

CM inaugurates MANITEX, distributes financial assistance through DBT under National Handloom Development Programme

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today inaugurated MANITEX, Manipur International Textile Expo at the Urban Haat Nilakuthi. The Expo which will continue till November 14, 2022 is organized by the Directorate of Handlooms & Textiles.

The Chief Minister also launched Mega handloom Cluster of Imphal East, laid foundation of Craft Handloom Village, Moirang and distributed financial assistance to weavers with Aadhar Linked bank Account Numbers through DBT under the National Handloom Development Programme.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the inaugural function, the Chief Minister said the financial assistance through DBT will be distributed to around 15,450 handloom weavers and boatmen with a total outlay of around Rs. 23.4815 crore.

Today, beneficiaries of different schemes received funds directly transferred to their accounts, the Chief Minister said, highlighting that funds are transferred directly to farmers, weavers, old age pensioners, scheme beneficiaries, etc. under different schemes.

N. Biren Singh also acknowledged womenfolk's contribution in the State's economy. Our people have the potential, talents and especially womenfolk are courageous and brave, he said, further highlighting the respect and popularity the State's Ima Keithels have garnered in national and international platforms.

Considering that some businessmen are trying to monopolize the yam business, the government has decided to establish a wholesaler of yarn at Ima Keithel so that weavers can get them at cheaper price, he highlighted.

The Chief Minister stated that considering instances of



mass production of traditional cloths like the Khudei, Phanek, enaphi, etc. by using machines outside the State which are made available at a cheaper price to control the market, shops and business houses have been instructed that such traditional items which are handmade should

not be replaced by machine made copies.

N. Biren Singh also highlighted the developmental changes witnessed in the State and said we have left behind the days of unrest, disturbances. There is peace and a feeling of oneness and sharing among the people of the

Sangai Festival, N. Biren Singh also encouraged the people to witness the extravaganza, and said people can visit the venues freely after November 15.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the government's target to provide 100 percent drinking water pipelines to all households in the State.

Power, Forest, Environment & Agriculture Minister Th. Biswajit Singh said MANITEX was upgraded to International Textile Expo from being a national and regional level expo from 2018 onwards with the main objective of promoting the weavers and their products on the international platform.

The State's weavers have the huge potential, the Minister said, adding that, according to the 2019-20 National Handloom Census Report the State had 2.12 lakh handloom weavers, 2.11 lakh looms and 2 lakh handicraft artisans.

Textiles, Commerce & Industry Minister Nemcha Kipgen said MANITEX has

the main objective of showcasing the State's handlooms, handicrafts, dyeing & printing, powerloom, garment, embroidery and costume to the outside world.

The Expo will also have a Fashion Parade, she said.

This year, the Expo has 274 stalls including local weavers, artisans, entrepreneurs, local private companies, national level organizations, international stalls from Thailand, Bangladesh and Myanmar, food court, State government departments, etc.

The inaugural function was also attended by Minister CAP & PD, PHED Minister L. Susindro Meitei, Transport Minister Kashim Vashum, Manipur Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd Chairman, Kh. Ibomcha, Khundrakpam MLA Th. Lokeshwar Singh, Moirang MLA Thongam Shanti Singh, Kshetrigao MLA Sheikh Noorul Hassan, Irbangbam Nalini Devi, among others.

Three value added products from locally available horticultural Crops launched

IT News
Chandel, Nov 5:

Three value added products from locally available horticultural Crops – Guava burfi, Black Scented rice burfi and Cassava cheese developed by Dr. Y. Prabhavati Devi, SMS, Home-Science were launched by Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam during farmers Scientists interaction programme cum Input distribution of Rabi crops held at the Conference Hall of KVK, Chandel ICAR, Manipur Center.

The programme was attended by Dr. Anab Sen, Principal Scientist (Veterinary Medicine)



crobiology) 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.

AR seized drugs worth 70 lakhs



IT News
Imphal, Nov 5:

Modi Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) seized narcotics from Molnoi village, Chandel District on November 3.

Based on specific input re-

garding a cache of contraband items, a search party was sent in general area Molnoi Village on November 3.

On thorough search of the jungle, troops of Assam Rifles recovered 25 soap cases containing Brown Sugar weigh-

ing 350gms.

The seized narcotics assessed to be worth approximately Rs 70,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Lakhs) in the international market, were handed over to Tengnoupal Police Station for further investigation.

Eewai (The Ripple) officially selected for the 11th Delhi Short International Film Festival, 2022

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5:

While cine goes are feeling the importance of Delhi Short International Film Festival, Manipur short film "EWAII (The Ripple)" has officially been selected for the eleventh edition of this prestigious festival. The overwhelming short fiction is directed by Bishwamitra, written by Rebika Okram and produced by Samir Thingbajiam for the banner Nongdol Mamikol with National Awarded Tonthoi in the lead role.

Director Bishwamitra says, "It's my great privilege that my shortie "The Ripple" gets a room in the precised arena of 11th Delhi Short International Film Festival, 2022. I do feel the sensitive transparency of Festival."

The Ripple is about con-



temporary relevance of traditional norms and customary laws and its impact to mothers of Meitei community of Manipur.

