

Dengue Alert: Health Minister appeals not to panic; urges for support to prevent it

IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

With the rise of Dengue cases in some districts of the state, Health Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan has personally taken stock of the situation along with the state Health Department authority and said that there is no reason for people to panic about the development.

In a press conference held today at the official residence at Sanakeithel here in Imphal, Health Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan said that as of now, a total of 358 dengue cases have been detected. The number this time is somehow a little bit higher, and for that matter, with an aim to provide more awareness to the people, the government has been strengthening more precautionary measures.

The Minister, however, said that there is nothing to

be panicked about the rising situation.

"We have districts where the dengue cases are a little high, and we also have districts where there are no cases of dengue", Dr. Ranjan said. He said that in Tengnoupal district, around 100 cases of dengue, which is spread from the bite by Mosquitoes, have been detected till now; in Churachandpur district, around 38 cases have been detected; in Imphal West a total of 36 cases have been detected, in Thoubal district a total 10 cases have been detected, in Kakching district 3 cases detected and in Ukhrul district, 2 cases are detected. The Health Minister further said that as of now, only 8 patient with dengue has been admitted, and all of them have been taken care of and are now in stable condition.

With the situation becoming a bit alarming, the health

department is making it a priority to taking up steps to control it. For that, it is important to make sure that all people of the state are aware of what causes the disease. The Minister said that it is in top priority that the awareness about the spread of the disease is let known to each and every household and individual.

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The primary vectors that transmit the disease are 'Aedes aegypti' mosquitoes and, to a lesser extent, 'Ae. albopictus'. The virus responsible for causing dengue is called dengue virus (DENV).

The Health Minister said that clean but stagnant water piling up at either flower pots or water storage tanks is the breeding ground of the mosquitoes that spread dengue.

"People should be let

aware that clean water at flower pots or at water tanks without cover is the breeding ground for the mosquitoes," Dr. Sapam Ranjan said.

The Health Minister also said that this is not the first time that the Health department is creating awareness to the people, already various awareness programme to prevent dengue has already been taken up.

However, Health Minister's direct involvement to ensure that the awareness to prevent the spread of Dengue is of the first kind.

Experts from the Health Department who was present during the press conference said that people need not worry much about the vulnerability of the dengue as the carrier mosquitoes of the dengue virus only bite during daylight. They appealed to people to use mosquito nets as much as possible.

Tribal body calls off NH economic blockade

IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

The All Manipur Tribals Development and Grievances Forum (AMTDGF) called off the indefinite economic blockade imposed along the two National Highways of Manipur after the state government assured of releasing Rs 150 crore under MGNREGA to all 16

districts of the state and the remaining balance on a phase-wise basis within January 2023.

In the statement released by its vice president, Sethhosat Kipgen, AMTDGF has appealed to the state government to release all the executives and blockade supporters, who were detained by police, without any condition and withdraw the

arrest warrant issued against its executives.

Following the announcement of an indefinite economic blockade with effect from midnight on November 3, owing to the government's failure to release the pending fund of MGNREGA, at least six members of AMTDGF were arrested from Senapati and Kangpokpi districts, respectively.

CM conducts site inspection of Govt. quarter and Cancer Hospital

IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

It has been a long dream to establish a Cancer Hospital in the State, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said today while inspecting ongoing works at the project sites of construction of Cancer Hospital by KARNIKOS at Porompat and Construction of Government Quarter at New Checkon.

N. Biren Singh said the government is targeting to inaugurate the hospital by March next year, and added that the hospital will, to an extent, lessen the hardships faced by people of the State in

travelling outside the State for diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

The hospital is being constructed on PPP model with the KARNIKOS Healthcare, an international organisation, he said and further stressed that on its completion, it will be empanelled for CMHT, PMJAY and other government schemes.

The Chief Minister also said that construction of a block at the Government Quarter construction at New Checkon will be completed by March next year. We are also targeting to complete some more blocks and hand them

over to the public before 2024, he added.

Earlier there were only single housing quarters, he stressed, adding that with loans from HUDCO, new building facilities which are G+6 buildings are being constructed at the site.

The Chief Minister also said that once the complex is complete it will solve at least 70-80 percent of issues faced by government officials due to lack of housing quarters.

During the site visit, the Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister L. Susindro Meitei, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, officials, etc.

Minister Nemcha Kipgen inaugurates International MSME Conference



IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister, Nemcha Kipgen graced the inaugural session of the International MSME Conference in NER-2022 as Chief Guest. It was held at Hotel Classic Grande, Imphal and organized by Federation of Industry & Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER) with the support of MSME Development Institute Imphal, Government of India and Department of Commerce

& Industries, Government of Manipur.

While addressing the gatherings, Industry Minister Nemcha Kipgen expressed that such a conference gives an opportunity for the state to showcase its distinct industries, and cultural heritage in the forms of handloom & textiles, handicrafts and unique food products. The local entrepreneurs of Manipur will get the opportunity to adopt the best practices from other parts of the world and adapt it for the materials and resources

available here, she asserted.

The Minister further highlighted the example of the state's richness in terms of bio resources by citing that there are 55 species of bamboo that grows in Manipur which can be utilized in various forms such as food, textile, composites and handicrafts. She continued that Manipur is also rich in its biodiversity, producing many aromatic and medicinal plants, all of which are organic and can serve as a new destination for pharmaceutical industries.

Unlike many parts of the Northeast, Manipur is fortunate to have a potential to be the gateway to ASEAN and with the improvement in infrastructure will serve as an important import-export hub for the Northeast region, she added.

The Minister called for the need to realize that food processing, handloom & handicrafts is an industry which the State and NER as a whole can heavily rely on to boost its economy. Development of these industries means generation of jobs and better livelihood for the people of the region, Nemcha said.

