

## Sangai Festival 2022 ends today Tourism prospects of Manipur highlighted during 10 days Sangai festival

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 30:

The 11th Edition of the Manipur Sangai Tourism Festival ends today. The festival which is being organized to boost tourism sectors and to attract tourists from outside the state breaks records with visitor numbers crossing over lakhs in number. Over 500 foreign tourists have visited to witness Manipur's largest tourism festival which has been organized at 14 different locations of the state.

Visitors at the main venue of the festival at Moirang Khunou in Bishnupur district, the Sangai Ethnic park record over 10 lakhs, says a source from the officials. Traffic along the Tiddim road (Imphal to Moirang) was at its peak almost every day during the Sangai festival.

People from both the state and from outside the state also left no stone unturned even by visiting the Behiang location in



Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu arrive at Imphal International Airport to attend the closing ceremony of the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022.

Churachandpur district, Mao in the Senapati district, and others including Marjing in the Imphal East district. Hapta Kangeibung in Imphal West which is a major loca-

tion of the Sangai Festival event was packed with thousands of visitors every day in the 10 days.

The closing function is being held at Bheigachandra Open Air

Theater today evening. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu, has already arrived in the state to join the closing function. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju is also all set to land here in the state to witness the historic tourism festival of the state. As tweeted by the PIB, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a speech at the closing function at around 5.15 pm through video conferencing. Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh, Raja Sabha MP Leishemba Sanjaoba, Union MoS Dr. RK Ranjan and other cabinet Ministers, MLAs and top government officials will be attending the closing function.

An interesting event organized in connection with the Sangai Tourism festival was the 14th Manipur Polo International which ended yesterday. All together 5 polo teams including one each from United Kingdom and the United States of America had taken part.



Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed his best wishes to the people of Manipur on the occasion of Sangai Festival 2022 and for the development of the State.

Stating the similarities of Madhya Pradesh and the State of Manipur in many forms, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan contin-

ued that many students of Manipur are pursuing their education at his State and gave his assurance to not worry about them. He added that his government would take good care of the students. He further spoke on the beauty of Manipur, its weather, cuisines and the sports talent of the people.

## President to confer the National Sports Awards 2022 and National Adventure Awards 2021 at Rashtrapati Bhawan

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 30:

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Sports Awards 2022 and National Adventure Awards 2021 to the awardees at a function at Rashtrapati Bhawan this evening. Table Tennis player Sharath Kamal Achanta has been chosen for Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2022.

This year Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games will be given to 25 sportspersons. They include athletes Seema Punia and Eldhose Paul, shuttlers Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, woman boxer Nikhat Zareen, Hockey player Deep Grace Ekka, weightlifter Vikash Thakur, Wrestlers Anshu and Sarita and Parabadminton player Tarun Dhillon.

Five coaches have been chosen for the Dronacharya Award in the regular category and three coaches in the lifetime category.

Dhyana Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games will be given to four sportspersons including Ashwini Akkunji C, Dharamvir Singh, B.C Suresh, and Nir Bahadur Gurung. Three entities including TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited, Kalina Institute of Industrial Technology, and Ladakh Ski and Snowboard Association have been recommended for the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy 2022 will be given to Guru Nanak Dev University of Amritsar.

The National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson.

Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games is given for good performance over a period of the previous four

years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, and a sense of discipline.

Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work.

Dhyana Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games is given to honor

sportspersons who have contributed to sports.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to corporate entities in private and public sectors, Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National levels, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

## 'Bharat Vikas Parishad Imphal Mahila Sakha honours a cyclist'

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 30:

Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Imphal Mahila Sakha honoured Jerry Choudhary, a cyclist from Rajasthan who is travelling by Bicycle from India to Singapore to spread the message of peace and love. A simple reception programme was organised yesterday, November 29, 2022 at Marwari Dharmasala, Imphal by members of BVP, Imphal Mahila Sakha.

Anuradha Jain, Regional Secretary (Sampark) prayed for his successful completion of the travel and appealed to everyone to keep oneself healthy so that we all can build a healthy nation.

## AR foils cross border narcotics smuggling



IT News  
Imphal, Nov 30:

Khuga Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) foiled cross border smuggling of narcotics in border village of Songdoi, Churachandpur district today.

Based on input recd from own sources regarding transshipment of contraband items across Indo Myanmar border, troops of Assam

Rifles launched an operation near BP-36 and apprehended a drug peddler coming from across the border. On thorough search of the individual, 120 grams of Heroin No 4 in 10 soap cases were recovered.

The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth Rs 48 Lakh. The recovered items along with the drug peddler were handed over to Singhat Police for further investigation.

## Pure Milk Available: G20 and Manipur

By: Amar Yumnam  
Imphal, Nov 30:

We get Milk or Vegetables as Milk/Vegetables in Europe, America, East and South East Asia. But one of the most "incomprehensively unique" features of India is that we get Pure Milk and Pure Vegetarian Foods in this country.

Coming to Manipur, some recently evolving social characters are also "incomprehensively unique" – something like a la joining the Mainstream. The worsening scenario of youths remaining unemployed has been taken advantage of by the powers that be to cultivate and exploit a fraction of the youths for their own advantage by promising them something in return for their violent allegiance. Second, an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty has been superimposed on the potential sources of any differentials in voice and action. This has particu-

larly affected the mindset and thinking process of the not so firmly established qualified personnel.

