

## CM lays foundation for Raj Medicity Multi Specialty Hospital

*Health and education sector, top priority of the Govt. - N. Biren*

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 6:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today laid the foundation stone for Raj Medicity Multi Specialty Hospital to be constructed at Khurai Chingangbam Leikai, Imphal East. Works Minister Shri Govindas Konhoujam, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution (CAF & PD) Minister L. Sunsindro Meitei and Chairman and Managing Director, Raj Medicity H. Rajen shared the dais with the Chief Minister, who was the Chief Guest of the foundation laying programme.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren maintained that the Government is giving priority to the health and education sector, putting much effort to develop the sector. With the increase in the MBBS seats from 100 to 150 at JNIMS and opening of Churachandpur Medical College with 100 MBBS seats, the State can now produce around 500 MBBS in a year. This will somehow solve the shortage of doctors in the State to some extent, he added. He continued that following the initiative of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi to open a Medical College in each district of the Country, the State Government has plan to set up Medical Colleges in some other districts.

The Chief Minister spoke on the initiatives taken up by the Government to provide accessible healthcare services to the public including CMHT, Ayushman Bharat and Health For All scheme. He informed that more than 700 villages had been covered under the Health For All scheme and testing and check up for more than 3 lakhs people had been done. He

added that early testing and diagnosis of diseases would help in early treatment of the same.

N. Biren further appreciated the Prime Minister for putting in much emphasis on the health sector, adding that the latter had taken decision to use vernacular language as medium of teaching and learning in MBBS course. Such an initiative will help the students to learn more thoroughly about the subjects as we learn more easily while being taught in our mother tongue, he added.

Recalling the hardships faced by the people of the

State during the COVID-19 pandemic due to lack of medical facilities, shortages of oxygen cylinders and supply, the Chief Minister appreciated all the concerned officials, doctors and other medical staff for their tireless efforts and contribution in successfully fighting the pandemic. He also expressed that the contributions made by some private hospitals in saving the lives of the people during the pandemic can never be forgotten.

N. Biren also appealed to the doctors and other medical staff to maintain professionalism and ethics while

performing their duties, as their services are very crucial for providing better healthcare services to the people.

CAF & PD Minister L. Sunsindro Meitei stated that the Multi Specialty Hospital, for which the foundation stone had been laid today, will provide various healthcare facilities to the people after its completion. He also spoke on the suitability of the site where the hospital would be constructed. Recalling the contribution of private hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic, he appreciated the initiatives of the Chief Minister in developing the healthcare sector of the State.

Chairman, Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd. Tongbram Robindro, Chairman Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Khongbantamb Ibomcha, Chairman, Loktak Development Authority M. Asnikumar, MLA of Moirang AC Thangjam Shanti, MLA of Tadubi AC N. Kayisii, MLA of Kakching AC Mayanglabam Rameshwar, MLA of Wangkhei AC Thangjam Arunkumar, MLA of Kumbi AC Sanasam Premchandra, doctors and staff of Raj Medicity also attended the programme among others.

## Jiribam District Administration award ceremony held



IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, Nov 6:

The Jiribam District Administration award ceremony on the achievement of cent percent 1st Dose COVID 19 vaccination to all eligible persons in Jiribam District was held today at Deputy Commissioner Office, Chingdong Leikai Jiribam.

To shown exemplary progress towards maintaining 100% COVID 19 vaccination in the district, the district administration distributed awards to Dr. Bembem, Former District Immunization Officer, E. Okendro Singh, Chief Medi-

cal Officer along with others Health Department Officials, local Pradhans, Community based Civil Society Organization and AASHA workers for their contribution and dedication which make able to achieved 100% COVID-19 first dose vaccination in Jiribam District.

The function was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jiribam, W. Malemnganba Chenglei, Addl. Superintendent of police AK. Sadananda and Chief Medical Officer E. Okendro Singh shared the dais as Chief Guest, President and Guest of honour respectively.

## Legal Awareness cum Mega Beneficiary camp held

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 6:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Imphal West today organized a Legal Awareness cum Mega Beneficiary Camp at Imphal West DC Complex at Lamphel.

As a part of the Mega Beneficiary camp various stalls for providing government beneficiaries like enrolment of Adhaar Card, issuance of Chief Minister health card and others were opened and facilitated to citizens.

Chairperson of the DLSA Aribam Guneshore, while speaking to media persons said that the legal awareness cum

beneficiary camp of various government schemes is being organized as a part of the pan India outreach programme to assure that all citizens get the benefits of the government schemes.

On the other hand, a one day Mega Legal Awareness Camp for Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach-a pan India Campaign was also organized by the DLSA of Tamenglong district at Multipurpose Hall, Longmai Part III, Noney. The campaign was organized to bridge the gap between the institution and the underprivileged and to ensure delivery of legal entitlement to eligible beneficiaries.

## MNPF cadres involved in killing of Assam Rifles colonel and family arrested in Imphal

Agency  
Guwahati, Nov 6:

Security forces have nabbed a 20-year-old cadre belonging to the proscribed insurgent group Manipur Naga Peoples' Front (MNPF), who was allegedly involved in the killing of Assam Rifles colonel, his family and four jawans.