The basic objective of this conference is to provide opportunities to MSMEs in Manipur to update themselves to meet the challenges emerging from changes in technology, changes in demand, and emergence of new markets, President for Finer, Bajrang Lohia mentioned. He stated that technology infusion and/or upgradation of Indian micro, small and medium enterprises are the need of the hour.

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War on Drug: Kangpokpi Forest Division and District Police destroy illegal poppy cultivation



IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

In continuation of the Government's effort on "War on drugs", a combined team of Kangpokpi Forest Division and District Police led by Range Forest Officer,

Motbung Range trekked the Kanglalongbi Kangpokpi Reserved Forest Hill ranges to check for encroachment and illegal poppy cultivation. The Team came across areas with illegal poppy cultivation which were promptly destroyed. A total

of 7-10 acre of area were cleared of illegal poppy cultivation. The Range Forest Officer has already begun process to file FIR. Efforts against illegal activities and poppy cultivation will continue.

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Rongmei celebrates the '3rd Rongmei Freshers' meet cum Cultural day 2022 in Delhi

IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

The 3rd Rongmei Freshers' Meet cum Cultural Day for Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) was held on the 29th of October 2022 at Sadbhavna Bhawan, Daulat Ram College, Delhi University North Campus, Patel Marg, Maurice Nagar, Delhi-110007, India. The event was organized by Rongmei Phwam Delhi (Rongmei Council Delhi) in association with Rongmei Channac Phwam Delhi (Rongmei Students' Organization Delhi) and Rongmei

Charitable Society (RCS).

The program was held under the theme "Rongmei Moving Forward" which was attended by more than a thousand Rongmei people staying in Delhi/NCR from all walks of life. The programme was opened with the Rongmei Anthem "He Ruangmei Zaat" followed by a Rongmei Cultural dance called "Sim Laam" presented by Youth Department of Rongmei Christian Fellowship Delhi. Levi Thamei, Chairman RPD/Convener of the program addressed the welcome speech. Lucas L. Kamsuan [Joint Secre-

tary (Admin, Parliament & DGLL), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India] was the resource person of the program on the topic "Life in a city with a priority to develop professionalism." Rev. Thomas Kahmei, Pastor of Community Bible Church Delhi exhorted on the theme "Rongmei Moving forward."

The program also witnessed traditional dances, traditional songs, traditional fashion parades, modern songs, the Rongmei Achievers Award and the Rani Gaidinliu Award. After

some few minutes break, the second session was opened with the Rongmei Cultural Dance called "Lautay-Laudy laam" from Rongmei Cultural Dance Troupe, RCPD.

During the programme, "Rongmei Achievers Award" were given out to "achievers" in various fields. Ambrose D Kamei was awarded in the category of "Artist Music" in recognition of his contribution to Rongmei music and outstanding achievements in various prestigious musical competitions. G Gongdijuan Rongmei was awarded in the category of

"Social Work" in recognition of his dedication and commitment in serving the Rongmei community in Delhi & NCR. Peichun Gangmei (the owner of Angelz Company and Angelz Studio, Burari Kaushik Enclave, New Delhi) and Singing Panmei (the owner of Sings the Nails & Lashes Studio, Greater Kailash, New Delhi) were given the Rongmei Achievers Awards in the category of "Entrepreneurship" in recognition of their success as an entrepreneur. Lanchunlungpou Panmei was presented the Award in the category of "Private Sector" in recognition

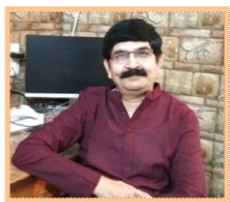
of his successful career in the Private Sector as Vice President of Quality SitusAMC India.

In recognition of clearing the Prestigious Examinations of Advocate on Record (AOR), Gaichangpou Gangmei was awarded in the category of Competitive Exam and in the same category T P Meiningthailu was awarded in recognition of clearing the Prestigious Examinations of SBI Bank PO. Mp Lunglaipou was awarded for his achievement in sports (football) in recognition of his dedication & enthusiasm

for Sports and he is serving as a Teacher at Shiksantra Gurgoon School and the owner of Valor Football Academy. In the Student Academic Category of Class 10 (2021-2022 session), Gaihailu Panmei was awarded for scoring a distinction marks in Matriculation Examinations and in the Student Academic Category (2021-2022 session) of Graduation, Purnima Kamei was awarded for scoring a distinction marks in Geography Honours of Undergraduate Examinations.

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Let the world know about the danger of tsunami in advance and make progress to stay safe



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

5th November is observed as the World Tsunami Awareness Day to raise awareness for early warnings and actions to protect people, save lives, and prevent the hazard from becoming a disaster. The word "tsunami" comprises the Japanese words "tsu" (meaning harbour) and "nami" (meaning wave). A tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean. A tsunami is a kind of natural disaster which is caused due to volcanic eruptions in the ocean beds. Tsunamis are natural occurrences in which a series of powerful waves cause a surge in water that can reach heights of several metres.

Tsunamis occur primarily in areas where two continents meet. Tsunamis also happen due to volcanic eruptions under the ocean beds. The Pacific Ocean is well-known for the frequent occurrence of tsunamis. Tsunamis cause a lot of damage to the environment. It destroys the buildings, forests, livelihood, etc. Since it is a sudden event, no one can anticipate its occurrence. Tsunamis are rare events but can be extremely deadly. In the past 100 years, 58 of them have claimed more than 260,000 lives, or an average of 4,600 per disaster, surpassing any other natural hazard. Tsunami waves often look like walls of water and can attack the shoreline and be dangerous for hours, with waves coming every 5 to 60 minutes. Tsunami is defined as a sequence of ocean waves with a very long wavelength. Due to the tsunami, strong waves of water are created and move landwards. As a result, there is a large inland water movement that lasts for a long time. As a result, these waves have a significant destructive power. Like any other natural disaster, tsunamis bring massive destruction to the environment. The leading cause of a tsunami is attributable to an earthquake. However, even volcanic eruptions, landslides and comets or other heavenly bodies hitting the sea can be a source. Japan is the country which has recorded the most significant number of tsunamis. The tsunami generated in the Indian Ocean in the year 2004 is still considered as the most upsetting tsunami taking more than two hundred thousand lives. Tsunamis are quite rare in occurrence as compared to other natural disasters, but they are equally damaging.

