

Emas demand FOCS to apologize publicly

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

6 emas who participated in the naked protest on 15th July 2004 in front of Kangla, which happens to be the HQ of the Assam Rifles, appealed an organization by the name of the Federation of Civil Society (FOCS) to publicly apologize for their remark on pension. The said organization announced publicly on October 26 that a monthly pension of Rs. 2000 from January 2023 will be distributed to the brave emas who participated in the protest against the killing of Manorama Thangjam, who was allegedly raped.

In a press conference held at the Manipur Press Club today, the emas said, "The protest that we have done is to protest against Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA), against the crime meted out to womenfolk of the state and to save Manipur but not for any personal or monetary gains. It is



very unfortunate that a civil society organization called FOCS had taken such a step of announcing pension and should apologize to the public for announcing such thing."

It may be mentioned that

On 15 July 2004, 12 emas had disrobed in front of the historic Kangla Fort — then the headquarters of the Assam Rifles — carrying banners with messages painted in red. "Indian Army Rape Us", read one. "Indian Army Take Our Flesh",

said another.

The women were protesting against the brutal killing of Manorama Thangjam, a 32-year-old woman who had been picked up by Assam Rifles personnel in suspicious circumstances four days prior.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen inspects MANITEX, 2022 venue

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister, Nemcha Kipgen today inspected the venue and stalls being constructed for the upcoming 'Manipur International Textile Expo' (MANITEX), 2022 edition.

Dr. H. Dwijasekhar Sharma passes away



IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

Dr. H. Dwijasekhar Sharma, former Principal of DM College author and public commentator passed away after a brief illness at his residence at Nagamapal. He was 90.

He is survived by his 4 sons and a daughter. H. Dwijasekhar during his lifetime was Associate professor at Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and member of 2nd Manipur Pay Commission and 1st Manipur Finance Commission.

He also served as Consultant of the Manipur Sericulture Project taken up by a Japanese firm. He is also author of "New Insight into Glorious Heritage of Manipur Vol 1 to 3 and The Other Manipur-6 Volumes.

tion scheduled from 5th November to 15th November, 2022 at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi.

The Minister was accompanied by Chairman, Manipur Industrial Development Corporation (MANIDCO) Kongkham Robindro Singh for the inspection.

While interacting with the officers and officials of the Directorate of Handloom & Handicrafts, Government of Manipur during the visit, Nemcha Kipgen sought their cooperation and sheer dedication for success of this year's edition of MANITEX.

This year's edition of MANITEX will have 124 stalls altogether including 10 international stalls and 10 stalls from other States of the country.



MANITEX's main objective is to showcase all the products of handlooms, handicrafts, dyeing & printing, power loom, garment, embroidery and costume in larger scale with participation of different States and countries in the MANITEX. Brand promotion of local products with MANITEX Fashion Week. To groom export potential entrepreneurs of textile material. Laying of foundation, inauguration and distribution during MANITEX. Developing a road map for inclusive development of the textile industry in Manipur.

One day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme held

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

A one day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 8 years of Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan and Vision 2047 was organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Regional Office, Imphal at G.P. Women's College, Dhanamanjuri University, Imphal, Manipur. Dr. Rajkumari Tamphasana, Principal, G.P. Women's College and Dean School of Social Sciences, Dhanamanjuri University, Manipur, Aribam Ibomcha Sharma, Head of Office, Central Bureau of Communication, Regional Office, Imphal and Dina Serto, Associate Professor, Head of Department, Department of History, G.P. Women's College were the chief guest, president and guest of honour of the event.



Speaking at the women's college as resource person, N. Malensanba Meetei, Assistant Professor, Department of History, G.P. Women's College, Dhanamanjuri University, explained on the contributions of women in the freedom struggle of India's Independence. The contribution of Nupial, 1939 in Manipur was also discussed during question and answer session.

Later, students were urged to download and play mobile game Azadi Quest where unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is found. An on the spot quiz contest was organized and prizes distributed to the winners and participants. Private Registered Troupes (PRT) of CBC, RO, Imphal namely Nokphade Cultural Foundation, presented a theme based drama called 'Khangminasi Eikhoi'. Teaching Faculty of the college also attended the event.

Transport Minister Khasim Vashum appeals to withdraw blockade called on both National Highways; warns legal action

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

Transport Minister Khasim Vashum has appealed to the All Manipur Tribals Development Grievances Forum (AMTDGF) to withdraw the blockade called on both National Highways of the state from midnight of November 3. In a press conference held today at his office complex, Khasim Vashum also warned of legal action if the AMTDGF fails to call off the bandh.

In connection with the demand for the MGNREGS funds, the Minister said that the government is making all efforts to release the pending MGNREGS funds. He said that during June month a sum of Rs. 100 crore has been released, and another sum of Rs. 140 crores has been in the

process for release, and the remaining pending fund will be released before the Financial year. The press conference was held after the Minister convened a meeting with all the concerned departments, including the Home Department.

Khasim Vashum further said that since the coming of the BJP led government in the state, the culture of bandh and blockade has vanished from the state as the law and order condition has improved a lot. He said that the government is making all its effort to fulfill the demand but for that matter, it does not justify calling blockade and harassing the entire people of the state.

On the other hand, the Minister said that it is unfortunate to hear such blockade call by an organi-

zation at a time when the state government of gearing up for the state's largest tourism festival — "the Sangai Festival". He appealed to those calling the blockade to revoke their stand in view of the upcoming Sangai Festival as it might embarrass the expecting foreign and other domestic visitors in the state.

