occur are also through large-scale projects. The central government should form a high-level commission or committee of experts to solve the problems of these students. These students and their families are suffering the brunt of a big war.

Before the war, more than 18,000 students were studying in Ukraine. The apathy of the central and state governments is a symbol of the collective indifference of the political class towards social problems. Parents of MBBS students in Ukraine have formed an association. The center The government should talk to the association and take meaningful steps to secure the future of these students.

# 50 students in Assam rushed to hospital after taking iron folic acid pills

Agency  
Charaideo, Nov 27:

Altogether 50 students of two schools in Assam's Charaideo district were taken ill on Saturday purportedly after consuming iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets provided by Health department workers, official sources said.

The students were taken to the Sonari Civil Hospital, where they were treated and discharged later.

The officials said a health workers' team from Batau sub-centre under Patsaku Block primary health centre distributed IFA tablets to 75 students of Kheranipathar Lower Primary School and 26 students of Nimalia Lower Primary



School.

The tablets were distributed in presence of teachers and the children were advised not to consume them on an empty stomach.

After a while, the health team received information from the school authorities that two children from each school were vomiting and complaining of abdominal pain.

"They were immediately taken to Sonari Civil Hospital and further health intervention. Later, 48 more children were taken to the hospital for examination," a source said.

A health department release said the situation is being closely monitored.

IFA tablets are given to children by the government as iron-folic acid supplements.

# Assam-Meghalaya border violence: Protestors burn effigies of Amit Shah, Conrad Sangma

Agency  
Shillong, Nov 27:

Members of several social organisations in Shillong on Saturday burnt effigies of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, state Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui and others in protest against the firing by Assam Police earlier this week that resulted in six deaths, PTI reported.

The groups initially planned to burn the effigies at the entrance of the chief minister's bungalow in Shillong, but were shifted to a nearby area by the police.

The protest was organised by the Save Hynniewtrep Mission, which comprises Hynniewtrep Youth Council, East Jaintia National Council, Jaintia Students Movement, Hynniewtrep Achik National Movement and Confederation of Ri Bhoi People, according to India Today.

Five of those killed in the police shooting in Mukroh village on Tuesday were residents of Meghalaya, while one was an official of the Assam Forest Guard, Sangma had claimed, adding the village was part of his state. The Assam government, however, had claimed that

only four persons were killed and that the village fell under its jurisdiction.

Territorial disputes between the two states had begun when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam on January 21, 1972, under the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971. Disputes arose after Meghalaya had challenged the law.

On Saturday, Hynniewtrep Youth Council General Secretary Roy Kuper Synrem said that the firing incident was a result of the apathy of the Central, Assam and Meghalaya governments to resolve the inter-state border dispute.

Contd. from Page 1

# If Neglected, Contested Issue Over ST....

The ATSUM, in the memorandum, said that the fact that the Meitei community has done exceedingly well in the fields of technology, medical, engineering, sports and civil services under UPSC is indicative of their advancement. For instance, 15 students from the community cracked the NDA examination last year, two civil services this year and the bulk of MBBS successful students in the whole North-Eastern States came from the Meitei community while it may be noted that all the states and central higher educational institutions in Manipur are concentrated in the Meitei dominated valley districts, particularly Imphal East and Imphal West districts. ATSUM also pointed out that recruitments conducted in all these institutions under Unreserved (UR) category are being filled up by the members of the Meitei community. This is just one of the evidences to show that Meitei is an advanced community rather than "backward", it added.

ATSUM also stated in the memorandum that the land of the tribal indigenous peoples in the hills of Manipur is protected by the constitutional provisions which restricted purchase of land in the hills by non-tribal people, including the Meiteis and the demand for ST status by the Meitei now, 70 years after the Constitution of India made provision for Scheduled Tribes, is only a nefarious policy to gain constitutional means to grasp the lands of the tribal people in the hills.

However, the STDCM, while strongly condemning the ATSUM for objecting their ongoing demand on inclusion of Meitei in the ST list, has urged ATSUM to withdraw their stand as the STDCM would not affect any particular community.