This context is now coupled by the failure to expand the scope for livelihood endeavours to keep alive the generalised scope for hope and positivity. Here the paradox is that the powers that be have allegiance and obligations to outside the province and not basically to the people of Manipur. This institutional fact is trying hard to conceal the fact by forceful compelling the intentional acts of as many sections of population as possible. The ultimate objective is to construct a kind of social reality which is not a product of the natural dynamics of the society but an outcome of enforced impact on "human agreement." I cannot resist to quote John Searle, the author of *The Social Construction of Reality*: "we need to insist that all of institutional social reality, all of money, cocktail parties, govern-

ments, football games, and the stock market are observer-dependent or observer-relative.

Now given this distinction between the observer-dependent and the observer independent we need to notice a remarkable capacity of humans and many other animals: That is the ability to impose functions on objects. .... This leads to an important point: all functions are observer-relative. If we say the function of the heart is to pump blood, we are saying something in addition to saying that the heart causes the circulation of the blood. We are also saying that the pumping of the blood relates to the overall economy of the animal body in such a way as to contribute to its health, survival, flourishing, and reproduction. To put the point very succinctly, though roughly, a function is a cause that serves a purpose.

The crucial argument that all functions are observer-relative is that the notion of function intro-

duces a notion of normativity. To say the heart causes the circulation of blood is quite different from saying that the function of the heart is to pump blood. Causation, by itself, sets no normative criteria, whereas functions do. Once we have said that the function of the heart is to pump blood we can talk about malfunctioning hearts, about heart disease, in a way that we cannot talk, for example, about malfunctioning stones. We can only talk about a malfunctioning stone if we impose a function on the stone. If we want to use it, for example, as a paper weight or a projectile, then given that assignment we can talk about its correctly performing its function or its "malfunctioning". It bothers a lot of people to think that all functions are observer-relative, because they think that somehow or other, observer relativity implies no reality or epistemic subjectivity or some other dreadful low ontological and epistemic

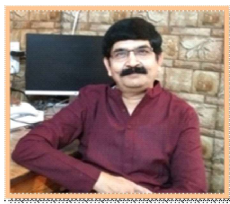
status. But this conclusion does not follow.

The piece of paper in my hand is a twenty-dollar bill, and that is an epistemically objective fact, even though, because money is observer-relative, it has an element of ontological subjectivity. Observer relativity does not imply epistemic subjectivity. It does indeed imply ontological subjectivity, but ontological subjectivity does not necessarily carry with it epistemic subjectivity. It is for this reason that we can have an epistemically objective science that deals with money (economics) even though something is money only because of certain attitudes that people have toward it. With the concepts of intentionality, collective intentionality, and the assignment of function in hand, we can go to the next step in the explanation of social ontology, the introduction of the crucial notion of *status functions*.

Many functions of objects and people are performed solely in virtue of physical properties. Thus an object can perform the function of a hammer, a watch, a car, or a pen solely in virtue of its physical structure. There is, however, a fascinating class of functions where physical structure by itself is not enough, rather people have to assign a certain status to the object in question. And with that status goes a function that can only be performed in virtue of the collective recognition and acceptance of the object or person as having that status. Think of what it is to be a twenty-dollar bill or the president of the United States and you will see that the objects and people in question are indeed capable of performing certain functions, but their having the status of money, or president, is crucial to their being able to perform the functions that go with those statuses."

contd. on page 4

# Breathe healthy and be healthy



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Do you know? Human activities have an adverse effect on the environment by polluting the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the soil in which plants grow. Today in the name of development that the urbanization and industrialization is taking place hastily is a problem than solution for human misery. It echoes the grave concern of each and every urban living Indian. Unplanned and haphazard urbanisation is the root cause for all the pollution related problems. The green building movement is an attempt to minimize and eliminate negative impacts and maximize environmental, economic and community/human benefits. Constructing green buildings effectively reduce air pollution through reduced energy use, the use of appropriate refrigerants, and the use of materials with low off-gassing and other steps. The reduction in use of fossil fuels at the building site also results in lower air pollution contributions at the site, while reduction in electricity use results in lower air pollution associated with power plants. It is clear that if a builder is constructing a green building, he can jump the queue waiting for an environmental clearance. The release of gaseous pollutants from burning fuel of motor vehicles, industrial processes, burning of garbage, etc are contributing to the air pollution. The effects of air pollution on the human body vary depending on the type of pollutant and the length and level of exposure—as well as other factors, including a person's individual health risks and the cumulative impacts of multiple pollutants or stressors

In its worst spell of inopportune pollution in nearly two decades, the Capital's air quality slipped into the "hazardous" level. It reveals that the levels of air pollution remained "severe", the highest warning as per the National Air Quality Index. India comes just behind China — which witnessed an estimated 800,000 deaths — says the study, which relied on mathematical modelling to arrive at its figures. A number of occupational and environmental factors are also associated with an increased incidence of lung cancer. Emergency measures have to be put in place. People with heart or lung diseases, older adults, and children are to be advised to remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Vehicle density is too much in Delhi and the traffic jam is the main culprit for the ambient air quality deterioration. It is callous and irresponsible on the part of the Delhi government, which hasn't told its people that the air quality is so bad that they should not step outside to exercise or allow their children to play. The air pollution is increasing due to indiscriminate industrialisation. As far as addressing the issue of air pollution is concerned, the authorities are more at fault for not devising and implementing proper system for disposing off the waste generated. Everybody has a right to clean air. Planting trees in every corner is essential to improve the quality of the air. The strategy should focus on stop the pollution and improve the quality of air.