During the eruption of a volcano on land, debris falls with a great thrust into the water body, causing the same ripple effect. Volcanoes can be underwater as well. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis. There are four conditions necessary for an earthquake to cause a tsunami: The earthquake must occur beneath the ocean or cause material to slide into the ocean. The earthquake must be strong, at least magnitude 6.5 on the Richter Scale. The earthquake must rupture the Earth's surface and it must occur at shallow depth - less than 70km below the surface of the Earth. The earthquake must cause vertical movement of the sea floor.

The saddest effect of a tsunami is the loss of lives in huge numbers. Tsunamis hit suddenly, with almost no warning and hence people get no time to escape it or run away. They drown, collapse, are electrocuted, etc. Tsunamis not only cause massive destruction of life but also degrade the environment in a gigantic way. In order to prevent Tsunamis, the government can invest in building strong and high protective infrastructure which can withstand the force of a tsunami. The length should be so tall, that the most upper wave of the tsunami cannot over top it. We need to educate people and make them aware of the effects and impact of a tsunami is exceptionally crucial.

Journalism is a public good and we must protect it



By: Vijay GarG

Media and journalism are important for any vibrant democracy. With the progress in technology now things have moved beyond the traditional media or way of journalism. Digital media and web media and even social media have become more popular but at the same time there is importance of journalism which can bring many positive changes.

The trust on journalism has been down in recent times due to few individuals or organisations that brought bad names in the name of journalism. We should not forget that from 2016 to the end of 2020, 400 journalists were killed for their work or while on the job and globally 274 journalists were imprisoned in 2020, the highest yearly total in three decades. Only 13 percent of cases recorded by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) since 2006 are currently considered judicially resolved and 73 percent of women journalists surveyed had experienced online violence in the course of their work.

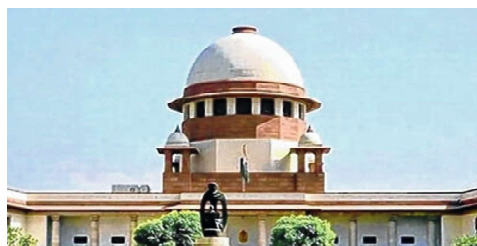
Ending impunity for crimes against journalists is one of the most pressing issues to guarantee freedom of expression and access to information for all citizens. Between 2006 and 2020, over 1,200 journalists have been killed for reporting the news and bringing information to the public. In nine out of ten cases the killers go unpunished, according to the UNESCO observatory of killed journalists. Impunity leads to more killings and is often a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and judicial systems.

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Prosecution Sanction in Extra-Judicial Executions in Manipur

By: N. Brajakanta Singh



Introduction

Extra-Judicial Execution Victim Families Association, Manipur (EEVFAM) filed a PIL before the Supreme Court in connection with the killing of 1528 people in encounters by security forces under the protective regime of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state of Manipur between 1979 and 2012. The Supreme Court, in an extraordinary verdict, pronounced that the armed forces could not claim blanket immunity from prosecution and ordered an inquiry to be conducted into the killings by Special Investigation Team of CBI vide order dated 14.07.2017. Later, Army personnel and police officers filed separate petitions praying for immunity for soldiers and police personnel for their actions carried out in good faith, but the Supreme Court dismissed the petitions. The long pendency of fake encounter cases before different courts has caused anxiety to a large number justice seeking people including the families of victims. For the central investigating agency, the investigation of such numerous cases is still a daunting task. Very recently, we came to know that on October 20, 2022, a division bench of the Supreme Court of India under the leadership of the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice UU Lalit, one of the justices of the division bench which delivered the landmark judgment in Extra-judicial Execution Victims' Families of Manipur v. Union of India, (2017) 8 SCC 417 which stops fake-encounters in the State of Manipur, has requested the High Court of Manipur to dispose of a reference made by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West on the issue of prosecution sanction against some armed forces personnel involved in a fake encounter case within six months' time. The Supreme Court also ordered the case to be listed before an appropriate bench on November 15, 2022. This piece examines the case and also analyses the issue of prosecution sanction of armed forces personnel involved in illegal encounters in the state.

Background Facts

As directed by the Supreme Court, the CBI investigated the death of one Pheiroijam Sanajit of Lamlai, Imphal East. Family members claimed that Sanajit was picked up from his residence while he was sleeping at his residence by 19 Rajput Rifles located at Leimakhong, Imphal West at about 1.00 am of 31.05.2004 and took away by them. On next day, his death body was found at Senjam Chirang in Imphal West. The wife of deceased filed a writ petition in 2005 before the Gauhati High Court (Imphal Bench) in connection with the abduction and murder of Sanajit. On the direction of the High Court, the District Judge, Manipur East conducted an enquiry and held that Pheiroijam Sanajit succumbed to bullet injuries fired by the personnel of 19 Rajput Rifles and the deceased did not die in the retaliatory fire at Senjam Chirang, Imphal West. Forensic Sciences Laboratory report indicated that the empty cartridge was not fired from the firearm allegedly recovered from the deceased. The High Court upheld the findings of the District Judge, Manipur East and awarded compensation to the widow of the deceased. In the FIR registered by CBI on the direction of the Supreme Court, ten officers and personnel of 19 Rajput (Bikaner) were named as accused. Out of these 10, two accused had expired. After thorough investigation, CBI submitted Final Report to the court of CJM/