Police said the MNPF cadre, identified as Machukring Zamshim Shimray alias Ningkhan was arrested on Saturday by a joint team of Manipur police, an NIA team and Assam Rifles personnel.

The MNPF cadre was arrested from Yainggangpokpi junction near an oil pump in Imphal East district at around 10.30 am on Saturday, said a police official.

Arrested Ningkhan is a native of New-Cannan village in Ukhrul district, the official added.

The insurgent was arrested acting on the information and the requisition of NIA, Imphal team, Indian Express reported.

The arrested rebel leader disclosed that he joined the outfit in 2016 through one Robert of MNPF, and got ba-

sic military training for three months under army number 159 at Thumol, Myanmar, the police said.

Machukring is presently holding the rank of a self-styled corporal and working under the command of one self-styled chairman, Francis, of the same outfit.

He further stated that he was involved in multiple ambushes against the central security forces mainly against the Assam Rifles, including the Khongtal, Chandel ambush on July 29, 2020, wherein three were killed and six injured.

The arrested person has been handed over to the NIA, Imphal team, for further necessary legal action.

On November 13, 2021, Assam Rifles (AR) commanding officer Viyplap Tripathi and his family along with four AR troopers were killed after the convoy carrying the officer came under heavy attack by insurgents in Manipur's Churachandpur district.

The ambush took place near S Sehken village under Behiang police station near Indo-Myanmar border pillar No. 43.

Colonel Tripathi's convoy

was ambushed when he was reportedly returning to his base accompanied by his wife and his 6-year-old son, from the Behiang company post.

At least six jawans, including a havildar, driver of the CO and three Quick Reaction team members were also sustained injuries in the attack.

Two insurgent groups—the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Manipur Naga People's Front (MNPF) claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Manipur government subsequently handed over the case to the NIA.

## Mild weather prompts soaring International Gas Prices to reverse course

*Change provides big relief for consuming countries like India*

By K Raveendran  
New Delhi, Nov 6:

Soaring international gas prices in recent weeks have caused much concern in consumer countries like India, but the latest trends indicate that power prices may be reversing course.

Although Indian gas prices, particularly in terms of supplies for vehicles as well as cooking, have remained moderated, thanks to government intervention, consumers in Europe and the US have been witnessing sharp price increases over the past two months. As of September, gas prices in the US surged by over 130 percent and those in Europe by more

than 120 percent while spot prices in the Asian market surged by over 80 percent.

Very mild weather in Europe and the US has helped gas prices drop in most markets as the month of November set in. Prices fell in the range of 30 percent week-on-week in Germany, France and Italy, and all these countries have seen more than an 80 percent reduction in weekly average prices since the peak in late August, according to Rystad Energy estimates. This is good news for countries like India whose energy budgets go under strain with every price increase.

To make things more cheerful, mild weather is expected to continue, although tempera-

tures could creep closer to the normal level for the year over the coming weeks. If that happens, the risk of prices climbing is very much there. But as of now, most conditions are in favour of continued decline.

Gas storage is close to full in Europe, liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports to Europe have been very strong and gas demand has been low, resulting in an oversupply of gas in the short term. Market participants do, however, know that this will not be the case long term, as extreme amounts of Russian gas volumes need to be replaced mostly by LNG, which needs to be sourced from a tight global market. Gas-for-power demand is also expected

to increase going forward, as temperatures drop further.

Overall, European power prices have now fallen so much that they are comparable to the level seen last year for the majority of European countries. The UK has seen the largest decline compared to last year, with a massive 35.3 percent drop on October last year, averaging \$135 per megawatt-hour (MWh) for the month. This is also the lowest monthly price for the country so far in 2022.

Italy also saw a decline compared to October last year, although by a more modest 2.5 percent. The country has benefited from the sizeable decline in gas prices in October,

due to its large dependence on natural gas for power generation, although it remained the highest-priced market of the largest five power-producing countries, as it has done in every month so far this year.

On the contrary, France and Germany both saw a modest increase compared to last year, partly caused by both having much lower prices than the UK and Italy in 2021, which is no longer the case. France also saw a yearly low in October, while in Germany's case it was the second-lowest price month so far this year, only behind February, a month with very strong renewables generation that brought prices down.

But analysts warn that the

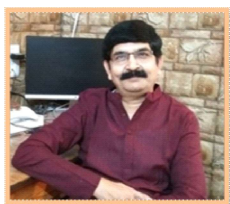
current sustained lower prices may be temporary as much depends on the weather and geopolitics – from sanctions against Russia to strikes on energy infrastructure in Ukraine – prices could soar and spike as soon as temperatures drop, or tensions escalate. On the supply side, Continental Europe and UK wind supply are expected to pick up, which could bring prices further down. Overall, continental power prices are expected to stay in the same range as last week, with the risk of further declining, depending on whether we see a further decline in European gas prices, according to analysts.

Last week was another very

turbulent week in the European gas market, with the Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF) gas spot contract turning negative for a short period on 24 October. The price did, however, quickly recover and closed at €31 per MWh the same day, reflecting some of the extreme volatility still present in the gas market.