The film has got entries in many other International Film Festival too.

Blood Donation Camp held at RIMS Hospital

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5:

Indian Dental Association, Manipur State Branch in association with Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Dental College, RIMS Imphal organized a Blood Donation Camp today at Department of Transfusion Medicine, RIMS Hospital, Imphal. The blood donation camp was organized for 2nd time of this year 2022 as an aid to help patients who are in need in the Department of Transfusion Medicine, RIMS, Imphal. A total numbers of 27 of donors including doctors donated blood in the camp.

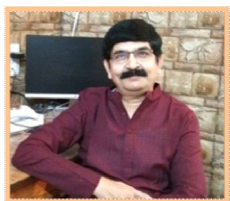
During the program, Dr. B. Gokulchandra Sharma, President, IDA Manipur State Branch, MSBR, Dr. Kojiam



Sashikumar Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Dental College, RIMS and Honorary Secretary, IDA Manipur State Branch, Dr. Deepak Ningombam Singh, Assistant Professor, Dental

College RIMS, Imphal, Dr. Netai Debnath, Assistant Professor, Dental College, RIMS, Imphal, Dr. Tanya Nandkeoliar, Assistant Professor, Dental College, RIMS, Imphal and staff were participated.

“Clean Goa, Green Goa”



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Tourism is linked to the environment first, in terms of promoting places of natural beauty and second, in providing resources for the functioning of the industry. In a place like Goa, tourist accommodations for one have large and expensive energy requirements, especially for cooling systems and lighting. To keep Goa beautiful, we must raise public awareness and together make a disciplined, concerted effort to manage the estimated 400 tonnes of waste generated throughout Goa every day.

Keep Goa Beautiful is an initiative by Goa Streets to mobilise the community and stop this garbage madness. Green Goa Works has accomplished much, but a much greater effort is required to solve Goa's garbage mess. We must remember that Goa is not going to be 100% clean, that is, unless every person takes responsibility and does his bit, we won't have results. Every citizen should act responsibly and take care of their own garbage. If waste is collected, segregated and disposed off in the right way, half the problem will be solved.

There's no denying that booming tourism has scored major plus points for both the locals and the state's economy. A long term vision for Goa that is rooted in sustainability, conservation and preservation is crucial.

A number of such initiatives have come into fruition and continue to do so as Goa continues to devise creative ways of not just seeing that the state survives, but thrives. Local government also introduced 'agri-tourism' to the state to heighten awareness of local agriculture to tourists and encourage them to buy locally-grown produce from markets and street vendors in a bid to boost the income of Goa's farmers. A good plan is one that recognizes the State's green assets, and Goa is blessed with pristine beauty, rich biodiversity, and complex man-made natural systems harnessing these natural resources in the most sustainable and non intrusive way.

Changing rooms on the beach, washroom facilities, information centers, garbage management systems, and wastewater management systems have long been absent, and no steps have been taken to remedy this basic infrastructure requirement.

Goa is water rich due to the fact that it receives a high amount of rainfall, and yet it faces water scarcity in many areas, particularly during the summer. Garbage and wastewater management systems must be made mandatory. Completely clean Goa of garbage and grey water/sewage, and have in place decentralized micro systems that use low energy, natural methods of recycling to reuse waste and garbage as a resource.

A number of intensive protection and rehabilitation measures have been taken recently that makes for a cleaner and greener change in Goa's outlook.

COP27: A promise or cheat, but the Planet is dying



By: N. Munal Meitei

This year COP27 at Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh from 6 to 18 November, 2022 will focus particular attention on strengthening climate adaptation and resilience, mitigating emissions, facilitating a just transition, and increasing funding and collaboration for essential climate solutions. It's the litmus test for how seriously the governments are taking action to fight back the growing climate crisis around the globe. On every climate front, the only solution is solidarity and decisive action.

Climate action is an ongoing process, not an event, and it requires extraordinary collaboration. COP27 is a critical opportunity for business and governments to double down on their climate goals, forge new collaborations and achieve innovative solutions together.

Faced with a growing energy crisis, record greenhouse gas concentrations and increasing extreme weather events, this meet seeks renewed solidarity between countries, to deliver on the landmark of

the Paris Agreement, for people and the planet.

Climate disasters are hurting countries and economies like never before. Ever-rising greenhouse gas emissions are supercharging extreme weather events across the planet. These increasing calamities cost lives and hundreds of billions of rupees in loss and damage. Three times more people are displaced by climate disasters than war. Half of humanity is already in the danger zone.

The world is failing to invest in protecting the lives and livelihoods of those on the front line who have done the least to cause the climate crisis but paying the highest price. Entire populations are being blindsided by cascading climate disasters without any means of prior alert. People need adequate warning to prepare for extreme weather events. Delivering on loss and damage at COP27 will be an important test for rebuilding trust between developed and developing countries.

Extreme weather events will happen. The climate impacts are seeing around the world on daily basis. A third of Pakistan flooded. Europe is hottest summer in 500 years. The Philippines hammered. The whole of Cuba in black-out. And here, in the United States, Hurricane Ian has delivered a brutal reminder that no country and no economy are immune from the climate crisis. While climate chaos gallops ahead, climate action has stalled.