IW stating that there are sufficient materials to prosecute four accused personnel under different sections of the Indian Penal Code including for murder. As two of the accused had already expired, no action is suggested against them. As no sufficient evidences are found against three named accused and other unnamed personnel of 19 Rajput Rifles, they are dropped from prosecution. It was reported that vide order dated 02.12.2019, the Central Government denied to accord prosecution sanction u/s 197 CrPC and u/s 6 AFSPA against four accused persons. In the circumstances, Final Report has been submitted by the CBI to the Court of CJM/IW for passing such orders as deemed fit in the interest of justice. The CJM/IW issued notice to the Under Secretary (AG/DV/HRC), Ministry of Defence to appear in person or by a pleader before it to show cause why prosecution sanction shall not be granted when the CBI found enough evidence against the accused army personnel. It was observed that denial of prosecution sanction in such situation involved a question of law. The CJM/IW observed that denial of prosecution sanction has become a routine matter by the Central Government in most of the fake encounter cases investigated in pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court by refusing to grant Section 6 of AFSPA. He also framed 10 substantial questions for reference to the High Court of Manipur mainly on as to whether Government of India can deny the grant of prosecution sanction against the accused army personnel when the CBI has found sufficient materials against them for prosecution. It may be pertinent to point out here that during the pendency of the reference case before the High Court, Union of India approached the Sessions Court against the order of the CJM/IW. The High Court of Manipur also directed the Sessions Court, Imphal West to dispose of the pending criminal revision cases filed by Union of India challenging the order passed by the CJM/IW expeditiously.

Informant EEVFAM is Victim

It is apposite to reiterate that the Final Report submitted by CBI has arisen out of the FIR registered by CBI in pursuance to the directions issued by Supreme Court in WP(Cr.) No. 129 of 2012 filed by EEVFAM and HRA praying for investigation and prosecution of security personnel involved in fake encounters. The Sessions Judge, Imphal West delivered his judgment on July 4, 2022. The Judge observed that since the writ petition has been filed by EEVFAM to the Supreme Court informing the factum of 1528 fake encounter cases in Manipur, EEVFAM can be considered as the first informant of the case and as such, EEVFAM is entitled to receive notice from Id. CJM/IW for considering the Final Report/Closure Report submitted by CBI. The Sessions Court also opined that the CJM/IW has not committed any patent error while issuing notice to EEVFAM. As EEVFAM is an association of vic-

tims' families whose father, husband, son or brother have been killed in allegedly fake encounters at the hand of State as well as Central security forces, in the present case, EEVFAM is an informant and also an association of victims, it is held that EEVFAM as an association of victims will fall within the ambit of 'victim' as defined under Section 2(wa) CrPC. It was also held that Magistrate has jurisdiction and competence to make reference under Section 395(1) CrPC, when the CJM/IW made reference, the FR case was pending before it. The court, thus, has rightly rejected the application filed by UOI challenging the jurisdiction and procedure adopted by the CJM/IW.

Immunity Under the AFSPA

The constitutional validity of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 enacted by Indian Parliament has been upheld by the Supreme Court of India in Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India, (1998) 2 SCC 109. The Apex Court of the country held that Parliament was competent to enact the Central Act in exercise of the legislative power conferred on it under Entry 2 of List I and Article 248 read with Entry 97 of List I. It reasoned that after the insertion of Entry 2A in List I by the Forty-Second Amendment to the Constitution, the legislative power of Parliament to enact the Central Act flows from Entry 2A of List I. It was not a law in respect of maintenance of public order falling under Entry I of list II, the Court opined. The most contentious provision of the Act is section 4 which vested special powers to the armed forces. It reads as follows: "Any commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or any other person of equivalent rank in the armed forces may, in a disturbed area, (a) If he is of opinion that it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of public order, after giving such due warning as he may consider necessary fire upon or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death, against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the disturbed area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons or of fire-arms, ammunition or explosive substances;..." While the armed forces personnel are protected from prosecution, for their actions in aid to civil power, by Section 132 of the CrPC, the AFSPA under section 6 further provides immunity to persons operating under the AFSPA from prosecution, without prior sanction of the central government. Under Section 6 protection has been given to the persons acting under the Central Act and it has been prescribed that no prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by the said Act except with the previous sanction of the Central Government. It virtually provides immunity to persons exercising the powers conferred under Sec-

tion 4 inasmuch as it extends the protection also to anything purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act.

Landmark Precedents

There are many landmark cases wherein the Supreme Court has unmistakably held that wrongdoer personnel of the armed forces can be prosecuted for violation of right to life as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Apex Court in the case of Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India (supra) ruled that the protection given under Section 6 cannot be regarded as conferment of immunity on the persons exercising the powers under the AFSPA. It ruled that Section 6 only gives protection in the form of previous sanction of the Central Government before a criminal prosecution of a suit or other civil proceeding is instituted against such person. It was held that Section 6 only extends the protection in the matter of institution of a suit or other legal proceeding. The Apex Court also ruled that "In order that the people may feel assured that there is an effective check against misuse or abuse of powers by the members of the armed forces it is necessary that a complaint containing an allegation about misuse or abuse of the powers conferred under the Central Act should be thoroughly inquired into and, if it is found that there is substance in the allegation, the victim should be suitably compensated by the state and the requisite sanction under Section 6 of the Central Act should be granted for institution of prosecution and/or a civil suit or other proceeding against the person/persons responsible for such violation". It is worthwhile to refer to a decision of the Supreme Court in General Officer Commanding, Rashtriya Rifles v. Central Bureau of Investigation, (2012) 6 SCC 228. This was a case of alleged encounter killing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir declared as a disturbed area where the provisions of the Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 read with the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 were in operation enabling the deployment of army. In this case Supreme Court had made a comprehensive analysis of the law relating to grant of prosecution sanction to prosecute army personnel charged with committing criminal offence. It was held that the competent army authority has to exercise his discretion to opt as to whether the trial would be by a Court-Martial or criminal court after filing of the charge sheet and not after the cognizance of the offence is taken by the court. The Court held that facts of this case require sanction of the Central Government to proceed with the criminal prosecution/ trial, and in case option is made to try the accused by a Court-Martial, sanction of the Central Government is not required.