Power prices in the US showed significant declines by the last week of October, with the national weekly average day-ahead power price dropping from \$54.16 per MWh to \$48.47. Power demand in the US was also lower and guidance suggested continued declines in the days to come. (IPA Service)

## Increasing Productivity in Banks



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

India's banking sector is growing at a fast pace. It has become one of the most preferred banking destinations in the world. Indian banks are investing heavily in the technologies such as telebanking, mobile banking, net banking, automated teller machine (ATMs), credit cards, debit cards, smart cards, call centers, CRM, data warehousing etc. Productivity and efficiency are considered as leading indicators for evolving strengths or weaknesses of banking system across the world. Increasing

productivity has become vital in banking today. When we increase our productivity levels, we can increase our client base or product sales.

Productivity and profitability are interrelated. Though productivity is not the sole factor, it is an important factor influencing profitability. The key to increase profitability is increased productivity. Public sector banks have not been as profitable as the other banks primarily because of two reasons—Low Productivity and High Burden ratio.

The key to success in the competitive environment is increased productivity and profitability. Indian banks especially the public sector banks and the old private sector banks are lagging far behind their competitors in terms of both productivity and profitability.

Productivity efficiency in vibrant banking environment relate to how well a bank employs its resources, how a bank simultaneously minimizes cost and maximizes revenue, based on an existing level of production technology.

Profitability can be improved only by improving productivity. It is very clear that there is great scope for increasing productivity. Manpower being face of banking, its productivity is largely depends on employees' morale and quality of service being offered by them. Employee productivity can be improved only by winning the commitment of employees. Employee productivity is an important part of total productivity which comprise of per employee productivity means units of production by an individual in terms of deposits, credits, business, total income, total expenditure, establishment expenditure and spread. It is worth mentioning that due to progressive use of technology, employees' strength has departed but their job has become so important that if not performed well, it is dangerous as well trim down the performance rather to enhance.

There is no ceiling up to which productivity has to be improved. Since productivity in banks is very low, we should put in very serious efforts at improving productivity. Improvement in productivity should constitute an important parameter in the performance budgets of banks. Branch productivity, a crucial factor of total productivity, evaluates branch level productivity means proportionate production of the banks per branch in terms of deposits, credits, business, total income, total expenditure and establishment expenditure. Every branch contributes rigorously to the productivity of a total bank and thus an outcome of all the branches functioning under the same bank. It is equally important to note that per branch productivity portrays the real picture and hence kicks off the banks to take necessary steps to be in command of the adverse position, if so. IT is playing a vital role in transforming the business so forth branches are not the exceptions. That's why branch productivity is necessary to evaluate in the era of IT to examine that how the branch level productivity is responding.

The following suggestions can be considered for the purpose of improving productivity:-

- 1] There should be periodical meetings of staff members at various branches and offices so as to get their commitment and co-operation in the matter of implementation of accepted policies and programs.
- 2] There should be a system of maintaining workload information thereby providing the required data base for the assessment. There should be assessment of staff strength not only in respect of branches, but also in respect of administrative offices too.
- 3] There should be comprehensive scheme for recognizing the good efforts made by the employees at various levels. The contribution of officers and staff should be suitably recorded and recognized and the feed back in this regard should be given to them so as to motivate them.
- 4] Better deployment of staff resources, linking of performance budgeting on the part of branches in various areas, minimizing controllable expenses and bring about suitable attitudinal changes in the staff members will help improve productivity.

Better work organization, effective supervision and proper work distribution will no doubt help to achieve some improvement in productivity, but enduring results can be obtained only by motivating employees and by ensuring their participation in the Bank's function. If banks are to grow on sound and healthy lines, employees have to adopt appropriate strategies and plans for improving productivity. Comprehensive planning in respect of all areas and parameters including productivity and profitability from the grass root level of branches with the participation of all employees at all levels will be vital from the point of view of improving the performance of banks.

## While the Civil Society Space is Shrinking A New Orientation of CSOs is Emerging in Manipur during the New Dispensation



By: Rajkumar Bobichand

The recent remark made by Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren about the civil society organisations in Manipur has drawn the attention of the writer to revisit about the civil society and civil society organisations one more.

Media coverage and follow-up discussion in media have it that Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren attending the 12th Mera Meepham (Annual Convention on Umang Lai Haraaba) organised by Umanglai Kanba Apunba Lup (UKAL) at City Convention Centre, Palace Compound in Imphal East on October 23, said that several civil society organisations and students bodies with different interests are mushrooming within the Meitei community when other communities have one or two organisations only. Chief Minister Biren also asked what has been the civil society organisations doing for Manipur in the last 30 years, reports said.

Civil society or civil society organisations, in short CSOs are much talked about and are very popular in the context of Manipur. From layman to politician; from insurgent groups or armed militants to the Indian military establishment; and from public commentators or opinion makers to academics; the term civil society or CSOs is, at many times loosely, used in many contexts on a number of issues.

Civil society or CSOs has become an indispensable part of the political culture in Manipur. However, the civil society or CSOs, though much talked about, is hardly ever understood but frequently misused.