COP27 is critical – but we have

a long way to go. The collective commitments of G20 countries are coming far too little and far too late. The actions of the wealthiest developed and emerging economies simply don't add up.

Taken together, current pledges and policies are shutting the doors on their chance to limit global temperature rise to 2°C, let alone meet the 1.5°C goal. We are in a life-or-death struggle for our own safety today and our survival tomorrow. There is no time for pointing fingers or twiddling thumbs. We also need to see meaningful progress in two other key areas: decisions and actions to address loss and damage that are beyond countries' abilities to adapt and finance for climate action.

It is time for a game-changing, quantum level compromise between developed and emerging economies. The world cannot wait. Emissions are at an all-time high and rising. Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine is putting climate action on the back burner while the planet itself is burning.

Climate is a moral imperative that cannot be ignored and COP27 must be the place for action on loss and damage. This is the number one litmus test of how seriously both developed and developing governments take action the growing climate toll on the most vulnerable countries.

On finance, the world needs clarity from developed countries on where they are this year on the delivery of their \$100 billion dol-

lars a year promise to support climate action in developing countries. We need to see evidence of how they will double adaptation finance to at least \$40 billion dollars in 2025, as agreed in Glasgow.

Funding for adaptation and resilience must represent at least half of all climate finance. And the Multilateral Banks - including the World Bank - must raise their game including Resilience and Sustainability. Emerging economies in particular need their support to back the renewable energy revolution and build resilience. Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable middle-income countries need access to concessional finance for adaptation to protect their communities and infrastructure.

Leaders of the world should demonstrate this time that climate action truly is the top global priority that it must be. Moreover, adaptation and resilience funding must represent half of all climate finance and emerging economies need support to back renewable energy and build resilience. \$40 billion is only a fraction of the \$300 billion that will be needed annually by developing countries for adaptation by 2030.

The best way is to show up it at COP 27 next month. Not just a promise but to act into a real action. Everyone must take full part and tell the world that climate action is the most vital need of the hour for nations and the planet.

(The author is an Environmentalist, Email-nmunall@yahoo.in)

Reading habits should never die in the internet age



By: Vijay GarG

Is reading dying or flourishing in the internet age? It's a popular saying that a room without books is like a body without a soul. But unfortunately, since the last few years, it is a sad reflection that the culture of reading has also persistently been declining not only in country but all around the world. As a result, we are growing more intolerant and biased in our social behaviours which is also indicative of our intellectual decay. The strength of people in libraries is decreasing with every passing day. Newspaper vendors are shutting shops, children are

not reading anymore.

The habit of book reading is declining when we talk about reading physical books, newspapers, etc, but not digital reading. Reading isn't dying. People, in a sense, read all the time. Whether it be this prompt, social media messages, notifications and news reports, people are always reading. But the reading span has drastically reduced. We are now scrolling, not actually reading enough to hold our attention.

The root of the problem lies in our flawed education system that doesn't encourage students to read books other than their specified textbooks. Parents also do not encourage their children to read any more. The popularity of digital devices and the internet has also brought a decline in book reading habits. The truth of the day is that digital addiction is shrinking our memories and eroding our attention span. Fear is growing that unless we learn to unplug now, we will become the slaves of technology. According to a study by Microsoft, an average human being now has an attention span of eight seconds. This is a sharp decrease from 12 seconds in the year 2000. By the way, the attention of a goldfish is put at nine seconds.

The art of reading, the fundamental skill, which is the passport to all learning, is losing its charm fast. But it needs to be revived. We need to start from scratch. Capabilities of reflection, analogical understanding, critical inquiry, and empathy are developed by in-depth readings. Digital reading, especially if introduced in early childhood, encourages skimming while discouraging reflective interaction with the text. To revive the diminishing culture of reading, what we immediately need is to inculcate the love for books in our children. Besides, an extended network of public libraries coupled with readers clubs can rejuvenate this habit. Moreover, a media campaign can also play a vital role in rescuing this shredding culture. The importance of reading needs to be stressed and restored among children and adults alike. They should be told that spending time on something worth is never wasted and what's more worth than reading a book. Weaving the digital way of education with the old style of studying may go a long way in reviving the age-old learning tradition. Reading habits should never die.



By: Shahnaz Husain

The rising air pollution has become a buzzword nowadays and is affecting the normal functioning of life due to toxic air and a heavy blanket of smog. Airborne pollutants on human skin can contribute to skin aging, atopic dermatitis, skin discoloration, eczema, psoriasis, and acne and can be absorbed through the skin into the body, causing a wide range of diseases. While pollution takes a toll on the environment and health but it also affects natural beauty very adversely. Pollution breaks down collagen and oxidizes the lipid layer in the skin, which impairs skin barrier function. Smog particles result in dehydration, sensitivity, uneven skin tone, dullness, acne, and premature aging.

Highly toxic air containing smoke, soot, acid, and other pollutants severely affects the skin by draining away skin moisture which leads to allergies and pigmentation spots on the forehead and cheeks on dry and rough skin.