It's not just the big cities in India which are choking children with its bad air. Around the world, one billion children live in homes where solid fuel is used for cooking and heating — a vital cause of indoor pollution. Nearly 6 lakh children under the age of five are estimated to die every year from diseases caused or exacerbated from indoor and outdoor pollution. Globally, an estimated 2,000 children under the age of five die every day from diarrhoeal diseases and of these some 1,800 deaths are linked to water, sanitation and hygiene. Children are also exposed to harmful chemicals through food, water, air and products around them. Air pollution also increases the lifelong risk of heart disease, stroke and cancer. We need to make people aware that their activities should not release more emission when our air is already so polluted. It is to be remembered that every child is important. Every child has the right to health, the right to survive, the right to a future that is as good as we can make it.

## Ibrahim

By: Sauro Dasgupta

The ascension of Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia is a great news for all. Mr. Ibrahim has been a very liberal and progressive politician. Besides, unlike his mentor and former Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Mr. Ibrahim was groomed into politics by Dr Mohamad, someone who was a father figure for the nation as well.

The clash between the two started when Mr. Ibrahim started to criticise Dr Mahamad. As a result, Mr. Ibrahim was imprisoned. Later he faced charges of Sodomy, something for which he was even acquitted.

In the 1940s, Mahathir had led movements against non-Malays. When Tunku Abdul Rahman became the Prime Minister, he felt that should Mahathir acquire power, his rule would be extremely oppressive towards non-Malays. Mahathir accused Tunku of being a Chinese spy and working for China all the time. Thus, Tunku was forced to resign and with Abdul Razak in power, Mahathir became the kingmaker. Mahathir was sworn in as Education Minister.

To ward off the challenges of Razak and his son Najib, Mahathir propped up Anwar against them. However, after Anwar's imprisonment, Mahathir faced so much protests and pressure that he had to align with Najib. In 2018, after Anwar's release, Mahathir allied with him and defeated Najib in the election.

After the polls, Mahathir promised that Anwar would be PM in 2020. Since he refused to keep his promise, he had to resign and Muhyiddin Yassin and later Ismail Sabri Yakob became the Prime Minister.

In the closely contested polls of 2022 after Anwar's victory, the king declared him as Prime Minister. Notwithstanding all challenges, he has distinguished himself as a perseverant leader. His premiership will be one to watch for.

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

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# Chieftainship in Kuki

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

The Kuki traditional form of governance is based on chieftainship. Every village was like Greek city-states. Each village has got a chief *Haosa* which the Mizo called it *Lal*, it is hereditary. He is the owner of ancestral lands and is traditionally the repositories of all powers of administration dealing with the village. His rule is autocratic but not despotic. The concept of chieftainship has taken place among the tribal society in the early stage of evolution of their group life. Inter village rivalry or tribal was common in the past. Everyone was enemy to each other and the stronger rule over the weak. In such circumstances the need for a strong single authoritative figure was essential to lead them in defending the village. The need to solve tribal problems be it social, economic or political gave birth to the concept of chieftainship to maintain justice, protect them from external threat, to administer the village and to protect and preserve the established customs of the villagers. The Kuki chieftainship therefore was a historical requirement and his duties was manifold one of which was defence of the villagers. In due course of time he came to be recognized as the village chief. Village chief is a person belonging to younger branches of the family clan and another type is hereditary chief who is the head of the clan.

Kuki from North-East India continue to practice a traditional chieftainship system, in sharp contrast to the democratic system in the rest of the country, impairment of democracy and development in Kuki areas. There is a need to rethink the relationship between the two systems and prospects within the scope of India's democracy. The Kukis live in Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. The constitution (Scheduled Tribe) order 1950 categorized them under the generic nomenclature "Any Kuki Tribe". In Manipur they live in all hill districts and certain in the Imphal Valley. They

constitute the second largest population in Manipur. In Nagaland they are found living in the three districts, Kohima, Dimapur and Phek. Some live in Meghalaya as well as in Tripura. In Assam, they live in Karbi Anglong, NC Hills (now Dima Hasao), Kachar and other parts. Kuki tribes continue to harbor certain nostalgia for inherited traditional governance chieftainship is considered in alienable for the 22 tribes that constitute Kukis. In Mizoram the system was abolished by the Assam-Lushai District (Acquisition of Chief's Right) Act-1954. Tripura had replaced it with the Panchayat system functioning under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council. Chieftainship has been functioning among the kuki despite the introduction of the representative system in Manipur. The two systems are considered to be in opposition to each other. The co-existence however had an impact on certain aspects of chieftainship.