In present day Manipur, it seems not possible to have a conversation on politics, economics, social and cultural issues, gender or public policy without someone mentioning the magic words "civil society" or CSOs.

In general, civil society is part of our life and the space that exists between the State on one hand and families on the other, that allows people to come together for a whole variety of public activities, and that is relatively independent of the State.

However, civil society is not non-political or apolitical but a non-state collective space. In other words, civil society is now associated with everything good that the state is not. In its non-state functions, it can cover both political and social activities.

Political parties have a double role in a multi-party democracy like India. Political party becomes an appendage

of the State when civic action is missing and can be considered as a Political Society.

On the other hand political parties are part of the civil society along with other unions, organisations, students' organisations, trade unions, business associations, lawyers, doctors, teachers, journalists and other professionals' unions or organisations when they are in the government. Even when the party is in the government sometimes can act in the civil society space. Essentially, civil society is an assemblage of non-state organisations that encompass trade unions, students' movements, ethnic or community organisations, community development organisations, women groups, the human rights groups, the press, academics and other forms of organisations outside the state arena.

Groups of citizens organise themselves in order to articulate and promote the values and norms of society or sometimes to protest against societal norms which are regarded by many as discriminatory or harmful and to advance the common needs and interests of citizens with respect to matters of governance and public policy.

In an ideal world, civil society should be concerned about the common interests of the whole society. The civil society has a responsibility to recognise and uphold the important values of society and, on the basis of these values, to set standards and norms for all sectors of society, including Government and Political Society.

Structural definitions of civil society are useful in emphasising the gaps and weaknesses of associational life that need to be fixed if they are to be effective vehicles for change. However, the differences and particularities of associational life generate competing views about the ends and means of the good society, anchored in religion, politics, ideology, race, gender and culture.

We need to strengthen the pre-conditions for a healthy civil society by attacking all forms of inequality and discrimination, giving people the means to be active citizens, reforming politics to encourage more participation, guaranteeing the independence of associations and the structures of public communication, and building a strong foundation for institutional partnerships, alliances and coalitions. Inequality is the poison of civil society because it endows citizens with different levels of resources and opportunities to participate.

We also need to support innovations in associational life that encourage citizen action to operate in service to the good society, rather than as a substitute for politics, market reform and the demands of democratic state building. For example, we need to build stronger links between policy groups, organising groups, service providers and the media; we need to link associations across different interests and agendas and get progres-

sive organising out of its issues and identities; we need to encourage a more democratic relationship between grassroots constituencies and those in the non-profit sector who claim to speak on their behalf.

We need to reduce the costs and risks of citizen participation, for example, making it easier to organize at the workplace, and we need to honour and connect different forms of participation so that service doesn't become a substitute for political engagement.

In reality and practice, civil society is a controversial concept and not as idealistic as the above description would suggest. Though all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are part of the civil society organisations, NGOs which are receiving funds from donors or taking up projects under government schemes are not considered as CSOs in the context of Manipur. The people of Manipur have a common notion that civil society organisations should not receive any fund from funding agencies or government projects. The non-governmental organisations of which the members are voluntary and monitorily depend on public donations for its activities are considered as genuine CSOs and have more credibility.

Moreover, in conflict situations like in the context of Manipur, civil society can be part of the problem of conflict generation or escalation as many of the groups that we might include in the set of civil society organisations are concerned more with the interest of their own group and less with the common interests of Manipur.

Conflicting demands are made by these different civil society groups, and the conflicts between them are often glossed over in the interest of maintaining a seemingly harmonious image of civil society. For instance many Naga bodies of Manipur who believe in the ideology of the Isak-Muivah faction of National Socialist Council of Nagaland - NSCN (IM) have been demanding for Naga integration and autonomy; and campaign against the Meiteis while the non-ethnic and common civil societies stands for peaceful coexistence of different ethnic groups and protection of unity and territorial integrity of Manipur. The Kuki militant groups who are under Suspension of Operations with the Government of India and Government of Manipur are demanding a Kukiland to be carved out of Manipur which the Kuki Inpi Manipur or other Kuki bodies support.

Since civil societies are embedded in the social character of society they also reflect the social and political contradictions in society. Different approaches to bringing about different changes like Social change, Political change and Economic change at different levels such as Personal, Institutional and Societal are undertaken by civil society to transform violent conflicts through active non-violence and advocacy. Changes happen at dif-

ferent levels and often at more than one level at the same time. Changes at one level may have an impact at other levels. In our desire to bring about change transforming conflict, we need to be aware of these different levels and where we aim to focus our energies to make a change to be sustainable in the longer term.

Civil society is simultaneously a goal to aim for, a means to achieve it, and a framework for engaging with each-other about ends and means. When these three approaches turn towards each other and integrate their different perspectives into a mutually-supportive framework, the idea of civil society can explain a great deal about the course of politics and social change, and serve as a practical framework for organising both resistance and alternative solutions to social, economic and political problems.