The Minister, however, said that doors are open for dialogue by the government if there are any grievances. Differences can be settled by dialogue and not by creating inconveniences for the people. He also said that if the appeal is not heard by those calling blockade, then the government will provide adequate security to ensure that there is no hindrance to the movement of vehicles on the two National Highways.

Thadou Inpi rubbishes AMTDGF's claims; denounces indefinite blockade

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

The Thadou Inpi-GHQ denounced the Indefinite Economic Blockade from Midnight of 3rd November 2022 along Highway No. 2 (Dimapur to Imphal) and Highway No. 37 (Jiribam to Imphal) declared by one All Manipur Tribals Development Grievances Forum (AMTDGF).

A press statement said that the Thadou Inpi-GHQ will not bear the cost if anyone is found endorsing the blockade/bandh in Thadou dominated areas.

In connection with the claim made by AMTDGF over pending/non-release MGNREGS funds, the press statement by Thadou Inpi said that the state government had promptly acted on the 10th October, 2022 and re-

leased a sum of Rs. 100 (One Hundred) Crore only meant for the 16 (Sixteen) districts of Manipur on the very same day, irrespective of Hill & Valley.

It added that the state government in its press release dated 2nd Nov., 2022 acknowledged the problems faced by the job card holders of the state and assured to release another sum of Rs. 150 (One Hundred and Fifty) Crore very soon and the remaining funds to be released in due course. The state government also clarified that job card holders are not only from hill/tribal people, but beneficiaries of communities of the state and therefore any form of allegations, citing misappropriation of funds meant for the tribal by the government are baseless and unfounded.

"The false propaganda and misleading information should be stopped immediately by all concerned as it will only create chaos and confusion to the public. Resposing our faith in the Biren 2.0 Manipur government, Thadou Inpi-GHQ would also like to appeal the state government for the early release of all pending MGNREGS funds and informs all concerned that it didn't endorse the indefinite blockade declared by the so called AMTDGF and request every one to not participate/volunteer in the proposed blockade/bandh", the statement said.

On the other hand, Noney and Tamenglong District Authority, Khoupum Area Village Authority Council, Nungba Area Village Authority Council also said that they are against the bandh called by the AMTDGF.

ZUF extends red carpet welcome to two cadres

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) has extended red-carpet welcome Lieutenant Acheam Newme and 2nd lieutenant Thuanbamlung Kamei of NNC/FGN who took right decision to join the front along with arms.

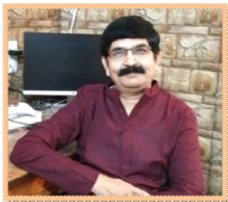
A statement by ZUF said that the Front after conducting all formalities have offici-

cially incorporated the cadres on the 29th Oct. 2022. Their verbal testimonies conveyed testify that, they have fully realized the logical and pragmatic political approach of ZUF. The two further conveyed that, Zeliangrong political issues have been pursuing under the provision of Indian constitutional frame since decades and now it is high time for us to move for final

settlement.

The statement by John Pame Secretary, Information & Publicity Zeliangrong United Front also extended its wide arm of acceptance with utmost humanitarian gestulation and brotherly love to whosoever would love to serve the people for the common cause and aspiration of the dearly upheld movement of the Zeliangrong historical struggle.

Corruption is a true enemy of development



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

One would find that corruption is so deep-rooted menace, that it has eaten into the vitals of society, distorted all values and made mincemeat of morality, truth and virtue. Like the air we breathe, it has become all-pervasive and entered every sphere of life. It is now regarded as a fact of life and an evil that we have to live with. Sometime one wonders whether time has come to accept this menace as the price of socialism, progress and civilization. Our society has become extremely corrupt and we cannot hope to weed out corruption completely; we can simply minimise it.

The opportunities of bribery and palm greasing have increased greatly with the dawn of independence and the growth of democracy and industry, the system of licenses and permits for setting up enterprises etc. The loud talks of anti-corruption measures, stringent laws and deterrent sentences have no meaning. The philosophy of corruption operates interestingly. So long as there are people to offer bribe, there are also people to take it, directly or indirectly.

Promises and oaths of honesty are soon made and forgotten. However, measures calculated to produce a social climate both among public servants and in the general public are essential.

Poor salaries compel lower level officials to be corrupt. The standard of living is constantly rising, soaring prices of essential commodities have broken the back and we indulge in corrupt ways for our children's sake and since everyone else does it, why not us? Must we be the only angels on earth? Every man, it is said, has his price. When the entire economic and social set-up breathes of what is called "SPEED MONEY" to push things through, it is almost impossible to resist temptation—human beings are, after all, human beings. People accept bribes under the table, then come out to raise anti-corruption slogans at the top of their voice and urge others to be honest and pure.

It is not difficult to locate the causes of corruption. Corruption breeds at the top and then gradually filters down to the lower levels. Our politicians have been making promises from time to time and pledging to do so many things but shedding only crocodile tears. If there is corruption in the administration, the ruling party leaders or ministers are at first and finally responsible for it. Their philosophy is guide by the familiar saying, "Touch one, touch all; therefore touch none". If the ministers are honest they can prevent corruption in the whole administrative machinery of the government.