The Chief is patriarchal and feudal. The relationship between him and villagers is symmetrical to feudal relations seen between landlords and tenants. The Kuki chief enjoys enormous powers. He possessed executive, legislative, judicial and military power. He was the guardian of law and the absolute owner of the village and the land within it. His word was law. He can appoint and dismiss or expel anyone in the village. There was sufficient room for a Kuki chief to become tyrannical but in practice he was governed by the customary laws. He appoints important posts in the village. The decision of his *Upas* without consulting the chief cannot be taken as final. The chief has right to dismiss any *upa* if found incapable. Villagers could settle in the village so long as they please the chief. The system is considered anti-ethical to the practice of democracy. In short, villagers have no freedom. Their fate is decided by the chief. At the same time chieftainship is an institution

that is considered an inalienable customs practiced by the Kukis tribes since time immemorial. Adebate therefore emerges on whether to continue with chieftainship. The debate goes on without any resolution.

Historically in the context of Manipur, the post-independence, Manipur State Constitution Act-1947 was enacted, which did not apply in matter where specific reservation of power were made to any authority in the hill under the Provision of Manipur Hill People (Administrative) regulation Act-1947 and later the Manipur (Village Authority in Hill Areas) Act 1956, the Manipur Hill Areas (Acquisition of Chieftainship) Act-1967, the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act-1960, the Manipur Land Revenue and Reforms (Amendment) Act 1975. The Regulation of these legislative Acts are direct attempt to end the continuation of the traditional authority within the democratic system, while a democracy constraint is one aspect, the introduction of new administration has changed not only the traditional system but also their relationship with land, forest and natural resources. Therefore there was strong opposition from the Kuki, particularly the chief, which leads to freezing of the government regulations.

Despite the attempts by government to either wish away traditional leadership to actually attack through various reforms measures with a view to abolish if Kuki Chieftainship remained the center of authority in Kuki inhabited areas in India's North-East and Myanmar. The post-independence dualism of political authority still continued without any major change in the structure. There are modern state structure on one hand and indigenous political institution of governance in political systems. Debate on chieftainship in modernity focus on the role and place of traditional authority in Indian democracy. How could the chieftainship system

co-exist with elected local authorities? How is this relationship mediated, so that the two structures can work in harmony, rather than in competition? These questions have generated intense debate between traditionalist and modernist in both academic and policy circles. The gist of the debate revolved around three positions. One which consider traditional Kuki chieftainship institutions as outdated forms of authority an affront to democratic rule and one that has no alienable role to play under Indian democracy. Such a position believes that they should not be accorded any recognition by the modern state and must be abolished. A pragmatic counter position asserts that these institutions are still relevant and legitimate, particularly in rural areas where the majority of the people reside. Consequently they should not be abolished. The third group believes in both traditional authority and democratic system and that chieftainship system should evolve with democracy to remain relevant. The reality is that among various Kukis tribes this indigenous institution exists.

The institution of the chieftainship in its present form is in a state of decadence and has become obsolete. Today, the institution of the chief functions to fulfill the personal ambitions of the chiefs themselves rather than working towards the collective goals of tribal welfare, development and empowerment. Therefore, the Constitution of India should be reviewed at the earliest and the traditional institution of chieftainship should be restricted to ceremonial purposes and to democratize the Kuki society. A Panchayati Raj institution with at least a two tier system needs to be introduced. All the efforts should be made to promote awareness among the Kuki people on democratic decentralization and people's participation in development.

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# People's Presidency: Why G20 India Matters for Every Citizen

By: Amitabh Kant

This is a pivotal moment in the history of India's diplomatic relations. India assumes the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20); an intergovernmental forum comprising the world's largest economies. Established in 1999, this grouping constitutes two-thirds of the world's population, 75% of global trade, and over 80 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). To put it simply, the G20 wields the strongest political influence in terms of global policy in the world, making it the premier platform to deliberate on the foremost pressing issues of our time — sustainable development goals, climate action, food security, public health systems, and digital transformation to name just a few.

With the G20 presidency, India has the opportunity to set the agenda, rather than respond to it; acting as the de facto representative for the interests of the Global South and developing world. As a nation with a rich history of alliance-building and the greatest youth population in the world — as of May, over half the population (52%) was below 30 — India possesses considerable demographic and geopolitical leverage, making the presidency an opportune moment to centre its priorities, as well as share its best practices with the world. 43 Heads of Delegations — the largest ever in G20 — will be participating in the final New Delhi Summit in September next year, indicating that India's leadership has every intention to be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented," as Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Bali this year.

The opportunity to lead G20

comes at a time of compounding existential threat, with the COVID-19 pandemic having exposed the fragility of our systems under the disastrous cascading impacts of climate change. In this regard, climate action is a key priority for India's presidential agenda, with a particular focus towards not only climate finance and technology, but ensuring just energy transitions for developing nations across the world. With the unique challenge of needing to industrialise without carbonising, India's massive expansion of Green Hydrogen, presently aimed at an annual production capacity of 25 million tons by 2047, will make it an exporter of clean energy technology in the years to come. Understanding that the issue of climate change cuts across industry, society, and sectors, India offers the world LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) — a behaviour-based movement that draws from our nation's rich, ancient sustainable traditions to nudge consumers, and in-turn markets, to adopt environmentally-conscious practices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also severely set-back years of developmental progress, as the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were backgrounded in favour of more immediate public-health and food crises. As a collective of leaders, the G20 must reinforce and accelerate its commitment to achieving the SDGs — that promises its people a better, cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous planet. To address contemporary challenges, the world needs contemporary institutions that equitably and effectively reflect modern realities of a diverse, dynamic world. India's G20 priority will be to continue pressing for reformed multilateralism that creates more accountable and inclusive international organisations.