Convenor of STDCM Laishram Romesh said that objecting their 'legitimate demand' on inclusion of Meitei by ATSUM is unfortunate. From early part of their agitation, ATSUM has been opposing the demand while STDCM has been approaching the union to clear their misconception of ineligibilities of Meitei in ST list.

"ATSUM objecting to STDCM demand on the ground that Meitei are in higher class is not acceptable at all. The Imphal valley, having a size of just around 1,843 square kilometers, doesn't have any constitutional rights to protect the land. On the other hand, there is a consistent influx of migrants. What would be the condition of the valley once Asian Highway and railway projects are fully functional," he questioned while stating that allowing or disallowing Meitei in ST list should be decided by the Registrar General of India and Tribal Affairs Ministry.

Also stating the stand of Protection and Preservation Committee, Manipur (PPCM), Romesh recalled that PPCM, in the year 2017, had submitted memorandum to Manipur Government seeking not to send recommendation for inclusion of Meitei in ST list and calls on them to withdraw their stand considering the essence of bringing unity and integrity in the state.

Meanwhile, the Kangleipak Kanba Lup (KKL) has strongly come out on November 24, 2022 against the

ATSUM and questioned their agenda for road-blocking the demand of ST status for Meitei community.

Speaking to media persons on November 24 at its office at Paona Keithel, the KKL Secretary Ngamkheingakpa Luwang said the demand for ST status is to safeguard the Meitei and ensure their survival as an ethnic community of Manipur.

ATSUM submitting written representations to the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Commission is most unfortunate. Whether to grant ST status or not is the sole right of the competent Ministry of the Centre. ATSUM has no say in this regard and it should not interfere, said the KKL Secretary.

"Are all the constituent indigenous tribal student bodies on the same page with ATSUM? They should provide an answer and make their stand clear within 15 days," the KKL Secretary said.

If an answer is not given, KKL would be launching protests against ATSUM. Good or bad, all activities of ATSUM will be boycotted. Further, ATSUM's office in Imphal will also be closed if it doesn't respond and gives a clear answer, he said.

"There are lots who are not indigenous people but protected by the Constitution as Scheduled Tribe. If they act against the interest of the indigenous people (Meitei) when the community is facing threat of being extinct in the near future, then we will also act against their interest and contest their Constitutional status, the KKL Secretary said.

Moreover, the World Meitei Council has submitted a memorandum to the Prime

Minister of India to delete the Chin-Kuki groups settling in Manipur from the list of the Scheduled Tribes of India.

According to a press release issued on November 25, 2022 by the Chairman of the World Meitei Council, Nabashyam Heikrujam said the ATSUM leaders who are camping in Delhi and meeting Union Ministers are giving wrong information. The ATSUM cannot represent the indigenous people of Manipur, the memorandum added.

While the Meiteis demand their right to include in the ST list, the Chin Kuki groups in the ATSUM objects and tries not to include Meitei in the ST list. The Chin Kuki groups are migrants. The Constitution does not provide to include them in the ST list and they have been included illegally. Therefore, the Chin Kuki groups should be deleted from the ST list, the Meitei should be included in the ST list, the release said.

Now, the latest developments over the issue of STDCM demand for inclusion of Meitei in the ST list turn out to be coloured with communal tones pitting one against another while Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren has been working hard at his level since his first term to bring oneness of all the ethnic groups of Manipur and live in coexistence peacefully.

If both the Government of India and Government of Manipur does not tackle the vulnerable and contested issue over Scheduled Tribe demand timely, and allow the present situation to continue; it may become a flashpoint for violent ethnic conflict.

League campaign, France started cautiously. But it was not long before they realised there were opportunities to be had by taking on the Danish wing backs. Ousmane Dembele tormented Joakim Maehle and a wave of excitement swept around the stadium, which is made out of 974 recycled shipping containers, every time Mbappe got one-on-one with Rasmus Kristensen on the other flank.