It can be concluded that the competent army authority is now required to exercise its discretion as to whether the trial arising out of extra-judicial killing of Sanajit would be conducted by a court martial or by a criminal court. The gravity of the acts of fake encounters is very serious to be ignored by any democracy and its rule of law. General public wish the courts in the country shall deliver justice to the victims of injustices. The SIT should complete its honourable task to find out the truth in each case entrusted to investigate by the highest court of the country.

(The author is a Guest Faculty, Department of Law, Manipur University)

MoU between Indian Navy and SKDCL to Display Decommissioned Warship at Durgadi Sea Fort in Kalyan

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 4:

An MoU was signed to display decommissioned Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft T-80 as a memorial at Durgadi Sea Fort in Kalyan, in Thane district, about 58 Kms from Mumbai, between the Indian Navy and Smart Kalyan Dombivli Corporation Ltd (SKDCL) on Wednesday.

The agreement was signed to display warship as a memorial to commemorate 365th anniversary of establishment of Maratha Navy by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Indian Navy was represented at the event by officers of Headquarters, Maharashtra Naval Area, while SKDCL was represented by Prahlad Rode CEO SKDCL and his team.

The "INFAC T-80" was decommissioned on October 07, 2021 at Headquarters, Western Naval Command, Mumbai after rendering yeoman service of 23 years. Built by M/s IAI Ramta at Israel, the vessel was commissioned on 24 June 24, 1998. She was specifically designed for shallow water operations and patrolled extensively to provide



The officers of Indian Navy and SKDCL at an MoU signing ceremony to display decommissioned Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft T-80 as a memorial at Durgadi Sea Fort in Kalyan. (Inset: INFAC T-80).

vide security to Mumbai High Offshore Development Area and the coast of Maharashtra.

Even after her decommissioning, "T-80" will continue serving the country and inspire Indian youth visiting the Naval Museum at Durgadi Fort, Kalyan. The memorial will also showcase the state's rich maritime history, especially the roles played in it by the Maratha Navy and Indian

Navy.

Indian Navy had previously erected the decommissioned warship "ex-Prabal" at Essel world at Gorai in North Mumbai. It now installs "ex-T-80" at Durgadi Fort, Kalyan to spread sea consciousness amongst the local populace. Signing of the MoU reiterates the Indian Navy's connect with people and history of Maharashtra, an official statement read.

Durgadi Fort is built on a hill beside the Kalyan creek. The fort came under Marathas when Shivaji Maharaj captured Kalyan and Bhiwandi from Adilshah on October 24, 1654. He built the fort close to the creek and used it as a dock to build boats and ships. The city was well fortified and had 11 bastions and multiple entrances. The fort marked the initiation of Maratha Navy.

Modern science and technology will solve flood problem in Northeast: Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Agency
Shillong, Nov 4:

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has expressed hope that modern science and technology will solve the problem of floods in Northeast region of India.

The union minister made this statement while participating in a discussion on Space Applications in Flood Management in the North Eastern Region at the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) at Umiam near Shillong in Meghalaya on Thursday.

He said: "The centre in-



tends to make maximum use of modern science and technology to come up with a workable solution to the age-old problem of floods in the North-

east." "Measures are being taken on a large scale to provide relief to the Northeast states from the ravages of floods," the

union minister said.

He also lauded the Meghalaya government for installing tapped water connections in the households of the state.

"... Meghalaya has made remarkable progress and has been able to achieve 41.5 per cent of tap water connections," he said.

The union minister added that tapped water connections have been set up over 2.6 lakh households in Meghalaya.

I have a firm belief that Meghalaya will be able to provide tap water connections to the remaining households, he said.

India logs 1,216 new Covid-19 cases in last 24 hours, active tally below 16K

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 4:

With 1,216 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,46,58,365, while the active cases declined to 15,705, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,30,479 with 18 fatalities which includes 15 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 health ministry website.

A decrease of 393 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 4,41,12,181, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website 219.69 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.

Three deaths were reported in a span of 24 hours with one each in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Delhi primary schools to be closed from Saturday as air quality remains 'severe'

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 4:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced that primary schools in the national capital will be shut from Saturday as air quality index in the city continued to be in the "severe" category.

Addressing a press conference with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Aam Aadmi Party chief said that outdoor activities for Classes 5 and above will be stopped in Delhi schools.

"We are also mulling over implementing odd even scheme for plying of vehicles," he said. Under this system, cars are allowed to operate only on alternate days on the basis of whether their license plate numbers are odd or even.

Kejriwal said that deteriorating air quality and pollution levels is a problem which the entire North India faces.

"Many cities [in North India] have severe air pollution," he added. "AAP alone or Kejriwal or governments of Delhi and Punjab alone is not responsible for this. Central

government has to take steps to reduce pollution."

Kejriwal said that the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab takes full responsibility for the rise in stubble burning in the state.

"It has been only six months since we formed the government there and there were a lot of problems to deal with," he said. "Many steps have been taken and I believe that by next year, the incidents of stubble burning will come down."