Today the people's confidence is shaken. Everything is bogus, their representatives have no religion or faith or justice and fair play. False returns are filed. Taxes are not realised honestly. There is much waste and extravagance in public expenditure, people are burdened with fresh and heavier imports. Crimes are increasing at an alarming rate. Who is responsible for this? Corruption is primarily and ultimately responsible for all this. It is so deep-rooted that it is very much difficult to root it out completely. The fact is that everybody in the ruling party wants to be a minister or at least a member of some board or corporation to make money. The spirit of selfless service to the people has evaporated.

The one thing that needs to be ensured is proper, impartial, and unbiased use of various anti-social regulations to take strong, deterrent, and timely legal action against the offenders, irrespective of their political influences or money power. Several steps have been taken to make the bureaucracy more efficient, performance-oriented and accountable. The Government is committed to ensuring probity among public servants and to protect them from frivolous allegations. Firm and strong steps are needed to curb the menace and an atmosphere has to be created where the good, patriotic, intellectuals come forward to serve the country with pride, virtue, and honesty for the welfare of the people of India. Corruption may also be controlled by openness, transparency and information costs, intergovernmental competition, localism, party competition, decision rules, collective action problems and public administration.

Let us be honest and admit that our conduct and character lack that grace and strength which are the distinguishing marks of free people everywhere. Once we have realised this, it should not be difficult to end corruption at all levels of life.

Using new technologies for reading and learning



By: Vijay GarG

When we make any effort, we must have some intention behind it, so our desires are directly related to our efforts. If we do not know the sweetness of the fruit, our efforts are not strong, the work seems cumbersome. It is also said that don't just think about the destination but also learn to enjoy the journey while reaching the destination. If we talk about education, it is said that the roots of education are bitter and the fruit is sweet. Its simple in the language it means that one has to work hard to get education. Children need to feel the importance of education. It is very important for the teacher to be enthusiastic

to motivate the children. Children become ready to read and learn new things due to teacher's motivation. New technologies, today is the age of technology.

Children are learning a lot through digital books and activities but technology can never replace the teacher. Only the teacher can prepare the child for reading. Children themselves through their teacher they look grown up. The foundation of this whole process is educational attainment. Every year the children go to the next classes and they are bombarded with new books, which the children find difficult. The teacher has to play the main role to create hunger for knowledge in children. Development of natural qualities what, how much and how to send to the child from the curriculum of the class?

contd. on page 3

Soil: Earth's skin is the environmental cleaner



By: N. Munal Meitei

While many people recognize that clean water and air are signs of a healthy ecosystem, most of us do not realize that a critical part of the environment is right beneath our feet. The ground plays an important role in maintaining a clean environment by serving as a natural filtration and purification system.

We look at nature and see all the beauty and the prosperity around us. Earth's outer layer - from the top vegetation canopy to the strata of soils and layers of underground material - helps soak up and purify water by extracting excess nutrients, heavy metals and other impurities. About 60% of the world's annual precipitation ends up in this zone and there is more water, under the ground than there is in the so-called 'blue waters,' such as ponds, lakes and rivers. Without water, there is no life. Without groundwater, there is no clean water. Thus, beneath the surface lies the foundation of our sustainability.

Soil is a vital source of our food and medicine, home to a vast reservoir of biodiversity and is an important storehouse of carbon. Soil is one of the Earth's most valuable natural resources, yet 30% of our soils are degraded. Soil is one of the most ubiquitous - and underappreciated - substances on Earth.

Despite being everywhere around us - in fields and gardens and beneath our feet - soil is often taken for granted. Yet in several fascinating ways, this miraculous substance holds the key to life on Earth. It helps produce our food, filters and purifies our air, water, reduces flooding, regulates the atmosphere and plays a crucial role in driving the carbon and nitrogen cycles. It is also one of the most biodiverse habitats on Earth.

Soil is Earth's living skin: thin and delicate but also playing an irreplaceable role in preserving the health of Eco-system and the global biosphere as a whole. Soil is one of the most underrated and little understood wonders on our fragile planet.

Soil plays a vital role in either limiting or exacerbating climate change. Most people are already aware of the importance of forests and trees in reducing CO₂ in the atmosphere. But soil stores an extraordinary quantity of carbon: three times the amount in the atmosphere and twice the amount contained in all plants and trees.

Plants not only extract CO₂ from the atmosphere but store in the soil in the form of plant residues and humus. These organic compounds which lock carbon in a stable and eco-friendly way are basis of our foods. However, when soil becomes damaged or degraded, it again releases CO₂ or methane back into the atmosphere, thereby accelerating - rather than decelerating - the climate change.

Switching of farming methods can dramatically change the emissions profile of the land. If managed in the right way, soils will be healthier and more fertile - and also store more carbon. Soil is a vital stock cupboard - not just for carbon, but for the life.

Almost 25% of animal species on Earth live underground, while 40% of organisms in terrestrial ecosystems are associated with soil at some points during their lifecycles. Healthy soils provide habitats that support thousands of different species of fungi, bacteria and invertebrates, which then work in combination to drive the Earth's carbon, nitrogen and water cycles, thereby creating the nutrients and food we need to survive. Simply to say, soil produces a staggering 95% of humanity's food supply, by growing both the crops we eat and for the livestock.

Many life-saving drugs and vaccines are discovered in the chemically rich and biologically diverse environments found in soil which include penicillin to bleomycin and many others. Healthy soils enable plants to produce helpful chemicals such as antioxidants which protect them from pests and other external threats. When humans eat these plants, the antioxidants boost our immune systems and hormone regulation. Thus healthy soils relates to our healthy body.