What we saw in the beginning of COVID-19 lockdown when the people could not find food – rice and vegetables, community groups from the hills spontaneously started to share the vegetables they can procure from the hills with the people in the valley areas without the initiative of the State and these can be considered civil society activities enjoying the civil society space. And the civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations whose headquarters are based in valley areas also raised funds and took donations and distributed foods needed by the people who live in the hill areas and interiors.

However, at a later stage these activities were banned by the Government which asked the community groups or individuals or CSOs who want to donate foods including vegetables, to deposit it at the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of the districts concerned on the pretext of maintaining social distancing during COVID-19 lockdown. This ultimately has limited the activities of the civil bodies and shrunk the civil society space.

When the different CSOs and community organisations from all parts of the state were on the committees formed by the State Government to fight the COVID-19, the independence of the Civil Society Organisations has been limited and started losing the basic character of civil society's independence of the state and the civil space has been shrunk.

Even the dynamic, heroic, proactive and frontline workers of Manipur's economy, the Keithel Nupis (market women) of Khwairamband Keithel have become more friendly and co-operative with the present dispensation. A new set of leaders seem to have come up among the women vendors and they somehow maintain good relations with the present dispensation as they remain silent in the new development of the three Nupi Keithels Khwairamband Keithel recently.

(The author is a Senior Journalist)

## To be a successful student



By: Vijay GarG

No success comes without efforts. If there is a desire to do something in the mind, then these efforts are definitely worth it. Success and fame do not come easily. Every student studying in school has a dream to finish his studies soon and become a successful person. Students have to work hard day and night to achieve any kind of success. In order to achieve success, any student must first pay attention to his habits. After this, it is necessary to adopt those things in life of, with which success

can be achieved in every field. Read difficult topics first. Every student has his likes and dislikes.

Mostly it has been observed that the subject which students like more, they pay more attention to it and ignore the difficult subject. They should not do that. Successful students have the advantage that they focus more on difficult subjects. Make a schedule the first basic mantra of a successful student is to study according to schedule. Studying by making a time table helps the students it helps to prepare easily for all subjects. Accordingly you complete your syllabus. Study according to the syllabus to be a suc-

cessful student it is necessary to study according to the syllabus. By doing this, no subject is missed and the syllabus is completed on time. Continuity in studies If you want to be successful you have to study continuously.

Most of the students start studying but within a few months their enthusiasm cools down and they stop studying. Such habits should be avoided Mock test required Mock test is very important for you if you are going to appear for any exam. To get success in the exam you should give mock test every month. Taking this test will show you how much you remember what

you read. Make good friends Associate with good friends to achieve success. Everyone knows that the effect of association has a complete effect on us. If friends are good then we will learn good habits. Therefore, only those who are interested in reading and writing are guilty should be made make notes while studying the special thing about successful students is that they make their notes along with studying.

While making notes, the subject is automatically remembered and the grip on it becomes stronger with practice. Group discussion the special habit of students who get success in exams is that they keep dis-

cussing the topic with their friends which they find difficult. Learn from mistakes we should always learn from our mistakes. For example if you did not get good marks in any subject in your previous exam, then you can improve by working harder in that subject next time. Scheduling study time If you want to be successful, it is very important to study at a fixed time every day, for which you can make a plan. You can study from 5 AM to 8 AM, 12 PM to 2 PM or 7 PM to 9 PM in the evening. Anyway, there is no time for reading. Studying can be done anytime but it is considered good to study according to fixed time.

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# 9 people injured in CPI(M) - BJP clash in Tripura

Agency  
Agartala, Nov 6:

At least nine people including two police personnel were injured when CPI(M) and BJP supporters clashed at Teliamura in Tripura's Khowai district, police said on Sunday.

CPI(M) leaders and supporters had gathered at Karoiling around 30 km from state capital Agartala, for a meeting on Saturday night.

"When the meeting was going on, a group of youths suddenly attacked the CPI(M) activists who also put up resistance that led to a clash between two sides", said Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Teliamura, Prasun

Tripura.

He said at least nine people including two policemen who were deployed to provide security to the CPI(M) rally were injured.

A strong contingent of police and Tripura State Rifle led by the SDPO, Teliamura rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

All the injured persons including the two cops were taken to Teliamura hospital from where three injured CPI(M) activists were referred to GBP hospital in Agartala for better treatment, he said.

The SDPO said police have registered a suo moto case in this matter and all involved in the incidents

will be issued notice shortly for investigation of the case.

"Around 10/12 BJP supporters suddenly attacked our rally at Koroliong area and left at least 10 of our comrades were injured. They also damaged tables and chairs at the rally," said a CPI(M) leader.

Six comrades were taken to Teliamura health centre and of whom three were sent to GBP hospital, he said, adding the party condemned the attack on the rally and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

The chief whip of the BJP in state Assembly, Kalyani Roy, who represents Teliamura Assembly con-

stituency, claimed that it was the CPI(M) supporters who first attacked the BJP workers who took out a rally near Karoiling.

"Five to six BJP workers were injured in the attack. The CPI(M) has been trying to create unrest in Teliamura to come into the limelight ahead of the Assembly elections," she said.

Roy said a delegation of BJP met the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Teliamura police station, Subrata Chakraborty and demanded action against those responsible for the attack on BJP supporters.