The Delhi chief minister said it was not the time to indulge in blame game or politics as residents are struggling to breathe. "We have said it several times that the central government needs to step forward and take specific measures," he added.

Air quality deteriorates sharply in the winter months in Delhi, which is often ranked the world's most polluted capital. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, along with falling temperatures, low wind speed and emissions from industries and coal-fired plants contribute to air pollution.

At 11.50 am on Friday, data

from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research, or SAFAR, showed that Delhi's air quality index stood at 437. An air quality index ranging between 401 and 500 falls under the "severe" category. A reading of above 400 can affect healthy persons and seriously impact those with existing illnesses.

Smoke from farm fires contributed to 38% of the tiny PM 2.5 lung-damaging pollutants in the city's air on Thursday - the highest this season, PTI reported. Last year, the share of farm fires in Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution rose to 48% on November 7.

On Friday, the Supreme Court listed a plea seeking to restrict stubble burning in Punjab for hearing on November 10, Live Law reported.

A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi took note of the submissions of lawyer Shashank Shekhar Jha, saying that "even normal people cannot walk in such a situation" as the air pollution situation has worsened due to stubble burning in areas close to Delhi.

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Journalism is a public good and we....

While killings are the most extreme form of media censorship, journalists are also subjected to countless threats - ranging from kidnapping, torture and other physical attacks to harassment, particularly in the digital sphere. Threats of violence and attacks against journalists, in particular, create a climate of fear for media professionals, impeding the free circulation of information, opinions and ideas for all citizens.

The United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity is the first concerted effort within the UN to address attacks and impunity of crimes against journalists, with a multi-stakeholder and holistic approach. It brings together UN bodies, national authorities, media, and civil society organizations.

Since the plan was adopted, the issue of safety of journalists has gained a higher visibility in the UN, as evidenced by the increasing number

of declarations, resolutions and other normative texts, and the UN Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Protecting journalists is also part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Plan has also contributed to building international coalitions of governments and civil society and served to bring about changes on the ground, such as the creation of national safety mechanisms in at least 50 countries.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/163. The Resolution urged Member States to implement definite measures countering the present culture of impunity. The date was chosen in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2 November 2013. This landmark resolution condemns all attacks and violence

against journalists and media workers.

The UN's Secretary-General António Guterres in his message said that "I urge Member States and the international community to stand in solidarity with journalists around the world today and every day, and to demonstrate the political will needed to investigate and prosecute crimes against journalists and media workers with the full force of the law."

Let us promote healthy journalism based on facts and findings. This is possible when citizens support the media or journalists who are working for the truth and justice. False news or hate news must be boycotted so that journalism can be trusted by people like before. At the same time the government must give support to the journalists and also protect them. Together we can end crimes against journalists. Let us not forget that journalism is a public good and we must protect it.

Meghalaya's Irene Dkhar crowned Miss Northeast 2022

Agency
Kohima, Nov 4:

Meghalaya's Irene Dkhar was crowned 'Miss Northeast 2022' during a glittering ceremony held at the capital cultural hall in Kohima on Thursday.

Her final answer advocating the need to address mental health issues among youth as a social issue if given a chance to speak with world leaders sealed the crown for the beauty queen.

Dkhar was crowned the winner among 15 contestants from the eight northeast states, who competed for the title.

The new Miss Northeast received a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh along with gift hampers. She was flanked by Assam's Eshane Hatimuria as the first runner-up and Arunachal



Pradesh's Dyna Jomo as the second runner-up. While Hatimuria received Rs 1 lakh, Jomo received Rs 70,000. Dkhar was adjudged Miss

Perfect Ten, while Hatimuria was adjudged Miss Photogenic and Miss Talent, and Jomo was adjudged Miss Multimedia.

Nagaland's Lika Choppy was adjudged the Queen of Hearts, while Manipur's Manasha Devi Sapam was adjudged Miss Beautiful Skin.

Although Nagaland has hosted the beauty contest twice in the past, this was the first edition of Miss Northeast under the aegis of the Northeast Beauty Pageant Organisation. The pageant was hosted by Beauty and Aesthetic Society of Nagaland (BASN) in collaboration with the Government of Nagaland.

On the panel were celebrity Dentist Dr. Sagar J Abhichandani; Yamaha artiste Nise Meruno; Designer Bambi Kethelohense Kense Vihienuo and Poet, educator and writer Theyesinuo Keditus.

The next edition of the pageant is scheduled to be held in Sikkim.

Input distribution of Rabi crops and Scientist Farmer interaction programme conducted at Chandel

IT News
Imphal, Nov 4:

Input distribution of Rabi crops and Scientist Farmer interaction programme was conducted today at the Conference Hall, KVK Chandel. The programme was attended by Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam as Chief Guest; Dr. Arnab Sen, Principal Scientist (Veterinary Microbiology) ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam; Dr. C.L. Verma, Senior Scientist, ICAR – CSSRI, Lucknow; Ts. Gladney Monsang, District Agriculture Officer, Chandel; Ksh. Prava Devi, District Officer, Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Chandel as Guests of Honour and Dr. I. Meghachandra Singh, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region Manipur Centre as the Functional President.

Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam urged the farmers to fully utilize the facilities, technologies and knowledge shared by the staffs of KVK. He told that the local farmers are lucky to have the privilege of the presence of expert team in the vicinity and encouraged the participants to ignite their minds and be in touch with the KVK staffs for all their issues.

Dr. Arnab Sen, Principal Scientist (Veterinary Microbiology) ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam in his speech inculcate the farmers that it is the farmers to bring change. Technological experts will always be available for the farming community. Dr. C.L. Verma, Senior Scientist, ICAR – CSSRI, Lucknow instills the farmers that farming is a divine work and asked them to uphold dignity in their work.