When we come to know the different ways in which soils help to support life on Earth, most of our soils might have been irreparably damaged and vulnerable. The FAO estimates that 30% of the world's soils are now degraded. While a recent report by the European Commission estimates that between 60% and 70% of its soils are unhealthy to damaged.

There are multiple human-made threats to soil health. These include deforestation, urbanization, agricultural intensification, soil compaction, acidification, salinization, pollution, landslides, wildfires and soil erosion. According to the FAO, soil

erosion poses a major threat to global food security compromising at least 3.2 billion people globally.

What makes the situation even more serious is the fact that high-quality, fertile soils cannot be quickly or easily replenish. It takes 100 years to build just half a centimeter of healthy soil, which means we are currently losing soil 50 to 100 times faster than it is able to rebuild.

Since the Green Revolution, an estimated 135 billion tonnes of soil has been lost, through a combination of practices including deforestation to create more arable land, mono-cropping, overgrazing, tillage, the use of heavy machinery and the misuse of fertilizers and pesticides. Healthy soils can be protected and restored by growing a diverse range of plants. These include regular crop rotation, sustainable grazing and mixed-use farming methods such as agroforestry which involves planting trees alongside crops.

Individuals can also play a role through the products we choose to buy and the food we eat. More than 80% of the world's farmland is used to raise livestock, this meat provides back only 12% of all the calories consumed.

Soil is connected to almost everything that humans do, including the plants we grow and our habits. Raising awareness on importance and how soil is currently at risk should be in wider environmental debate. Until now, many of us have underestimated the richness and vitality of this unseen subterranean world. Thus, from this moment onwards, let's save soils because we have everything if we have the healthy soil.

(Environmentalist, Email-munall@yahoo.in)

Politics of Gimmicks in the Hindutva Corridor



By: M.R. Lalu

The Congress in India has consistently been making a claim that the country should be beholden to the party as it had developed India into a Secular Democratic Republic. Probably, a political view about India in its journey as a country in the post-independence period would not legitimately deny this claim of the Congress. An excavation of the historic evidence and a reasonable assessment would reveal the fact that the party which had emerged as the harbinger of hope in India during the British colonialism could not manage to stay on the same track, re-emerging the diversity of India with unprejudiced acceptance for different religious faiths. The era began with the saffron rise in India has further complicated the importance of Congress, practically weakening the essence that the party desired to project it as; a secular political establishment with no lopsided approach to any religion and the only party with a capability to protect the quintessential - the secular India.

Things changed terribly and the India of Nehruvian socialism leaned for the religiosity of a party that remained untouchable in the Indian parliament with two members a few decades ago. Never did anyone think in the leap that the saffron party made was ever possible. A momentous and tactful beginning from the Ayodhya movement began to bring prospects to the saffron camp and the momentum it gained since 2014 was almost a volcanic eruption. National and local

parties equally faced catastrophic collapse. Some parties could manage to survive with little relevance but for someone else, their disintegration was complete. The rout of the Congress from the national frame of Indian power politics puts it in the second category - a crumbled existence of an octogenarian. What was relevant in this collapse was the visible impact of a political indoctrination that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was successful in fielding its cadre with. A total assimilation of politics into religious mannerisms was its plan, evidently trying to address the forgotten ethnicities of the majority while sumptuously reviving the cultural symbols and centers gaining humongous acceptance.

Parties other than the BJP could not, in real terms, speculate the dividends of such an amalgam of politics fabulously coated in the Hindutva sentiments. Almost all the parties failed to see the silent and suppressed aspirations of the politically scattered majority which remained a divided tribe with warlords of casteism battling for political relevance and personal gains. Entry of Narendra Modi into the national politics had overturned the fortunes of many in Indian politics and his chain of victories proved his mettle. Addressing the spiritual requirement of the Hindus and reviving Hindu symbols of national significance, the Modi model of governance earned acceptance and respect. Hackneyed and thrown out aloof due to its endless political paranoia and outlandish political approach to Hinduism, the Congress had failed to sustain its pan India appeal. And guess what! The void that its absence created in the political space in India is slowly getting filled by new entrants like Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and some local satraps. The sequence of events that the saffron turf Gujarat witnessed these days is indicative to this vacuum filling. If not second to BJP,

the Aam Aadmi Party appears to have managed to emerge as a third party with more damage to the Congress than the BJP. Arvind Kejriwal in Narendra Modi's shoes! Does this imagery astonish you? The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has conveniently shed its secular skin and its new saffron makeover would not only baffle you but put you in a woozy nauseating ordeal. Slipping into the garbs and style and momentum of Narendra Modi, the new Hindutva avatar of Arvind Kejriwal, the erstwhile crusader of 'India against Corruption' has given a subject for Chai Pe Charcha.