Assembly elections in Tripura are due early next year.

# India records 1,132 fresh Covid infections, active cases decline to 14,839

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 6:

With 1,132 people testing positive for the coronavirus infection in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,46,60,579, while the active cases declined to 14,839, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,30,500 with 14 fatalities which includes five deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has

increased to 98.78 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

A decrease of 361 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 4,41,15,240, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry's website, 219.72 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

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

August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

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

Nine deaths reported in a span of 24 hours include three from Maharashtra and one each from Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

# SC will rule tomorrow on validity of EWS quota

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 6:

The Supreme Court will pronounce November 7 its decision on the constitutional validity of the 103rd amendment to the Constitution introducing 10 percent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in admissions and government jobs.

A five-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice of India U U Lalit, Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi and J B Pardiwala, had reserved its judgement in the matter on September 27.

According to the Monday caucust, which is the list of business for the day, there are two judgments - one by the CJI and another by Justice Bhat. CJI Lalit is set to demit office on November 8.

The court is seized of as many as 40 petitions dealing with various aspects of the reservation policy introduced in 2019.

Opponents of the move have said the object of reservation was not to uplift people from poverty, but to ensure representation to those who were denied this due to structural inequalities.

Calling the amendment "an attack on the constitutional vision of social justice" and "a fraud on the Constitution", they contend that if upheld, it will be the end of equality of opportunity. They argue that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution and breaches the 50 percent ceiling fixed by the Supreme Court ruling in the Mandal Commission case.

Backing the EWS quota, the then Attorney General K K Venugopal told the court that it will not in any way erode the rights of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

"EWS have been given reservation for the first time. On the other hand, so far as the SCs and STs are concerned, they have been loaded with benefits by way of affirmative actions," he said.

Venugopal rejected the claim that it violated the basic structure of the Constitution, saying it has been given without disturbing the 50 percent quota meant for the socially and economically backward classes (SEBC).

Hearing the petitions, the bench had observed that the government does frame policies on the ground of economic criteria to ensure that benefits reach the target population, that economic criteria is a permissible ground and forms part of a reasonable basis for classification.

It sought to know why economic conditions cannot be the basis for granting reservation. "After 75 years, we still see generations of poverty. There is a large mass of people falling in the Below Poverty Line (category). Why then can't there be economic based affirmative action?... In theory, government schools are available, jobs are available, but these people are as disadvantaged as others. So, per se what's so wrong if they don't belong to a homogeneous group?" the court had asked the petitioners.

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Nov 7:

Various events including joint exercises, concert with military bands from overseas and a parade are being organised by the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) as part of "Fleet Week" till November 13.

The "International Fleet Review (IFR)" is being conducted by the JMSDF at "Yokosuka" on November 06 to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of its formation.

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) is on an official visit to Japan till November 09, during which he will witness the IFR. As one of the observer, he will attend the 18th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) on November 07 and November 08, as the current Chair of WPNS.

In addition to representing India and the Indian Navy during the IFR and WPNS, he will also be in attendance for the inauguration of the 2022 edition of



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar is attending the IFR being held at Yokosuka, Japan. A representative image.

Exercise Malabar, being held at Yokosuka with the participation of Australia, Japan and the USA. Initiated in 1992, this year marks the 30th anniversary year of Exercise Malabar.

The presence of these indigenously built ships of the Indian Navy at these multi-national events will be an opportunity to showcase the

participating in the IFR, WPNS and ship-building capabilities of Indian Shipyards during a large international gathering.

The visit of the CNS to Japan signifies a high level of bilateral defence engagements with Japan, as well as India's active support and participation in multilateral engagements, an official statement said.

# Telangana: 60 girl students rushed to hospital after eating contaminated 'semiya upma' breakfast

Agency  
Telangana, Nov 6:

As many as 60 girl students of KGBV were admitted to a hospital after eating contaminated breakfast on Saturday. At the time of filing this report, 25 students were still hospitalised but were said to be out of danger.

The school, located in the suburbs of Narayanpet town in Sangareddy district, has about 300 students studying from Class VI to Intermediate.

According to sources, the students had semiya upma and some milk for breakfast. Soon, they began vomiting. They said that they later noticed worms in the upma served to them. Noticing the students falling ill, the hostel management rushed 20 girls to the government hospital.

Meanwhile, Narayanpet RDO Ambadas Rajeshwar,



tahsildar Murali and police inspector Krishana Reddy rushed to the hospital and then to the hostel where they found the other students vomiting too.

The officials flagged down a few autos and rushed some of the students to the hospital while others were taken in the police vehicle.

The students complained that the principal and the staff ignored their complaint that there were worms in the breakfast. They said it was not the first time that rice served to them had worms.

When the RDO asked the rest of the students whether they had breakfast, they told him that the staff had not

cooked again after throwing away the contaminated food. The angry RDO directed the staff to cook rice and dal for the students. District collector A Sharath suspended the hostel's special officer and five staffers, even as parents of other students rushed to the hostel and took them home.

# BJP promises to implement Uniform Civil Code in Himachal Pradesh if voted back to power

Agency  
Shimla, Nov 6:

Bharatiya Janata Party President JP Nadda on Sunday promised to bring in a Uniform Civil Code in Himachal Pradesh if the party is voted back to power in the state.