The Indian government continues to effectively use digital technology to overcome social and economic barriers. This G20 presidency is India's chance to share its knowledge with the world. Having successfully implemented the world's largest biometric ID system (Aadhaar), and enabled 50x more direct transfer of benefits between 2014 and 2022, India is in a pivotal position to shape conversations around digital public goods and the use of data for development. In October 2022, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed 7 billion transactions — the equivalent of 230 million transactions a day, showing that it is possible to undertake and successfully implement a financial inclusion model at this scale. As G20 lead, India can foreground its belief in a human-centric approach to technology, and facilitate greater knowledge-sharing in priority areas like public digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, and tech-enabled development in sectors ranging from agriculture to education. In particular, India's programs aimed at financial inclusion, like the JAM Trinity, have granted significant financial autonomy to Indian women, making them active stakeholders in the decision-making of their households — 56% of account holders are now women, with 23 crore previously unbanked women now having accounts.

While 2023 is set to be a golden year for India's global reputation, the

mandate of facilitating consensus-driven policy frameworks is not an easy one. The nation is inheriting the G20 presidency in midst of an increasingly polarised world order, with the Russia-Ukraine conflict threatening to eclipse broader developmental agendas and geopolitical relations between the world's leading superpowers continuing to grow more tense. The global economy is now staring at an impending recession and an all-time high global-debt, while countries continue to grapple with worsening food security and disrupted supply chains. In this environment, India has the opportunity to emerge as a unifier and purveyor of harmony. The country, led by PM Modi in the Group of 20 Summit in Bali, played an indispensable role in forging a consensus on the draft G20 communique. The PM's words "Today's era must not be of war" were reflected directly in the Leader's Declaration, breaking the decision deadlock and cementing India's position as a broker of peace.

As old centres of power give way to young, vibrant nations on the brink of exponential economic and social growth, India's ambitious, action-oriented presidency has the potential to reorient this high-level coalition towards the interests and needs of the less privileged. During its presidency, India will continue to turn global challenges into opportunities for change, by remembering that our efforts must be directed towards our One Earth, One Family, One Future.

(Author is G20 Sherpa, Government of India. He is Ex-CEO, Niti Aayog)



# Bilkis Bano moves SC against early release of 11 convicts who raped her, killed family in 2002

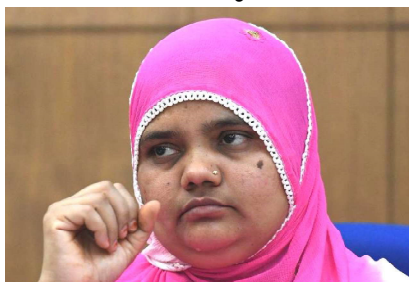
Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 30:

Gangrape survivor Bilkis Bano on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court, challenging the premature release of the 11 convicts who raped her and murdered her family during the Gujarat riots in 2002.

Bano filed a review plea against the apex court's order in May, 2022 which held that the Gujarat government had the jurisdiction to decide the remission plea of the convicts although the trial was held in Maharashtra.

The apex court agreed to look into her plea after advocate Shobha Gupta mentioned the petition filed by Bilkis Bano before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

The 11 men, who were sentenced to life, were released from Godhra sub-jail on 15 August under the Gujarat government's 1992 remission policy. The convicts had been



in jail for more than 15 years, and were let out because of their "good behavior".

Following nationwide outrage after the convicts were released by the Gujarat government — particularly after images surfaced of them being garlanded in their village — a plea was filed in the top court by CPI(M) member Subhashini Ali, journalist Revati Lail, social activist and professor Roop Rekha Verma and Trinamool MP Mahua

Moitra.

"The remission in this heinous case would be entirely against public interest and would shock the collective public conscience, as also be entirely against the interests of the victim (whose family has publicly made statements worrying for her safety)," the plea stated.

In response, the Gujarat government told the top court in October that the Union Home Ministry had approved

the premature release of the 11 convicts who were facing life imprisonment.

Legal pundits also pointed out that the men were let out under the 1992 remission policy which allowed release of criminals after they had spent 14 years in jail — the term for a life imprisonment. This was the law prevalent when these men were convicted in 2008, they said.

A more recent remission policy — that of 2014 — however has banned the release of rape and murder convicts even if they have spent 14 years in prison.

Bano was gang-raped, and according to the prosecution in her case, fourteen members of her family — including her three-year-old daughter Saleha — were killed by a mob in Gujarat's Randhikpur village, when they were fleeing during the Godhra riots in March 2002. Bano was 19 and five months pregnant at the time.

# Today, India commences its G20 Presidency



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The previous 17 Presidencies of the G20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes. We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them.

However, as India assumes this important mantle, I ask myself - can the G20 go further still? Can we catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole?

I believe we can.

Our mindsets are shaped by our circumstances. Through all of history, humanity lived in scarcity. We fought for limited resources, because our survival depended on denying them to others. Confrontation and competition - between ideas, ideologies and identities - became the norm.

Unfortunately, we remain trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. We see it when countries fight over territory or resources. We see it when supplies of essential goods are weaponised. We see it when vaccines are hoarded by a few, even as billions remain vulnerable.

Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish, what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental one-ness of us all?

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements — the *panchtatva* of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements - within us and between us - is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being.

India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness. Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

This is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate.