The latest arrow that he shot from his quiver was a demand that he made with unapologetic intentions and unprecedented shrewdness. Currencies in India must have the images of Laxmi and Ganesh was his brusque clamour. The Hindu hardliners in the Modi camp must have had whirlwinds in their heads and perspiration. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) the alma mater of the BJP's hard-line Hindutva University must have gone dizzy at the eventuality of the fuss that the AAP version of the hard-nosed Hindutva would cause. It is impossible to speculate on the extent to which the AAP can strike a hole in the BJP's political dominance among the Hindus. In the run up to the 2013 Delhi assembly elections, the AAP had successfully painted an image depicting it as a clean political entrant intended to bring honest political manoeuvres in Indian politics. Its present somersaults to counter the pole-vaults of the Modi government does not necessarily make it a strong contender, but its energy, ability and shrewd makeovers from state to state would help it capture the political space. Kejriwal is no more a 'sneaky little fellow', a sobriquet that Captain Amarinder Singh must have repented soon after his rout in the Punjab elections.

With his mild caress on the Hindutva sentiments by chanting Hanuman Chalisa and visiting temples and his latest howling for currencies with the images of gods and goddesses, the Hanuman Bhakt in Kejriwal understands the strategy that he should keep handy in a state like Gujarat. Kejriwal was thoroughly rattled by the rant of his minister Rajendra Pal Gautam against Hinduism in a Buddhist ceremony wherein hundreds of Hindus got converted to Buddhism. Without any delay he got the minister out of his party and his Hindutva currency was an unscrupulous tale, an attempt of damage control played out well before the Gujarat elections got the heat of political rivalry. After lessons learned from Delhi and Punjab, the BJP would not dare to count him as a sneaky little fellow. Slowly but the self styled politician in Kejriwal is gaining more space in Indian politics. Born as a secular party, AAP's steady shift towards its newly discovered Hindutva identity would be put to test in Gujarat. The warmth the party is slowly greeted with in the home turf of Narendra Modi is not expected to become a wild fire of acceptance with sweeping electoral victories. With his saffronised gimmicks, if Kejriwal manages to stretch his wings further in Gujarat, the BJP would have a serious reason to worry about. Agencies investigating the corruption charges against his party may not be able to dose the fire this sneaky man would set. The BJP would require the entire saffron parivar to fire-fight the AAP's new version of Hindutva. Would the Sangh be happy doing it? Does Rahul Gandhi's political expedition from Kanyakumari to Kashmir have the potentiality to teach him the gist of the new political hysterics that Kejriwal has begun his war preparations in Gujarat?

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/ Social Worker)

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Gujarat Assembly elections to be held on December 1 and 5, results on December 8 along with Himachal's

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 3:

The Assembly polls in Gujarat will be held in two phases on December 1 and December 5, the Election Commission announced on Thursday. The results will be declared on December 8 along with the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections.

The term of the 182-member Gujarat Assembly ends on February 18.

The filing of nominations will begin on November 5 for phase 1 and November 10 for phase 2, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference.

In the first phase, elections will be held in 89 Assembly constituencies. The last date for filing nominations is November 14. The last date for candidates to withdraw from the polls is November 17.

In the second phase, polling will be held in 93 seats. Candidates can file their nominations till November 18 and withdraw till November 21.

Over 4.9 crore voters, including 2.3 crore women, can cast their votes at 51,782 polling stations. Of these, webcasting will be done for 25,891 polling stations. There are about 4.61 lakh first-time voters in this election.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar

Kumar also announced that there will be a special observer to see how accessible and inclusive are the polling stations, which would have sitting areas, ramps for disabled citizens, drinking water, among other amenities.

The chief election commissioner also responded to allegations of tampering of EVMs, or Electronic Voting Machines. "Actions and outcomes speak louder than words," he said, according to NDTV. "At

times, parties critical of the commission have got surprise results in elections. Some have questioned EVMs, but they are silent when they win elections through the same EVMs."

The poll panel chief said that there was some delay in announcing the schedule for the elections due to the Morbi tragedy. On Sunday evening, a cable bridge in Morbi city had collapsed, resulting in 141 deaths.

Kumar also expressed condolences to the families of the dead on behalf of the poll panel.

As the election dates have

been announced, the Model Code of Conduct has come into effect.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, which has ruled Gujarat since 2001, is aiming to retain power in the state.

The BJP will be pitted against the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, which is attempting to emerge as a key player in the state after making inroads in the local body polls last year.

In the 2017 Assembly elections, the BJP had won 99 seats, seven more than the majority mark. The Congress, which won 77 seats, managed to improve its performance.

This year, the election dates were announced four days after the Morbi tragedy. The glaring lapses that led to the disaster has raised questions on the Bhupendra Patel dispensation but it has shrugged off any involvement in the accident, pinning the blame on the municipal body.

The ruling party, however, still has a wide support base in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

India records 1,321 new Covid-19 cases, nine deaths

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 3:

With 1,321 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's tally of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,46,57,149, while the active cases declined to 16,098, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 5,30,461 with nine fatalities which includes five deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-

19 recovery rate increased to 98.78 per cent, according to the ministry website.

A decrease of 145 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 4,41,10,590, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website 219,67 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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

August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

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

Four deaths were reported in a span of 24 hours with two from Maharashtra and one each from Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

Tripura: Section 144 imposed in Bishalgarh after Cong-BJP clash



Agency
Agartala, Nov 3:

Tension gripped the Bishalgarh area under Tripura's Sepahijala district, followed by a series of political clashes between the opposition Congress and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses said workers of both parties indulged in physical confrontations, stone pelting and use of firearms after a dispute over installing flags took an ugly turn.

The Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) Bishalgarh imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPc to avert any further escalation of the tension. CRPF, TSR and Police forces were deployed across the area in order to defuse the tension.