A Uniform Civil Code involves having a common set of laws governing marriage, divorce, succession and adoption for all Indians, instead of allowing different personal laws for people of different faiths.

The aim of such uniformity is meant to ensure equality and justice for women in particular, who are often denied their rights in marriage, divorce and inheritance under patriarchal personal laws.

Nadda promised the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code as he unveiled the party's manifesto for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections,

which are scheduled to take place on November 12.

"A committee of experts will be formed and on the basis of their report, Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in the state," Nadda said.

The BJP has also promised implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in Gujarat as well. The Assembly polls in Gujarat will be held in two phases on December 1 and December 5. Union minister Parshottam Rupala said that a committee will be constituted under a retired judge of the High Court to bring in the Uniform Civil Code.

Himachal Pradesh has joined Gujarat and Uttarakhand as the third BJP-ruled state to announce the formation of a committee to implement the Uniform Civil Code. Results for the 68-seat Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections will be announced on December 8.

Besides implementing the Uniform Civil Code, the BJP on Sunday also said that all Waqf properties in the state will be investigated under a judicial commission and their "illegal usages" will be stopped.

Under Islamic law and customs, properties that are donated for religious and welfare work come under the category of Waqf, which means a charitable, religious endowment. Once donated, it is treated as "God's property".

The party said it will spend Rs 12,000 crore over ten years to develop infrastructure and transportation around religious places and temples in the state. The BJP has also promised fund of Rs 900 crore as part of the Him Startup scheme, and creation of 8 lakh job opportunities in the state.

The BJP also said that the Goods and Services Tax will be limited to 12% for apple growers in the state.

# I will give priority to Naga solution than Assembly elections, says Nagaland chief minister

Agency  
Kohima, Nov 6:

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Saturday said that his party was giving priority to the Naga solution than the state Assembly elections that are due next year, reported *The Times of India*.

While inaugurating the Loyem Memorial Astro Turf Ground in Tuensang, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party leader said that the government of India has accepted the uniqueness of the Nagas and the traditions of the Nagas were left untouched even during the British colonial rule, reported the *Eastern Mirror*.

For over six decades, Naga nationalists have fought the Indian state for a sovereign ethnic homeland that would include Nagaland as well as the Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmar across the border. Over the decades, the Naga armed movement split into several factions.

Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have been vehemently opposing the idea of unification of Naga-inhabited



areas under their jurisdictions.

In September, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isaac-Muivah faction), one of the largest Nagaland armed groups, agreed to resume peace talks with the Centre based on a framework agreement signed on August 3, 2015.

The agreement came after more than 80 rounds of negotiations spanning 18 years, PTI reported.

However, a final settlement to the issue has been prolonged as the NSCN (IM) has been insisting on a separate Naga flag and constitution, a demand re-

jected by the Central government.

Rio's comment on Saturday came days after he sought President Droupadi Murmu's support to resolve the Naga political issue.

During a civic reception hosted by the state on November 2, Rio had informed Murmu that the framework agreement of 2015 signed between the Centre and NSCN-IM, and the Agreed Position signed in November 2017 with the Naga National Political Groups has recognised the unique history and position of the Nagas, reported *East*

*Mojo*.

"Ceasefire and dialogue with the Naga political groups have been continuing for 26 years," Rio had said. "We seek your gracious support in resolving the long-pending political issue."

Earlier this year, the Centre extended the ceasefire agreements between with the three Naga groups by a year. The pacts are signed with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK, National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation and National Socialist Council of Nagaland K-Khangho.

# Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal asserts central govt committed to provide healthy life to citizens of country

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 6:

Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has asserted that the Central government is committed to providing a healthy life to the citizens of the country by properly coordinating modern treatment disciplines like allopathy and traditional Ayurveda treatment methods.

He was speaking at the conclusion of the three-day National Conference on Health and Bioscience Research, at Symbiosis International University, Pune yesterday, November 5. The Minister said that there should be no clash between modern and traditional treatment methods. He

pointed out the approach of some people who seek scientific evidence about traditional treatment methods.

He said that these people should understand that today Ayurveda is being studied globally and such evidence is already present. He added that World Health Organization has decided to open a permanent office at Jamnagar in Gujarat only because of the usefulness of the Indian system of medicines. He opined that there is a need for more research on all treatment methods under AYUSH in the future.

The Minister said that the Ayurvedic treatment system has existed for 5 thousand years and was discovered by sages of the past and we still

have a lot of work to do to bring this Ayurvedic treatment to the world. He expressed confidence that only on the basis of this knowledge India will emerge as a global leader.

The Minister inaugurated the Integrated Telemedicine Centre at Symbiosis University. He also unveiled the medicinal plant garden created in the university premises. Principals of various Ayurveda colleges in Pune were felicitated by the Minister on this occasion. Founder Chancellor of Symbiosis International University Dr. B. Mujumdar, Chancellor Dr. Vidya Yeravadekar and Vice-Chancellor Sumti Gupta were present on the occasion, apart from a large number of students.