Ts. Gladney Monsang, District Agriculture Officer, Chandel while delivering her speech has asked the farmers to avail subsidiary under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme. She informed the

scheme will made available affordable farm mechanization thereby reducing cultivation cost and enhancing their productivity.

Ksh. Prava Devi, District Officer, Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Chandel also informed the farmers to approach her office for any assistant and encourage the farmers to adopt shiitake mushroom production for doubling income.

Dr. I. Meghachandra Singh, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region Manipur Centre in his speech requested the farmers to check deforestation and approach ICAR and KVK for any technological assistance. He also encouraged the farmers to adopt Integrated Farming System Model. During the programme, three value added products – Guava burfi, Black rice burfi and Casava cheese developed by KVK Chandel were also released in the presence of the dignitaries. Input of winter crops' seed like garden pea, coriander, reddish, cabbage, lentil and poultry birds were distributed to the farmers.

Thereafter, Scientist – Farmer interaction programme was conducted. Around 83 farmers from Chandel District attend the programme. The programme was also attended by Ng. Vincent, Chief – Monsangpantha Village, Chandel; Dr. Ch. Basudha Devi, Sr. Scientist (Fishery), ICAR – Manipur Centre; Dr. Kh. Rishikanta Singh, Sr. Scientist (Agri. Economics), ICAR – Manipur Centre; Dr. Ak Ratan Kumar Singh, Sr. Scientist (Plant Pathology), ICAR – Manipur Centre; Dr. N. Umakanta Singh, Scientist, (Agri. Biotechnology), ICAR – Manipur Centre; Dr. Tensubam Basanta Singh, Scientist (Soil Science), ICAR – Manipur Centre; Dr. Chongtham Sonia, Scientist (Poultry Science), ICAR – Manipur Centre; W. Anand Meitei, Scientist (Fishery), ICAR – Manipur Centre and Dr. Hb. Wangam Anal, VO, Veterinary Department, Chandel and staff of KVK Chandel.

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Minister Nemcha Kipgen inaugurates...

During the technical session, a presentation on various topics namely current industrial scenario of Manipur, AgriTech, MSME of NER, Bamboo Technology and Opportunities of Bhutan with NER was delivered by L. Ibetombi Devi, Manager, NSIC, Government of India,

Yasuo Taniguchi, CEO – Long Term Industrial Development Co. Ltd. (Japan), CS. Sudha Sarma, Partner, Mamta Binani & Associates, Assam, Marie Wakino, Administration & Marketing Officer – Long Term Industrial Development Co. Ltd. (Japan), Ru Yi Ong, Advisor – Taiwan

Technical Textile Association (Taiwan) and Pema Chhoki, Chairperson, Bumthang Luckyson Kashung, Additional Secretary, Department of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Government of Manipur, Joel Haokip, MD, MFICL also graced the inaugural session.

War on Drug: Kangpokpi Forest....

It may be mentioned that Kanglatongbi Kangpokpi Reserved Forest was notified as Reserved Forest vide order No.55/10/68-M dated 3rd July 1968 of the Secretariat – Forest Branch, Government of Manipur. The Divisional Forest Officer, Kangpokpi Forest Division, N. Ganesh warned those fringe villages of KK RF, that stern action will be taken up for those who are indulged in Poppy Cultivation in RF areas. He also stated that an Investigation will be initiated by the Division in coordination with Police and NAB and the cul-

prits will be booked under both Indian Forest Act 1927 and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. He lauded the Forest staffs for their vigil on the Reserved Forests. He also stated that Real time monitoring of Reserved Forest based on Satellite Imagery every fortnight is the need of the hour, given the vast tracts of Forest Lands and poor Forest staffs strength.

The DFO reiterated that as per Section 26 of Indian Forest Act, 1927, trespassing, making fresh clearings, breaking up of land for cul-

tivation or other purposes inside a Reserved Forest are prohibited. As such, any person found to have committed such illegal activities shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both, in addition to such compensation for damage done to the forest as the convicting Court may direct to pay. He appealed to the public to refrain from trespassing and committing any offence inside the Reserved Forest and come forward help to identify those responsible for such heinous activities.

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

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 4:

Droupadi Murmu, the President of India on her visit to Mizoram inaugurated the permanent North-East Campus of Indian Institute of Mass Communication North East at Aizawl today. The Campus shall be running the post graduate diploma courses in English Journalism and Digital Media besides short duration media & communication courses.

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is a premiere Institute of Journalism in the country. With the main Campus in New Delhi, IIMC has five regional campuses at Dhenkanal in Odisha, Aizawl in Mizoram, Jammu in J&K, Kottayam in Kerala and Amravati in Maharashtra. The Regional Campuses have been set up with the aim of catering to different

regions and meeting the need of media education across the country. Speaking on the occasion, the President said "I am happy to inaugurate the permanent campus of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Aizawl which will be a boost to the media and mass communication studies in the entire North East. IIMC is an esteemed institution which provides a dynamic learning and working environment which nurture new ideas, creativity, research and develop leaders and

innovators in the domain of media and mass communication."

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 was completed in 2019. The total cost is Rs 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.

Rongmei celebrates the '3rd Rongmei....

During the programme, "Rani Gaidinliu Award" was also awarded to G. Namgai, former President of Rongmei Naga People Organisation (RNPO) in recognition of his work in uplifting the Rongmei Naga Tribe.

This is the biggest gathering of Rongmei people in Delhi-NCR held every year to welcome the freshers and to come together as one people and help promote each other to be better in life. The programme was also meant to bring people together with the aim to build strong community bonding, to connect/reconnect the youngsters with their culture, to revive traditional songs, dances,

traditional attires, and traditional rich cuisines.