Amid the slugfest, politi-

cal activists of both parties received injuries. A Congress worker identified as Sikandar Ali sustained injuries on his head and was referred to GB Pant hospital Agartala for treatment.

Local sources said a Congress party office was to be reopened in the Rauth Khala area of Sepahijala on Saturday.

Former Chief Minister, and Congress leader Samir Ranjan Barman, was scheduled to inaugurate the party office. Ahead of the inauguration, Congress workers were installing party flags, banners, and festoons to mark the occasion.

On the other hand, BJP workers were taking part in a similar exercise for a forthcoming event. The BJP supporters alleged the Congress workers tried to pull down their flags and tore down decorations of the saffron

party. Congress workers claimed their flags BJP supporters uprooted party flags and wrecked their banners.

As supporters of both parties gathered at the market area, they got involved in a heated argument that later snowballed into a full-fledged physical scuffle, fist-cuffs and arson. Soon, police reached the spot and tried to defuse the boiling situation.

The Congress workers then staged a road blockade on the Agartala-Sabroom national highway, seeking immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the alleged unprovoked attacks on them.

The Congress leaders claimed BJP Mandal President Sushanta Deb and his close aides who attacked them. The situation was calm for some time, but activists of both parties continued to mobilise in the market area.

French Navy Ship Aconit visits Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 3:

French Navy Ship (FNS) Aconit was on nearly a weeklong goodwill visit to Mumbai during which its officers and crew interacted with their Indian counterparts and also participated in joint exercise with Indian Navy ships.

The ship visited Mumbai from October 28 to November 02 under the command of Commander Jean-Bertrand FNS Guyon. "Aconit" is one of the five La Fayette Class frigates of the French Navy. The frigate had earlier visited Visakhapatnam in 2015.

The Commanding Officer, Commander Guyon, called on Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command and interacted with him over issues of mutual interest.

During the stay at Mumbai,



Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command (Left) is with Commander Guyon, the Commanding Officer of FNS Aconit (Right) in Mumbai.

the ship's crew had professional and social interactions with personnel of the Indian Navy. The visit culminated with an exercise at sea with a warship of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet. French frigate Chevalier Paul was also in

Mumbai in November last year.

FNS Aconit is a general purpose Stealth frigate of the French Navy. Initially named "Jauréguiberry", she is the fourth French vessel named after FNFL corvette "Aconit".

Based in Toulon, the frigate took part in the Mare Aperto exercises with the Italian Navy in the Mediterranean in October last year.

In September this year, the frigate was deployed to the Indian Ocean participating in exercises with the Egyptian Navy en route. She is scheduled to complete a life extension upgrade by 2023 and to remain in service until 2034.

Over the decades, cooperation between India and France has grown exponentially in various defence related fields. The current visit of FNS Aconit to Mumbai is a reflection of the growing cooperation between the two navies and their enhanced interoperability. With peace and stability in the region being of common interest, the two navies are committed to working together towards that goal, an official statement read.

Two CRPF women officers promoted to IG rank for the first time

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 3:

Two women officers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Seema Dhundiya and Annie Abraham, have been promoted to the rank of Inspector General for the first time on Wednesday after their induction into the force in 1987.

Inspector general Seema Dhundiya will head the Bihar Sector of the CRPF while IG Annie Abraham will be posted as the head of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the CRPF.

Notably, the Rapid Action Force of the CRPF is being headed by a woman officer for the first time since its raising in 1992.

Speaking to HT, IG Annie Abraham said, "No doubt about it, that it is a great achievement so far."

Abraham added, "The para-



military forces are extremely challenging for women. We remain in one of the most difficult areas of the country, and that is precisely what we are there for - be it counter-insurgency, be it anti-terrorism, be it elections. So, it is absolutely challenging for women on account of meeting the typical expectations of the family, as well as to meet the professional requirements. Both the things have to be managed and it's a fine balance that women have to keep."

"Being the first batch of lady officers in the organisation, we were the path-breakers. We came along with one battalion which was raised in 1986, and we came in 1987, so we grew with the women of the organisation. And every deployment has been challenging - whether it was being deployed in a difficult area, or being made to command a male battalion, or even women. Every aspect was challenging - mostly on account of the nature

of the task being performed," Abraham said.

IG Seema Dhundiya also expressed her happiness. "I feel good about it. There is a lot of work to do ahead but this is certainly an achievement for all women in the CRPF and we have come a long way", she said.

Speaking to HT, Dhundiya said, "Initially when women joined the force, people were apprehensive about it. But now since more and more women are joining, the whole environment is getting conducive for them to work. A few lady officers have reached to a level where they have started acting as mentors also. Now, we have senior officers who can act as mentors for the newcomers. A lot of facilities for their welfare are also being provided to the female entrants, making a conducive environment for women to come and join."

Using new technologies for....

Learning through words alone is often forgotten by students as they consider books as a burden. The teacher to instill book knowledge in the children creating a constructive environment.

The real world around is of great importance to write down the thoughts that arise in the minds of children through the pen held by them. While teaching lessons, it is very important to introduce the child to the concrete objects in the environment related to the subject matter. By doing so, the work taught is firmly stamped in them. School is not only for education but it is an institution that creates awareness in the child to make his place in the society. Education has to develop the natural basic qualities in children, by achieving which he becomes the valuable capital of the society.