The toxic haze hanging in the sky cause uneven skin tone, accelerated ageing, wrinkles, and black spot on the face

Among the other organs of the body, the skin is also one of the first to bear the brunt of air pollutants, which not only attack the skin's surface but also lead to an accumulation of toxins. In fact, they are potent skin irritants. There are both long and short-term effects of pollutants. Chemical pollutants cause oxidation

Pollution affects Beauty

damage and this can lead to the manifestation of premature ageing signs on the skin, like wrinkles, loss of elasticity, dark patches, spots, etc. Chemical pollutants also disrupt the normal balance of the skin and scalp, leading to problems like dryness, sensitivity, rashes, acne, irritation or allergic reactions, dandruff, and related conditions. They also make the skin and hair dull, lacking vitality. All of us who live and work in urban areas need protective beauty care, whether we are housewives or working women. Of course, for working women, the job may involve traveling long distances to work. The skin is thus more exposed to the pollutants in the air.

Cleansing of the skin assumes more importance in order to get rid of the impurities and pollutants that are deposited on the skin. If you have dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel. Deep clean the skin at night, neutralize it with antioxidants and create a barrier with sunscreen. Include antioxidants in your diet and skincare regime. Citrus fruits contain Vitamin C, E, and limonene which lower the risk of cancer and protect your skin from damage. Avoid cleansers containing Sodium lauryl sulphate and sodium laureth sulphates or denatured alcohols as they dry out the skin and can damage our skin barrier over time.

Use skincare rich in antioxidants. Pamper your skin with sheet masks or hydrating overnight masks to repair the damage.

For oily skin, cleansing milk or face wash may be used. For oily skin, also use a facial scrub after cleansing. Look out for products with ingredients like sandalwood, eucalyptus, mint, neem, tulsi, aloe vera, etc., when you buy cleansers. The anti-toxic and tonic properties of such ingredients have helped in clearing the skin congestion and eruptions that result from exposure to chemical pollutants. Aloe vera, for example, is also a powerful moisturizer and an anti-oxidant. So are ingredients

like apricot kernel oil, carrot seed, wheat germ oil, etc. the skin needs to be protected. If the skin is prone to eruptive conditions like acne, pimples, or rash, it should be protected with specialized creams that not only protect but also reduce oiliness and deal with the problem.

After cleansing, wipe the skin with a rose-based skin tonic or rose water, to complete the cleansing process and refresh the skin. Soak cotton wool in chilled rose water and tone the skin with it, patting briskly. It also improves blood circulation to the skin's surface and adds a glow. Green tea also makes a good skin toner. If there is a rash or eruptions, add a little rose water to the sandalwood paste and apply it to the face. Wash off with plain water after 15 minutes.

Anti-pollution cosmetics help to provide protection and reduce the damage caused by environmental effects. These are basically "cover creams" that form a barrier between the skin and pollutants. Sandalwood protective cream is very useful to protect the skin from environmental effects. It forms a transparent protective cover. Sandalwood soothes the skin and protects it from irritative reactions and eruptive conditions. It suits all skin types and increases the skin's moisture retention ability too.

The hair also needs frequent washing if one regularly travels long distances for their work. Pollutants also collect on the scalp. Shampoo, hair rinses, serums, and conditioners help to restore normal balance if they contain ingredients like Amla, Brahmi, Triphala, Bhringraj, and Henna. They also coat the hair and form a protective cover. Mix one teaspoon each of vinegar and honey with one egg. Massage the mixture lightly into the scalp. Leave on for half an hour and then wash the hair. Rinse well with water.

Or, give the hair hot oil therapy. Heat pure coconut oil and apply it to the hair. Then dip a

towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Leave the oil on overnight and wash your hair the next day.

The impurities and pollutants can also affect the eyes, causing burning or redness. The eyes should be washed with plain water several times. Soak cotton wool pads in chilled rose water and use them over the eyes as eye pads. Lie down and relax for fifteen minutes. This really helps to remove fatigue and brightens the eyes.

If one is also exposed to cold weather, poor diet, a lack of sleep, or simply stress, as many of us are. In the presence of any of these factors along with pollution, the quality of the skin can become further diminished.

To brighten the skin and even skin tone, I recommend products containing Vitamin C to be used in conjunction with richer creams. Deeply moisturizing creams can truly help repair and hydrate the skin.

Use an air purifier with a humidifier at home and the workplace to lessen the effects of pollution. Humidifiers make the air breathable and maintain the room's humidity. Eat your greens, Vitamin C rich foods, jaggery and drink loads of fluids rich in antioxidants. Antioxidants can neutralize the effects of pollutants. Lemon, orange, Amla, green vegetables, grapefruit, tomatoes and potatoes are some examples of Vitamin C rich foods.

My advice is while rely on healthy eating, drinking water, and regular exercise to keep your skin healthy. Making the right choices about our skincare regimen is an equally or even more important part of a successful beauty routine.