Today, we have the means to produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world.

Today, we do not need to fight for our survival - our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

Today, the greatest challenges we face -

climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies.

Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world.

With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by dictat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

Today, India is the fastest growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalised citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth.

We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led 'people's movement'.

We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and inter-operable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments.

For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions.

During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

Our priorities will focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for our 'One Future'.

For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.

For promoting harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products, so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises. As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern.

For imbuing hope in our future generations, we will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries - on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.

Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation.

# Change of Guard at Western Naval Command

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Nov 30:

Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar took over as Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of the Western Naval Command from Rear Admiral Janak Bevi, who was posted as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air), New Delhi on Tuesday.

Rear Admiral Rajkumar was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 1991. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (77 Course), Wellington, Tamil Nadu, Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK, College of Defence Management, Secunderabad, Telangana and National Defence College, New Delhi.

A Navigation and Direction specialist, his afloat appointments include: Navigating Officer of IN ships Khukri, Jyoti, Delhi and Mysore. His Command tenures include command of Guided Missile Corvette INS Khukri and Guided Missile Frigate INS Sahyadri.

He also served as the Fleet Navigating Officer of the Western Fleet. His staff appointments include: the Joint Direc-



(Left): Rear Admiral K S Rajkumar took over as CSO (OPS), WNC (Right): Rear Admiral A N Pramod assumed charge as FOMA.

tor at Directorate of Personnel, Principal Director Network Centric Operations and Principal Director Naval Operations at Naval Headquarters, as well as Commodore Training at Headquarters Southern Naval Command. On promotion to the Flag rank in Aug 2021, he took over duties of Assistant Chief Integrated Defence Staff INT-B under Defence Intelligence Agency at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

Rear Admiral AN Pramod assumes charge as FOMA.

In another development, Rear Admiral AN Pramod as-

sumed charge as Flag Officer Commanding, Maharashtra Naval Area (FOMA) from Rear Admiral Sandeep Mehta, who was posted as the Assistant Chief of Carrier Projects and Assistant Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition, New Delhi.

Rear Admiral Sandeep Mehta handed over the baton of FOMA to Rear Admiral AN Pramod at an elegant ceremonial parade held at INS Kunjali Parade ground in South Mumbai.

Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 01, 1990,

Rear Admiral Pramod is a qualified Naval Air Operations Officer and a Communication and Electronic Warfare Specialist. He is an alumnus of the prestigious Naval Academy, Goa, the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and the Naval War College, Goa. He also commanded IN ships Abhay, Shardul and Satpura, and the Naval Air Station, INS Utkrosh. He was the Fleet Operations Officer, Western Fleet, and tenanted the appointments of Deputy Commandant, INA and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air).

## Career Guidance

# What is more important Skill or Degree?



By: Vijay GarG

Friends many people talk about having big college degrees and so on. No doubt the degrees are essential for getting any job, but the moot question is whether we can progress in life on the basis of the degrees only.

The answer is 'no'. Rather we can say a BIG NO. Degrees are only a gateway to

any job. Even people with big degrees remain unemployed. However, your ultimate growth depends on your skills. However degrees are important in some professional fields, but here also the ultimate success lies in the skill of the person. Let's understand it:

You can't do any medical practice without any medical degree. However, only skillful doctors attract more patients than their counterparts.

You can't do any legal practice and get the license at the bar council. Here you will also find that only a few advocates are more successful than their counterparts. Only those become successful, who are innovative and

can think out of box.

There are many other fields, particularly professional fields where professional degrees are essential. But it is true that only those persons are successful who are more skillful than others.

Let's understand from some pointers:

In 2015, out of 1.5 lakhs only 20% engineers were able to get jobs.

On every other day, we find that many doctorates apply for the posts of peons or even sweepers.

Not much technology is used in the classrooms, and when the students pass out from their colleges or universities, they are very little or not skilled at all.

Shortcut methods and cheating in exams have become very common.

To show good results teachers themselves indulge in these unethical practices. The curriculum is quite old and outdated.

Let's us understand the value of Skills

No wonder, these days everyone is after degrees. However, this is not the right way to start your career. It has been found that there is a wide gap between the number of graduates and the persons having jobs. Though it is not possible for any organization to provide job to everyone, therefore every organization prefers people who are more skilled than the others.

**Why Skills are more important**

A skilled person is more innovative. He can do versatile jobs.

He is more prone to learning.

One skill gives birth to other skill. It is a very true dictum. A skilled person will learn new skills more easily than the others.

Since he is more innovative, organizations prefer such people and they are paid more for the same position.

Now we are going through the age of transition. Only those people can survive in the job market who are skilled.

**What Skill-based education is?**

It is the flexibility in the hands of the learners.

It helps in enquiring experience.

It is more effective and purpose-driven. It means that it helps students to receive a clear objective. Otherwise it has been seen the students are left in the river like a rudderless boat.

How can Skills be learned: Though it is an inherent trait, yet schools and colleges can play a vital role in it.

Educational institutes need to integrate skills in the curriculum.

More stress is needed to give on inculcating skills than the degrees. There are many examples

of successful people who are not much educated, but due to their hard work and skills they become very successful. Some of these are:

Bill Gates: Who does not know the name of Bill Gates? He is the founder of Microsoft and considered as the wealthiest person of the world. However, he was a university dropout degrees work under their leadership.