Educational tour It is very important to take children out-

side the school walls. In this matter, it is generally seen that educational tours are conducted very rarely. Whenever going on a tour, advance planning is very important. The children should be informed about the places to be visited, so that the children can gain maximum knowledge during the journey. After the educational tour, written experiences must be taken from the children. The smart classroom children a mind map is also a good method for teaching, in which the main facts of the related subject are shared with the children by writing them down in an artistic way.

With this method, the colored title is interpreted by the children. Through this method, children learn a large part of the text in the classroom through their participation. In today's age of technology, smart classrooms can teach children in an even better way. Try to explain with facts Teach

children from the book to teach them the importance of sports. Instead of learning, they are taught more by taking them to the playground. Children are inspired to become sportsmen themselves along with writing by watching the live broadcast of matches on television. The teacher has many other tricks, which can be used to develop the child's attachment to the classroom.

Children's small stories, talks, riddles, paintings published in the newspaper create enthusiasm in the children. Competitions can be conducted by forming groups of children in the class. By giving prizes to the winning students, the school creates enthusiasm in them can be done Just to keep the kids stress-free Developing new learning teaching methods by modifying the traditional approach of teaching through books is the prime need of the hour.

Contd. from Page 2

PM launches new Complaint Management System portal of Central Vigilance Commission



PIB
New Delhi, Nov 3:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the programme marking Vigilance Awareness Week of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today, and launched the new Complaint Management System portal of the CVC.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that Vigilance Awareness Week began with the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. "The entire life of Sardar Patel was dedicated to honesty, transparency and the building of a public service system based on these values", he said. The Prime Minister remarked that the campaign revolving around awareness and alertness is based on these principles. He observed that the campaign of Vigilance Awareness Week is taking place to realise the dreams and aspirations of a corruption-free India and underlined its importance in the lives of every citizen.

The Prime Minister said for a developed India, trust and credibility are critical, that people's trust in the government enhances people's self-confidence. The Prime Minister lamented the fact that ear-

lier governments not only lost people's confidence but they also failed to trust people. The legacy from the long period of slavery of corruption, exploitation, and control over resources, unfortunately, received more strength after the independence. This severely harmed at least four generations of this country, he said. "We have to change this decades-long way fully in the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal", the Prime Minister pointed out.

In his welcome address to Prime Minister, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the ultimate aim for any civilised nation is to usher in corruption-free society and this precisely is the goal of the government headed by PM Narendra Modi.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the roadmap to a developed India definitely lies in striving for a corruption free nation and a multipronged strategy of preventive, punitive and participative vigilance coupled with high integrity and moral values constitute the holistic approach for the way forward.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this government through its program of digitisation has focused on improving delivery

of service leveraging technology and the Central Vigilance Commission has also adopted the strategy of leveraging technology to prevent corruption and organizations are being persuaded to adopt e-procurement, e-payment systems and to disclose all vital information on their websites. He said, this free and unrestricted access to information is an antidote to corruption and added that use of technology and e-governance have proved to be powerful tools specially in removing corruption in the delivery of public service.

Taking note that the Vigilance Awareness Week being observed throughout the country, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this week provides a great opportunity for Government organizations to interact with all stakeholders, including vendors, customers, Gram Panchayats, Resident Welfare Associations, Civil Society Organizations and most importantly students at schools and colleges. He further added that interaction with them ensures that the idea of corruption free society percolates down to the grassroots level and it also provides opportunity to receive valuable inputs from them about the shortcomings

in the system of administration, so that the service delivery mechanism can be improved to the satisfaction of the common citizen.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, preventive action in the long run is often more efficient, effective, and sustainable and therefore the good part of the strategy on combating corruption should be renewed focus on Preventive Vigilance. He said, the systemic changes in the governance mechanism through transparency and accountability would do a lot to reinforce citizens' faith in administration. The Minister underlined the need for preventive strategies like simplification of rules and procedures and devising SOPs as more effective methods to curb corruption.

Dr Jitendra Singh also pointed out that the initiative of optimizing the use of technology is bound to be a deciding factor in eradication of corruption from public life as technology would ensure elimination of human intervention and use of discretion in decision making process. He said, it would ensure a transparent system based on first come first serve basis, which would help in equal opportunities to all and cherished dream of a developed nation, based on ethical conduct will be realized.

The Minister concluded by saying that the presence of students in today's event is a heartening sign as they are the future of the country and imbuing moral, ethical values by them would ensure that integrity, accountability in the society not only remains deep rooted, but also flourishes, in the times to come. He said, achieving integrity, probity, and fairness in all aspects of public administration, requires the active participation of all stakeholders especially the participation of citizens.

President of India inaugurates the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) North Eastern Regional Campus at Aizawl

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 3:

Droupadi Murmu, the President of India on her visit to Mizoram inaugurates the Campus of IIMC North East located at Mizoram University in virtual mode. The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of I&B.

The IIMC North East Campus began functioning in 2011 from a temporary building made available by Mizoram University. The construction work for the campus began in 2015 and completed in 2019. The total cost is 25 crores. The IIMC permanent campus on the 8 acres of land given by Mizoram University has separate Administrative and Academic buildings along with hostels and staff quarters.

Since its inception, the campus is offering PG Diploma course in English Journalism for which most of the students come from other parts of India

and some from the North East States. This year, the Institute takes pride in having a topper in English Journalism for the second time. The Campus also enables its students to secure employments in reputed media organisations across the country through campus placements and their own efforts. Year after year, students are establishing their own niche in well-known media organizations like Doordarshan.