It's a rough deal for your skin, but there are plenty of ways to care for it in the face of pollution.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India)

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India's first 'spy' satellite that helped in planning surgical strikes, returns home after 13-year sentinel duty

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5:

After serving as a sentinel for more than ten years, India's first "Eye in the Sky" makes its way back to the planet. In order to keep its borders and seas secure, India launched its first dedicated "spy" or reconnaissance satellite, ISRO's radar-imaging RISAT-2, soon after the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks.

Its images were also used for launching surgical strikes twice in Pakistan. On October 30, RISAT-2 re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and splashed in the Indian Ocean near Jakarta.

For an initial design life of four years, RISAT-2 carried 30 kg of fuel. However, despite being designed for only four years, it served its function for

13.5 years, contributing significantly to various counter terrorism and anti-infiltration operations.

The surgical attack on the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) terror launchpads in 2016 and the aerial strike on Balakot in February 2019 were both planned with the aid of satellite images by security and intelligence agencies.

Because Israel Aerospace Industries' X-band synthetic-aperture radar served as the main sensor for RISAT-2, Israel contributed to its construction.

Due to a delay in the locally built C-band for the RISAT-1 satellite, the launch of RISAT-2 was hastened after the 26/11 terrorist attacks in 2008. RISAT-2 was launched on April 20, 2009, three years before RISAT-1 on April 26, 2012, for this rea-

son. The satellite could monitor all weather conditions and could see day and night.

Additionally, it was employed to monitor hostile ships that were considered a security threat in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea.

The satellite was also utilised in rescue operations, such as the search for and location of the helicopter crash wreckage on September 2, 2009, that claimed the lives of the then-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy and other passengers.

ISRO reported that on October 30, RISAT-2 conducted an unplanned re-entry into Earth's atmosphere at the anticipated impact location in the Indian Ocean close to Jakarta. The ISRO spacecraft operations team planned the mission and kept the satellite in the

right orbit, and by using fuel wisely, RISAT-2 delivered very valuable payload data for more than 13 years.

The radar payload services of RISAT-2 have been made available since its injection, according to the ISRO.

"On re-entry, there was no fuel left in the satellite and hence there was no contamination or explosion... Studies confirmed that the pieces generated due to aero-thermal fragmentation would not have survived re-entry heating and hence no fragments would have impacted on the Earth," according to studies.

ISRO's dedication to the long-term sustainability of outer space was demonstrated by RISAT-2's compliance with all relevant international mitigation criteria for space debris, the company claimed.

India logs 1,082 fresh COVID-19 cases; one death reported from Sikkim

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5:

India's coronavirus tally climbed to 4,46,59,447 on Saturday with 1,082 fresh infections, while the number of active cases declined to 15,200, according to the Union health ministry data.

The toll due to the viral infection climbed to 5,30,486 with seven fatalities, including two deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate has

increased to 98.78 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

A decrease of 505 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 4,41,13,761 and the case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent.

So far, 219.71 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered under the nationwide vaccination drive, according to the ministry's website.

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

on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 3 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 last year, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year.

Of the five deaths reported in the span of 24 hours, two were from Delhi and one each from Maharashtra, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh.

Joint Military Training-2022 with Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF)

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 5:

The 11th edition of the annual Joint Military Training (JMT) between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Singapore Air Force (RSAF) commenced at Air Force Station, Kalaikunda at Kharagpur in West Bengal on Thursday.

This edition of JMT would be conducted over a period of six weeks. The bilateral phase of the exercise will be conducted from November 09 till November 18 and will see the two Air Forces engage in advanced air combat simulations, an official statement read.

The RSAF is participating in JMT-2022 with F-16 aircraft, while the IAF would field the Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, MiG-29 and LCA Tejas aircraft. The exercise underscores the strong and longstanding relationship between India and Singapore in the domain of defence cooperation. It seeks to provide the participating contingents with an opportunity to share valuable operational knowledge and best practices, while strengthening the professional bonds between the two Air Forces.

The two Air Forces have resumed this training after a gap of two years since the training could not be carried out in the intervening two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Military exercises of



The RSAF officer called on an IAF officer during Joint Military Training at Air Force Station, Kalaikunda, West Bengal.

India are divided into three categories: Domestic Exercise: The purpose of the domestic military exercise is to improve internal engagements and intra-service and inter-service among all the forces. Bilateral Exercise: These military exercises are held between two countries. Multilateral Exercise: These military exercises involve the militaries of more than two countries.

Some of the exercises are: India and Australia: Army-Austra Hind, Navy-Ausindex, India and Bangladesh: Army-Sampriti, Navy-Ind-BN Corpat, Air Force-Table To Ex, India and France: Army-Shakti, Navy-Varuna, Air Force-

Garuda, India and Indonesia: Army-Garuda Shakti, Navy-Ind-Indo Corpat, India and Japan: Army-Dharma Gurdian, Navy-JIMEX, India and Kazakhstan: Army-Parbal Dostyk and India and Kyrgyzstan: Army-Khanjar.

India and Maldives: Army-Ekuvirin, India and Mongolialdives: Army-Nomadic Elephant, India and Myanmar: Army-IMBEX, Navy-IMCOR, India and Nepal: Army-Surya Kiran, India and Oman: Army-Al Nagah, Naseem-al-Bahr, Air Force-Eastern Bridge-IV, India and Russia: Army-Indra, Navy-Indra Navy, Air Force-Indra, India and Seychelles: Army-Lamitye

and India and Sri Lanka: Army-Mira Shakti.