Aniam Gangmei presented a Rongmei folk song. Kamei, Nchumsuiliu T Panmei enthralled the audience with their dances. Many Rongmei artistes including Gugu Ruangmei, Kajingam Gangmei, Ambrose D Kamei, Mathiuthuan Riamei, Rachel Panmei, Lulu kamang Gangmei, Daisinlung Meiringmei enthralled the audience with their singing.

Kanchuiliu Panmei and Sumgailung Gangmei led the program as the Master of ceremony (Compers). The program concluded with a vote of thanks from Peichun

Gangmei, RCPD President (Program Co-Convener) and pazeihmei, a traditional way of dancing and singing together.

The organizing committee extended our heartfelt gratitude to all the official sponsors of the programme namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AICIL) and Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the donors and well wishers. In addition, we express our sincere thanks to all the participants and to all who came to witness our historic event.

Sports

T20 World Cup: New Zealand stays top of group 1 after 35-run win over Ireland

Agency
Adelaide, Nov 4:

The last few weeks were challenging for Kane Williamson. With questions being raised over his strike rate at No.3, the New Zealand captain knew he had to accelerate in the middle-overs to get back his rhythm.

At a sunny Adelaide Oval on Friday afternoon, Williamson played a captain's knock with a 61 off 35 balls (5x4, 3x6) as New Zealand defeated Ireland by 35 runs to stay at the top of Group 1.

Put in to bat, Finn Allen and Devon Conway started cautiously against a disciplined Irish bowling attack. They took their time to adapt to the conditions and the pace of Josh Little (three for 22), who went on to claim a hat-trick, before forging a 52-run opening partnership.

Allen, who started off the tournament with a dashing innings against Australia a fortnight ago, hammered leggie Gareth Delany for three fours – including two on the consecutive deliveries – in the fourth



over. He kept going with a six and a four off pacer Mark Adair before the latter caught him at mid-off on the next ball.

Conway stood in a 44-run stand with Williamson, but found it difficult to accelerate. But Williamson came out of his comfort zone and played quite an uncharacteristic innings, hitting Fionn Hand for a couple of fours and a six. Through the New Zealand net session on Thursday morning, Williamson took off his helmet and changed his batting approach – he went after every ball, using brute force rather than his usual style of caressing the ball. And that sort of preparation helped the seasoned campaigner.

New Zealand lost a bit of track in the middle with Delany taking two wickets including Glenn Phillips for 17. But Williamson held fort to build a long 60-run partnership with Daryl Mitchell, and in the 18th over of the innings, the captain brought up his fifty with a six off McCarthy. He followed it up with a four and slammed another 91-metre six over deep midwicket.

New Zealand was cruising at 174 for three in the 19th over when left-arm quick Little dismissed Williamson, James Neesham and Mitchell Santner on successive balls to become the second cricketer after UAE's

Karthik Meiyappan to claim a hat-trick in this tournament.

New Zealand ended up scoring 185 for six and eventually managed to restrict the Irishmen to 150 for nine.

Against a top-quality New Zealand bowling line-up, Ireland openers Andrew Balbirnie and Paul Stirling started off perfectly, reaching 68-0 in eight overs. Captain Balbirnie, who has been in prime form, hit a couple of sixes off Ish Sodhi in the seventh over before falling to Mitchell Santner. In the first ball of the next over, Sodhi cleaned up Stirling to dent the momentum.

After the openers departed, Ireland needed a steady partnership, but with Santner and Sodhi tightening the noose, the middle-order failed to convert the start.

Lorcan Tucker, who had a memorable outing against Australia in the previous game, offered a catch to Allen at long-off, mistiming Sodhi's leg-break outside the off. George Dockrell did make an attempt to steady the ship, but that wasn't adequate for the Irishmen.

Indian Men's Squash team wins first ever gold in Asian Championships

Agency
Cheongju (Korea)

Indian men's squash team won its first-ever gold medal at the Asian Team Championships in Cheongju, Korea on Friday.

India beat Kuwait 2-0 in the summit clash.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist **Saurav Ghosal** beat Ammar Altamimi 3-0 (11-9, 11-2, 11-3) after

Ramit Tandon defeated Ali Aramezi 3-0 (11-5, 11-7, 11-4) to seal the victory. Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthil Kumar, National Games gold and silver medallists respectively, were the other two team members.

The men's team had previously won silver medal on two occasions.

On Thursday, the women's team – National Games gold medallist Sunayna Kuruvilla,

silver medallist Urwashi Joshi, and bronze medallists Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna – had lost 1-2 to Malaysia in the semifinals, finishing the campaign with a bronze medal.

The men's team had won all five of its group stage matches before beating Malaysia 2-1 in the semifinals. On the other hand, the women's team finished second in its group before going down to Malaysia in the last-four fixture.

FIFA World Cup: Ticketless fans can enter Qatar after group stage

Agency
Qatar, Nov 4:

Qatar relaxed limits Thursday on international visitors arriving during the World Cup and will allow entry for fans without tickets from Dec. 2 when the group stage ends.

Fans will still need to apply for and get a Hayya Card tournament identification document before traveling but a match ticket will no longer be mandatory to enter, Qatari World Cup organizers said.

About 1.2 million international visitors are expected to come to the tiny emirate during the month-long tournament with ticket sales approaching 3 million for the 64 games.

The maximum demand on Qatar's limited stock of accommodation – including hotels, apartments, hired cruise ships and campsites – is when all 32 teams are competing in the group stage that starts Nov. 20.

Fans are being encouraged

to stay in neighboring states and take flights to Doha for games.

The pressure should ease when just 16 nations will advance to the knockout rounds that start Dec. 3. The final is on Dec. 18, which is Qatar's national day.

Qatar is the smallest World Cup host nation by size since Switzerland in 1954. All eight stadiums built in and around the city of Doha can be reached by metro trains and buses.