So friends do you think that only degrees can do wonders? Certainly not. A combination of both is necessary to become successful in life. And no wonder people with having higher percentage of marks lag behind their peers who are more skillful than them.

# India to forge unity as G20 president to tackle larger global issues

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 30:

India's G20 presidency will focus on forging unity within a disparate grouping to tackle larger global challenges such as indebtedness of countries and climate change at a time of divisions over issues like the Ukraine conflict, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

This approach will require engagement with all G20 members, including China which is engaged in a dragging border standoff with India, since the grouping of the world's 20 largest economies is consensus-driven, the people said ahead of the country beginning its presidency on December 1.

Though the G20 has a structured agenda, counter-terrorism remains an important issue for India and will be raised within the grouping at forums such as the foreign

ministers' meeting. On the finance track of G20, the focus will be on ensuring inclusive and resilient growth following the global impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, they said.

The theme for India's G20 presidency - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' - highlights the importance of having an approach that unites the world to address the future together, and of meeting expectations of developing countries with regard to global challenges such as climate action. While addressing the final session of the G20 Summit in Bali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the country's presidency will be 'inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented'.

"We have to bring about unity, not divisiveness, at a time when the Global South is expecting the G20 will respond to global issues," one of the

people cited above said. "In our presidency, we will try to get a level of unity that can address the most challenging and pressing issues and we will keep divisiveness to a minimum level."

This includes divisions between the West and Russia over the Ukraine conflict, and India will seek to act as a bridge so that the G20 can tackle pressing larger issues such as economic growth, indebtedness of countries, reviving the momentum to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs), and climate change.

All G20 members, including China, are important because of the grouping's consensus-based approach. "We will need to engage every member. China is the world's second largest economy and crucial for supply chains. You can't talk about the indebtedness of states without China being a part of it," the person

said.

In the context of debt relief, the people pointed to problems experienced by certain countries in India's neighbourhood that were too reliant on external debt and experienced a lot of hardship since the pandemic. India will also work for reforms of multilateral institutions such as the Bretton Woods institutions - the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) - whose current mandate does not equip them to respond to contemporary challenges, including raising more finances through the private sector or providing financing for climate action.

On the possibility of G20-related meetings being organised in Kashmir, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, the people said the calendar for more than 200 meetings before the G20 Summit in September 2023 is still being worked out.

# Assam Rifles provides Medical assistance to an electrocuted victim

IT News  
Nov 30:

Joupi battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) provided immediate medical assistance to an electrocuted victim (lineman) of Lamsai Village, Chandel district today.

At around 1200h on 30 November 22, Mr Thonkhogin age 41 of Lamsai Village, a lineman by profession while working on an electricity pole near Khemdo suffered electric shock and fell down. He was brought at Joupi battalion unit hospital by a civil vehicle at around 1220h. Individual had suffered electric burn injury on left wrist and elbow along with bruises over right wrist and hand. The medical officer of unit along with medical staff gave necessary first aid treat-



ment to the patient and once his condition stabilised he was referred for further evaluation and treatment to Churachandpur.

The villagers who brought the patient to hospital expressed their gratitude for immediate medical treatment given to the victim.

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# Pure Milk Available: G20.....

Bertrand Russel wrote in his *The Political Ideals*: "We may distinguish two sorts of goods, and two corresponding sorts of impulses. There are goods in regard to which individual possession is possible, and there are goods in which all can share alike.....There are two kinds of impulses, corresponding to the two kinds of goods. There are possessive impulses, which aim at acquiring or retaining private goods that cannot be shared; these centre in the impulse of property. And there are creative or constructive impulses, which aim at bringing into the world or making available for use the kind of goods in which there is no privacy

and no possession... The best life is the one in which the creative impulses play the largest part and the possessive impulses the small-est."

Whereas the resultant social reality and intentional actions of individuals as members of a society should be ones coming out of the play of the impulses as explained by Russel, in Manipur today the person in status maintaining governance is possessed by the what Russel calls *possessive impulse*. The functioning of this impulse has reached a level where there is a kind of competition generated among susceptible individuals to displace convergence to this impulse. This is why we saw in-

dividuals participating in discussions on G20 and with no knowledge of what it is but with the impulse to converge digested. Pure Milk Is Available.

By the way, G20 has no subscription, no constitution, no secretariat and with the Chairmanship rotated annually among the five groups of countries. There are already scholars from Germanys as to what is the reason for this G20, and other scholars from Europe and South East Asia questioning the performance of G20. There is no obligation binding the Member Countries to comply to any decision taken. Even climate change area is one where G20 is facing existential question.

# Eight persons get bail as police fail to prove they did 'unlawful activities' after ban on PFI

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 30:

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to eight persons accused in a case related to the ban on the Popular Front of India after the police failed to prove how could they possibly be involved in "unlawful activities" when they were under detention in the Tihar Jail at the time of the alleged offence, *Live Law* reported.

On September 28, the Centre had banned Islamic organisation Popular Front of India and its associates for five

years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act because of alleged terror activities.

On September 29, the eight persons were named in a first information report registered at the Shaheen Bagh police station in Delhi. They were accused of "advocating, abetting or inciting/assisting any unlawful activity of unlawful organisation [the Popular Front of India]", *Live Law* reported.