As friendly countries participate in joint military exercises, it leads to positive operational interactions and improves the capabilities of the armed forces in a variety of different war fighting areas. The latest tactical and technological methods, procedures, etc., are exchanged during such joint military exercises. Although this is a continuous process, appropriate action is occasionally made to involve friendly countries and broaden the scope of exercises based on the idea of mutual benefit and the participating country's strategic needs.

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5:

Bypoll to the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat which fell vacant following the death of Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav will be held on December 5 along with byelections to five assembly constituencies spread across as many states, the Election Commission said on Saturday.

Yadav had passed away last month following prolonged illness.

The Rampur assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh which fell vacant following the disqualification of SP leader Mohammad

Azam Khan is one of the five seats going for the bypolls.

Khan, who was the Rampur MLA, was disqualified by the speaker after he was convicted and sentenced to three-year imprisonment in a case of hate speech registered against him in April 2019.

Sardarshahar assembly constituency in Rajasthan's Churu district, another constituency that goes to the bypoll, fell vacant after the death of Congress MLA Bhanwar Lal Sharma on October 9.

He was 77. With his death, the Congress now has 107 out of the 200 MLAs in the

Rajasthan assembly.

The BJP has 71 MLA, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party three, CPI(M) and Bhartiya Tribal Party two each, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) one and 13 are Independent MLAs.

One seat is vacant. Padampur in Odisha, Kurhani in Bihar and Bhanupratappur in Chhattisgarh are the other assembly seats where bypolls will be held.

The counting of votes will be held on December 8 to coincide with the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh ballot count.

India expresses concern as North Korea launches missiles capable of carrying nuclear warhead

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5:

India on Saturday told the United Nations that it supports denuclearisation in the Korean peninsula, asserting that it was in the "collective interest".

Ruchira Kamboj, India's permanent representative to the United Nations, made the statement at the Security Council against the backdrop of the intercontinental ballistic missile launched by North Korea on November 3. The launch had reportedly failed.

The intercontinental ballistic missiles are North Korea's longest-range weapons and are designed to carry a nuclear warhead to the other side of the planet.

A day before this launch, North Korea had fired 23 missiles towards South Korea.

North Korea has argued its weapons tests are meant to be a warning to the United States-South Korea joint military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal.

South Korea on Friday allegedly scrambled stealth jets after it detected that 180 North Korean warplanes had been mobilised, AFP reported.

On Saturday, Kamboj said that the missile launches violated the Security Council resolutions related to North Korea.

"They affect the peace and



Caption - India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj.

security of the region and beyond," she said. "India calls for full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions relating to North Korea."

In January, the United Nations Security Council adopted nine sanctions resolutions on North Korea in response to the country's nuclear and missile activities since 2006.

Each resolution rebukes

North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile activity and has urged the country to cease its illicit activity.

UN Secretary General António Guterres on Saturday also criticised North Korea for launching missiles. He urged the country to refrain from taking any provocative action and to follow international obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions, ANI reported.

SC notice to Centre on PIL seeking revival of 'Women's Reservation Bill'

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5:

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday sought a response from the Central government on public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the National Federation of Indian Women seeking the revival of the 'Women's Reservation Bill' that lapsed in Parliament eight years ago.

Raising the matter in March this year, a bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and JK Maheshwari directed the Centre to file a response within six weeks and gave three additional weeks to the petitioner

to respond to the affidavit to be filed by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

"Patriarchal mindset of our society has led to the oppression of women denying them their rightful status as equals. This can only be changed if women are placed in positions of authority to effectively bring about such alterations," read the PIL drafted by advocate Prashant Bhushan representing the petitioner.

"The non-introduction of the Bill is arbitrary, illegal and is leading to discrimination," the plea read. "Although equality of the sexes is en-

shrined in the Constitution, it has not become a reality even in the 75th year of Indian independence. Women represent almost 50% of the population of India but their representation in the Parliament is only about 14%," it stated.

The evils of misogyny that exhibit in the form of rapes, outraging of modesty, eve-teasing, honour killings etc. stem from the false notion of male superiority and authority over women and until such authority is not granted to women through concrete measures such as including more women in the Parliament, there will be no effective

change in the present set up, further reads the petition.

Observing that it is an "important issue", the same bench in its September 5 order had directed the petitioner to provide a copy of the petition to the Centre as well. On Friday (Nov 4), the bench issued a notice to the Centre and sought its stand.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008, known as the 'Women's Reservation Bill' was passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2010. However, the bill lapsed in 2014 after the 15th Lok Sabha got dissolved.

Name Change

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

Sd/-

Koijam Gopendra Singh
S/o (L) Koijam Nilo Singh
Uripok Khoisnam Leikai
Imphal West - 795001

Was upset about SC decision to keep sedition law in abeyance, says Kiren Rijiju

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5:

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said he was upset about the Supreme Court's decision to put the sedition law in abeyance, India Today reported. Rijiju said that the court took the decision even after the government said that it was making changes to the law.