In the last match, Lionel Messi helped keep Argentina's World Cup bid alive with the first goal in a 2-0 victory over Mexico on Saturday. Defeat to outsiders Saudi Arabia in their opening Group G match in Qatar had left Argentina on the brink, knowing another loss would spell the end of their tournament chances. But the Albiceleste just edged a disjointed and tetchy affair against their fellow Latin Americans at the Lusail stadium in Doha. And who else but the mercurial Messi should be the hero, firing home a low shot from 20 yards on 64 minutes, before Enzo Fernandez added a thunderbolt second goal for Argentina three minutes from time.

Messi's goal meant he tied fellow Argentine icon, the late Diego Maradona, on eight goals and 21 appearances at the World Cup for Argentina. It came a day after Argentines marked the second anniversary of Maradona's death. The goals were two rare moments of quality in a poor and tense encounter where the occasion seemed to get to everyone, except seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi.

But Argentina still need to win their final group match against Poland to guarantee a place in the knock-out stages. The first half was an entirely fractious and forgettable affair.

Mexico's back five and aggressive approach left Argentina with little space or time to construct anything. And the Mexicans never had enough players forward to cause their opponents problems when trying to counter.

The two sets of fans deserved so much more as they created a feverish atmosphere in the Lusail Stadium that was close to capacity with more than 88,000 supporters.

# Sports

## FIFA World Cup 2022:

# Australia beats Tunisia 1-0; Lewandowski scores as Poland beat Saudi Arabia; Mercurial Mbappe fires France into last 16 after 2-1 win over Denmark; Lionel Messi on target as Argentina beat Mexico

Agency  
Doha, Nov 27:

Australia only needed to avoid defeat to stay in the World Cup. The Socceroos did more than that in a 1-0 win over Tunisia on Saturday.

Mitchell Duke gave Australia the lead midway through the first half with a header and Australia went on to register its first win at soccer's biggest event since a victory over Serbia back in 2010.

The result means Australia still has a chance to qualify for the round of 16, despite losing 4-1 to defending champion France in their opening match.

France and Australia lead Group D with three points each, while Denmark and Tunisia have one point each.

France was playing Denmark later.

In the final round of group games on Wednesday, Tunisia plays France and Australia meets Denmark.

After a scrappy start from both sides, Australia went ahead with a play out of the back from its goalkeeper. Duke collected the goalkeeper's

pass near mid-field and made a quick touch to set Craig Goodwin down the left flank and Duke then sprinted forward to nod Goodwin's deflected cross into the far corner.

Duke celebrated by making a 'J' with his fingers in a tribute to his son, Jaxson, who was in the stands.

Tunisia impressed when it held European Championship semifinalist Denmark to a 0-0 draw in its opener but only occasionally threatened against Australia until the Aussies sat back and defended toward the end.

Australia had also gotten off to an early 1-0 lead over France in its opener but then was outplayed in a loss which it blamed on a series of defensive errors.

In the 2nd match, Robert Lewandowski scored his maiden World Cup goal as Poland defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 in their Group C encounter on Saturday.

The Barcelona forward struck in the 82nd minute to ensure the victory for Poland, who move to the top of the group with four points.



Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring.

Piotr Zielinski had opened the scoring for Poland late in the first half, collecting an inspired cutback from Lewandowski.

Saudi Arabia had started the match energetically but they missed the chance to draw level when Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny denied Salem Aldawsari from the penalty spot.

The result leaves Group C wide open ahead of Saturday's evening game, when Argentina will take on Mexico.

With two matches played, Poland sit on top of Group C with four points while Saudi Arabia move down to second with three points.

In another match, Mercurial Mbappe fires France into last 16 after 2-1 win over Denmark.

Kylian Mbappe crowned an exhilarating individual performance with two second-half goals to make champions France the first side into the last 16 of the World Cup as they beat Denmark 2-1 in their

Group D clash at the 974 Stadium on Saturday.

"The first objective has been achieved," French coach Didier Deschamps said of their qualification in a post-match TV interview. "This group is strong, solid and wants to achieve great things." France take on Tunisia and Denmark meet Socceroos in the final round on Wednesday, with the Danes needing a win to advance.

Having lost twice to Denmark during the recent Nations