On the basis of the FIR, the police arrested Mohd Shoaib, Abdul Rab, Habeeb Asghar Jamali and Mohd Waris Khan on October 3, alleging that six

flags of the banned organisation had been recovered from them.

Two days later, the police arrested four others - Abdullah, Sheikh Gulfam Hussain, Mohd Shoaib and Mohsin Waqar - for allegedly shouting slogans in support of the Popular Front of India, and possessing flags and pamphlets of the organisation.

However, at the hearing at a sessions court on Monday, Additional Sessions Judge Sanjay Khanagwal noted that police records show the accused persons were already under preventive custody when

the ban on the Popular Front of India was implemented, *The Indian Express* reported.

He observed that they had been taken into custody on September 27 and released from jail on October 2 and October 4, before being arrested soon again during the early hours of October 3 and October 5.

In his order, the judge said that the investigating officer could not produce sufficient incriminating material against the accused persons to show how they carried out unlawful activities while being in police custody.

# Sports

## FIFA World Cup 2022:

# Netherlands, Senegal, England and USA advance to World Cup last 16

Agency  
Doha, Nov 30:

Netherlands top Group A with victory over World Cup hosts Qatar

The Netherlands swept aside World Cup 2022 hosts Qatar on Tuesday, sealing a comfortable 2-0 victory that sees them top Group A.

The European side took an early lead through Cody Gakpo, who netted his third goal of the tournament. Frankie de Jong added another in the second half as they looked to solidify their position at the top of the group.

They could have made it three if it weren't for a disallowed goal due to a handball by Gakpo.

Qatar did have their moments though, and despite not being able to get onto the score sheet, they will be pleased to have contained the Dutch to just two goals.

Netherlands finished first in Group A with seven points, while Senegal, after their 2-1 win over Ecuador, finished runners-up with six points.

Ecuador and Qatar will have to say goodbye though as they exit the tournament having picked up four and zero points respectively.

**Senegal advance to World Cup last 16 by beating Ecuador**

Group A										
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts		
1  Netherlands	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7		
2  Senegal	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6		
3  Ecuador	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4		
4  Qatar	3	0	0	3	1	7	-6	0		

Group B										
Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts		
1  England	3	2	1	0	9	2	7	7		
2  USA	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	5		
3  Iran	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3		
4  Wales	3	0	1	2	1	6	-5	1		

Senegal football captain Kalidou Koulibaly sent his team into the last 16 of the World Cup by volleying home the winner in a 2-1 victory over Ecuador.

Senegal took the lead after a first-half penalty from Ismaila Sarr. Moises Caicedo then scored for Ecuador to make it 1-1 in the 67th.

At 1-1, Ecuador would have advanced from Group A and Senegal would have been eliminated.

However, a few minutes

later Senegal took the lead once again as their defender and Koulibaly scored from close range after a free kick whipped from the right flank.

The Netherlands beat Qatar 2-0 in the other match to win the group. Senegal finished second, while Ecuador and Qatar were eliminated.

Senegal last advanced from the group stage at the 2002 World Cup, when the team reached the quarter-finals in its tournament debut.

**England advance to World**

**Cup last 16 after hammering Wales 3-0**

England have advanced to the World Cup's last 16 with a dominant 3-0 victory over Wales, sending their neighbours out of the tournament in the process.

Marcus Rashford's second-half brace at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium on Tuesday evening guaranteed Gareth Southgate's side will face Senegal in the knockout phase on Sunday.

Rashford's goals came either side of a Phil Foden tap-in engineered by England captain Harry Kane, who is still yet to score in Qatar but now leads the tournament's assists chart on three.

Wales, who have not beaten England since 1984, needed an unlikely four-goal victory to get out of Group B and reach the knockout rounds. They defended deeply and frustrated England in a subdued first half.

But they caved in after the break as Gareth Southgate's side took their goals tally in the group to nine.

Rashford began the rout when he smashed home a free kick five minutes after the break.

A minute later, Foden, one of four changes Southgate made to his starting lineup from the previous game against the USA, converted from close range after a fine low cross from Kane.



England and Wales fans inside the stadium before the match.

Wales, whose talisman Gareth Bale was substituted at halftime having made no impact, looked crestfallen as their first World Cup for 64 years fizzled out.

But England continued to dish out the punishment and Rashford made it 3-0 with a surging run in from the right before shooting through a crowd and past goalkeeper Danny Ward's legs in the 68th minute.

**Pulisic's daring header gives USA 1-0 victory over Iran**  
With a daring header, Chris-

tian Pulisic drove the ball into the net and his body into the Iranian goalkeeper, giving the USA their game-winning goal and taking himself out of the rest of the match in the process.

The US defeated Iran 1-0 on Tuesday evening at Doha's Al Thumama stadium, advancing their side to the Group of 16 phase.

An injured Pulisic was helped off the pitch after his 38th-minute goal and replaced after the half by Brendan Aaronson.

Iran finished third in the

group with three points and failed to advance to the next phase of the tournament, a feat Iran has never managed in any of the six World Cups they have competed in.

The match was hard fought up until the very last minutes with a shot from Iran's Mehdi Torabi narrowly missing the net.

The Iranian fans, in force in the crowd of more than 42,000, left the stadium heartbroken.

The US will next play the Netherlands in their first match in the Group of 16 stage.