"When we [government] have already stated that we are taking a review [of sedition law] and that we will come back with better provisions, despite that if the pronouncement comes from the court, definitely it is not a good thing," Rijiju told India Today in an interview.

Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with sedition, states that whoever "brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite dis-



affection towards the government established by law in India" can be held to have committed the offence of sedition.

On May 11, the Supreme Court had put the sedition law in abeyance and requested state governments and the Centre to not file any new cases under the rule till it is re-examined.

At the time, the Centre had told the court that it will re-examine the sedition law and had

urged the judges not to take up the matter till it does so.

After the verdict, Rijiju had said that while the government respects the court and its independence, there is a "laxman rekha", or boundary, that must be respected by all organs of the state.

On Friday, Rijiju reiterated that the judiciary should not enter into the space of the executive.

"If the judiciary starts de-

ciding where the roads should be built if it gets into the service rules, what is the government for?" he questioned. "Do I ever get involved with the judiciary's work? I don't. I assist the judiciary to make it a robust institution."

The law minister also reiterated that he was not satisfied with the collegium system of appointing judges, and claimed that many judges agree with him, according to India Today.

"They [judges] decide the names on the basis of their understanding of a particular judge," Rijiju told the television channel. "They also talk to the consultee judges who recommend names."

He added: "A consultee judge will recommend only those whom he knows. They will not recommend someone they don't know even if the person is qualified and fit enough to be a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court."

Closing down the Regional Offices of the UGC is deplorable, Undemocratic, and Unfortunate - AIFUCTO

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5:

The decision of the University Grants Commission, taken on the behest of the Government of India, to close down the Seven Regional Offices of UGC is deeply deplorable, democratic, and unfortunate.

A statement by Prof. Arun Kumar, General Secretary of All India Federation of University & College Teachers' Organizations (AIFUCTO) said that those Regional Offices have been the center of serving the academic interest of the university and college teachers at the doorsteps besides closely monitoring the qualitative interest of Higher Education at

the Grassroots level. The teaching Community of the country has benefits without going to New Delhi.

It added that the All India Federation of University and College Teachers Organization feels that the retrograde step is only the beginning of constituting the centralizing agency of the Higher Education Commission by dismantling all the National academic bodies such as UGC, AICTE, ICAR, etc. This measure to do away with the Regional Offices of University Grants Commission is not only undemocratic but also against the federal structure of our nation. This decision is also a naked attempt to impose the

National Education policy upon the collective wisdom of the nation.

To save the Education of the country AIFUCTO cannot expected to be a silent spectator to the implementation of the unwarranted decision of the Government of India and will oppose strongly the negative decision of the Government. AIFUCTO still hope that the Government of India will realize the detrimental impact of closing down the Regional Offices of UGC and instead take steps to ensure strengthening the grassroots link of the University Grants Commission in the larger interest of the congenial growth of the Higher Educational edifice of our nation.

Assam Rifles organised Vigilance Awareness Gram Sabha

IT News
Imphal, Nov 5:

Churachandpur Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised Vigilance Awareness Gram Sabha in Samulamlan village of Churachandpur district Manipur as part of Vigilance Awareness Week on 05 Nov 2022.

The Gram Sabha was focussed upon corruption, it's effect on development of nation and measures to eradicate corruption from grass root level. Due emphasis was given on types if vigilance i.e. Preventive Vigilance, Punitive Vigilance & Surveillance and Detection. The aim of the drive



was to bring together all the stakeholders to participate in the prevention of corruption and to raise public awareness about the threats posed by corruption. In this regard the

Gram Sabha was adequately organised to percolate down the essence of vigilance, prevailing anomalies and mitigation measures/ preventive laws.

The locals appreciated Assam Rifles for conducting such informative events for increasing awareness amongst populace. A total of 28 villagers participated in the event.

Army Commanders' Conference Scheduled from 07 to 11 November 2022 at New Delhi

PIB
New Delhi, Nov 5:

Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) is an apex-level bi-annual event which is an institutional platform for conceptual level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army. The second ACC for the year 2022 is scheduled from 07 to 11 November 2022 at New Delhi. The event which is attended by senior officers of the Indian Army including the COAS, VCOAS, all Army Commanders and senior officers is also a formal forum for the senior leadership of the Indian Army to interact with the senior officials of the Department of Military Affairs and Department of Defence.

During the course of the conference, the apex leadership of Indian Army will brainstorm on current/emerging security and administrative aspects to chart the future course for the Indian Army. Discussions pertaining to transformational imperatives for a future ready force, progress on capability development & modernisation, framework for enhanced operational effectiveness of Indian Army, changes being incorporated to promote Atmanirbharta, implementation of the new Human Resource management policy and future challenges to progressive military training will form part of the deliberations. In-depth discussions on various agenda points projected by the Army Commanders, including

an update by CINCAN and briefings on various issues by the various Principal Staff Officers are also scheduled.

Other activities planned during the conference also include talks by eminent subject experts on "Contemporary India - China relations" as well as "Technological Challenges for National Security".