From the 2022-23 session, the North East Campus has been chosen to start PG Diploma Course in Digital Media along with two other Campuses of IIMC. This course is started keeping in view the importance and significance of digital media in the present situation.

The Institute express gratitude to all the people who have made contribution one way or the other, particularly MZU for providing both Academic and Administrative support ever since it began functioning in

the MZU Campus.

Since its inauguration in 2011, the Institute is headed by Shri. LR Sailo, Regional Director, who has decades of experience in the field of public relations and also served as the Director, Information and Public Relation, Govt. of Mizoram, for over twenty years.

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is a premier Journalism Institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It was inaugurated in 1965 to cater the training needs of media professionals in the country and other developing countries. It has ever since function as a training institute for Indian Information Service and later on started courses for aspiring journalists through competitive entrance examination. The IIMC has expanded and has institutionalized 5 regional campuses in different part of the country with the aim to meet the need of Media education in the country.

Bharat Vikas Parishad visits Senior Citizens Home

IT News
Imphal, Nov 3:

Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Imphal Mahila Sakha under the aegis of BVP, Manipur Prant visited 'Senior Citizens Home', Kongba Nongthombam Leikai, Imphal East yesterday as part of its service to mankind during 'Ningol Chakouba' and distributed bed sheets, shawl, hot water bags, nutrition drinks, rice, fruits and eatable items etc. It is an ongoing activity of BVP to visit various homes in the state with a motto to help the man-



kind. Anuradha Jain, Regional Secretary (Sampark) spoke on the role of women for empowering the society and various activities of BVP in

building a strong nation through helping the needy persons of our society. She prayed for the wellbeing and healthy life of the inmates of the home.

Sports

India win rain-hit thriller T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh

Agency
Adelaide (Australia), Nov 3:

After facing defeat against South Africa, India bounced back on Wednesday and defeated Bangladesh by 5 runs (DLS method) in the Cricket T20 World Cup 2022. India has now reached the top of the points table with this win.

The match was interrupted by expected rains, which destabilized the impressive start of the innings by Bangladesh. Litton Das was playing a blinder knock against India and made 60 runs in just 27 balls.

When the rain interrupted the match, Bangladesh was 17 runs ahead of the DLS par score. The match resumed at 4:50 PM IST, with Bangladesh setting a revised target of 151 in 16 overs. Das, who gave Bangladesh a promising start in the powerplay, was out in the eighth over by KL Rahul who struck a brilliant direct hit to dismiss the on-song batter.

The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS method) is used when the game is interrupted



by events like rain. The umpires calculate the "Resources remaining" of teams depending on the number of overs remaining and wickets fallen.

Based on the calculation of "Resource Remaining", a new reduced target is decided under the reduced number of balls.

Coming back on the match, Virat Kohli once again remained undefeated and played a beautiful inning of 64 runs. Indian opener KL Rahul was

back in much-required form as he contributed 50 runs on 32 balls. The partnership between both players with the addition of 30 runs by Suryakumar Yadav, took the team to a comfortable score of 184.

Bangladesh started well, with Litton Das punishing Indian bowlers, but their innings were disturbed by the rains and after Das was dismissed, the hopes of the team plunged.

The in-form Kohli, who had already hit two match-win-

ning half-centuries at this World Cup, reached his thirty fifth in 37 balls to bring alive the Indian-dominated crowd at the Adelaide Oval.

Taskin Ahmed kept India pinned down early with an impressive opening burst of seam and swing bowling after Bangladesh elected to field.

Rohit Sharma went cheaply for two but Rahul went on the counter-attack to regain his batting touch with a flurry of boundaries.

Rahul, who had scored just 22 runs in the previous three matches, smashed two sixes and a four in a 24-run ninth over as the Indian run-rate soared.

He reached 50 off Shakib but fell on the next ball from the left-arm spinner after hitting three fours and four sixes.

There was no respite for the Bangladesh bowlers as Suryakumar Yadav joined Kohli to keep up the attack, nonchalantly hitting the ball to all parts before Shakib struck again when he had made 30 off 16 balls.

Kohli anchored the innings and Ravichandran Ashwin enjoyed himself in a six-ball cameo for 13 that included a six and four in the final over.

India is now at the top of the points table with 6 points and South Africa is in second position with 5 points. India has almost finalized its entry into the World Cup semi-finals with this win and has only one match left now against Zimbabwe, which will be played on 6 November.

Indian Olympic Association polls to be held on December 10

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 3:

The Supreme Court on Thursday approved a fresh timeline submitted by the Justice (ret'd) LN Rao committee for holding of elections of the executive committee of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and said the polls will be held on December 10.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli also allowed circulation of the draft amended constitution among members of the IOA as per rules, so that it could be adopted in the general body meeting scheduled to be held on November 10.

The bench also fixed Rs 20 lakh remuneration to Justice Rao for undertaking a comprehensive exercise of preparing the draft constitution and said he will also chalk out the modalities for circulation of

the draft constitution among members of the IOA.

The top court also restrained the courts across the country from entertaining any petition with regard to the draft constitution or the proposed executive committee elections, and said all such petitions will be taken up by it only.

On October 10, the top court had approved the timeline for amendment of the draft constitution of the IOA and its elections, as agreed in the meeting with the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland on September 27.

It had approved holding up the executive committee polls of IOA on December 3, as a meeting of the International Olympic Committee executive board was scheduled to be held on December 5.