During the conference, the Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh is scheduled to address and interact with the Army Commanders on 10 November 2022. The Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force are also scheduled to address the senior leadership of Indian Army on avenues for promoting tri-service synergy.

Sports

T20 World Cup: Pakistan needs to beat Bangladesh to keep semifinal hopes alive

Agency
Adelaide, Nov 5:

Pakistan needs to win its last T20 World Cup fixture against Bangladesh at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday and then hope for other results to go its way in a bid to make it to the semifinals.

It's a tricky situation for sure, but the players and the team management want to focus on their game and not think about the 'uncontrollable' factors. Pakistan's higher Net Run Rate, which is currently +1.117, means a win would see Babar Azam's men leapfrog India if Rohit Sharma's side loses against Zimbabwe. India plays last in Group 2.

However, if India's match is a washout or if it wins, then the men in blue will leave Pakistan behind. Pakistan can even topple South Africa if the latter gets no more than one point from its game against Netherlands, as Pakistan will advance on more wins.

"We are sandwiched between the two games. There will be a result which we will know before, which might be

in our favour, or might not be. There is a match after that also, so we can't look behind or too far ahead. We have realised through some harsh lessons that we can only do things that are in our control," Pakistan batter Shan Masood said.

After losing to India and Zimbabwe early on in the tournament, Pakistan bounced back, beating South Africa via Duckworth-Lewis method in the last outing. From being down at 44 for four in the seventh over, the team bounced back strongly, riding on half-centuries by Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed. Defending 185, Shaheen Afridi claimed three wickets, while Shadab Khan grabbed a brace to put South Africa on the mat in a rain-marred outing.

"Losing two games was not easy. But after that, the team has responded well in doing whatever we can control. We are just going to control our performances in the first 20 overs, and once the break is done, we will analyse and try to control the next 20 overs, whether it's with the ball or bat," Masood said.

At the Adelaide Oval, 160-plus scores would be competitive and with a strong batting line-up, Pakistan will be hoping for its captain Babar Azam to strike form. Considered one of the top batters in the world, Babar could score only 14 runs in four outings so far, and in a crunch game, the team would want him to step up and deliver.

"The timing of the losses proved costly for us because we are still not in that top two position. But we haven't lost hope," Masood, who has scored 110 runs in the tournament so far, said.

"I will bring in the India game here, we were winning for most part and we played good cricket. Life teaches us harsh lessons and this was one of them. The way it affected the boys, they lost sleep, their morale went down. And how we responded after these setbacks showed our character and it was a big thing..."

In the game against India, Bangladesh started off perfectly, riding on Litton Das' half-century, but after the rain break, the team lost the plot with the middle-order crumbling.

Rampaging India thrash New Zealand 7-4 in FIH Men's Pro League

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:

India dished out an impressive brand of attacking hockey after trailing 1-3 at one stage to thrash New Zealand 7-4 in a high-scoring thriller in the FIH Men's Pro League.

The home side, who had beaten the same opponents 4-3 in the first leg on October 28, struggled in the first 15 minutes by conceding three goals but turned the match on its head as they struck two goals each in the next three quarters. New Zealand dominated the first quarter but later withered under India's incessant onslaught as they could score just one goal in the next three 15-minute periods.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh (7th and 19th minute; both PCs), Karthi Selvam (17th and 38th), Raj Kumar Pal (31st), Sukhjjeet Singh (50th) and Jugraj Singh (53rd) scored for India. For New Zealand, Simon Child (2nd), Sam Lane (9th), Smith Jake (14th) and Nic Woods (54th) were the scorers. India got 11 penalty corners in the match from which three were converted.

In the final analysis, it was a dominating performance by the Indians who produced a fine at-



tacking hockey with 29 circle penetrations as against 13 by New Zealand. India also had 56 per cent ball possession and 12 shots at opposition goal as against six of the visiting team.

India head coach Graham Reid had talked about defensive lapses in the earlier two matches of the season and on Friday also, the home side committed blunders to concede three goals in the first 15 minutes though they pulled one back in that period.

New Zealand scored from the first attack of the match in the first minute. A low cross from Kane Russell from the right channel sped past three Indian defenders and Simon Child had

all the time in the world at the other end to control and slam the ball past goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.

India got three successive penalty corners and equalised from the last one. From the first, George Enersen's kick hit Karthi Selvam on the face, leading to the second penalty corner from which Harmanpreet fluffed. But somehow a foul committed by New Zealand runners handed India their third penalty corner and Harmanpreet sent his drag flick to the bottom corner this time.

Three minutes later, Sam Lane scored another field goal after Sunder Kumar slipped

up, failing to collect an interception properly. New Zealand made it 3-1 with less than two minutes to go in the first session with Dylan Thomas doing the spade-work with a fine run on the left flank, culminating to Jake Smith's deflection to the Indian goal off the low pass.

India came back roaring in the second session, firing in two quick goals in the space of three minutes. Manpreet Singh showed his class as he collected a loose ball in midfield and sent a reverse-stick pass for Selvam Karthi to complete a brilliant finishing, firing past a hapless goalkeeper Enersen two minutes into the second session.