# Need to blend ancient knowledge with modern science: Jitendra Singh

Agency  
Dehradun, Nov 6:

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday stressed on the modernisation of indigenous texts of ancient knowledge as India seeks to assert its scientific prowess in the world.

Inaugurating the national conference on 'Akash Tatva Akash for Life' here, Singh said India's indigenous knowledge and ancient texts were ignored as students of science

pursued their studies based on texts written by authors of other countries.

"There is a scientific basis to this linking of ancient knowledge with modern science. What India has, others are not aware of it. We are also not aware of what we have because we have been reading their literature," Singh said at the conference where former RSS general secretary Suresh 'Bhaiyaji' Joshi, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, secre-

taries of science departments of the central government were also present.

"Our textbooks were written by authors of other countries. We did not have the kind of resources and hence could not appreciate our own knowledge," he said, adding that the conference could be a step in that direction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been encouraging all streams of sciences since he came to power, Singh said.

Singh said the idea of a

series of conferences blending the ancient knowledge of 'pancha maha bhoota' or five basic elements of life with modern science was first mooted by Joshi and it was a challenge to ensure that the message did not slip into the realm of superstition.

In his address, Joshi said India's cultural heritage, spiritual thought and knowledge systems have been part of the way of life in the country and needed to be presented to the world.

# J&K might soon be reinstated as state, hints FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 6:

Nirmala Sitharaman, the minister of finance, said on Saturday that the centre might be thinking about giving Jammu and Kashmir statehood again, ANI reported.

At Cooperative Federalism: The Path Toward Atma Nirbhar Bharat, an event on centre-state relations, she remarked, "Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi fully accepted the Finance Commission (report) and that is why today states get 42 per cent of the amount (tax collected) — now reduced by 41 per cent because J&K (Jammu and Kashmir) is no longer a state. It will soon become... may be

some time."

When discussing the Centre's allocation of funds to the states in accordance with the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations, she made this statement.

The Minister of Finance remarked, "All the people should have trust in the government, by the power in them and the power in us, That's the line that the Prime Minister always promotes and therefore in this time when we are discussing cooperative federalism. Because of this, at this time, when we are talking about cooperative federalism."

She asserted that gaining the confidence of the general public was priority one and that no state could differ in this

regard.

Added the Finance Minister that there is absolutely no chance that the funds will be used for anything other than the common good. As a result, the final phrase was Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas.

The Indian government bifurcated J&K into the two centrally-administrated union territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which meant that J&K was no more a state.

A presidential decree that repealed Jammu and Kashmir's special status and subtly altered Article 370 of the Indian Constitution came before the bill's introduction.

## Sports

# T20 World Cup: England beats Sri Lanka to enter semifinals; host Australia knocked out

Agency  
Sydney, Nov 6:

Ben Stokes hit a gutsy unbeaten 42 as England made the Twenty20 World Cup semifinals on Saturday with a tense four wicket win over Sri Lanka, shattering the hopes of defending champion Australia whose title defence is now over.

England needed to win to make the last four from Group 1 alongside already-qualified New Zealand, and it achieved the feat in a nail-biting finish with two balls to spare.

If it had lost, Australia would have gone through. Sri Lanka looked on track for a big total when it reached 80-2 after 10 overs, but the aggressive Pathum Nissanka was out for 67 and they crumbled to 141-8 with Mark Wood taking 3-26.

England raced to 75 without loss in reply and looked on track for an easy win. But it collapsed to 111-5 under pressure from the Sri Lankan spin attack and it went to the wire.

The victory was not enough to dethrone New Zealand at the top of the table with England



settling for second. The fate of Group 1 will be determined on Sunday.

Sri Lanka's defeat ended Australia's stuttering tournament, with its title defence never recovering after losing heavily to New Zealand on the opening day then having to share the points with England due to rain.

Sri Lanka, which has not beaten England in a T20I since 2014, won the toss and asked England to field, conscious that all five previous games at the ground during the World Cup had been won by the team batting first.

Nissanka pulled Stokes for an authoritative six off the second ball and two more sixes in

the third over, off Wood, signalled their intent.

But an aggressive 39-run opening stand came to an end when Kusal Mendis (18) attempted another boundary from Chris Woakes and Liam Livingstone held a catch near the ropes.

Nissanka kept the runs flowing but his new partner Dhananjaya de Silva (9) slogged at a slower Sam Curran ball and was caught by Stokes in the deep.

It reached 80-2 at the half-way point, but then Livingstone took a simple catch to remove Charith Asalanka (8).

Nissanka brought up his second 50 of the tournament

and ninth overall then crunched Stokes for six to pass 1,000 T20 career runs.

But tight bowling from spinner Adil Rashid slowed the run-rate and he eventually accounted for Nissanka, who heaved to substitute fielder Chris Jordan at long-on after a 45-ball knock.

Sri Lanka never regained momentum, making just 25 off the last five overs with three wickets falling in the final over.

In reply, Alex Hales and Jos Buttler plundered 70 off the six-over powerplay, smashing 11 boundaries in the process.

Sri Lanka gave themselves hope when Buttler (28) and Hales (47) were out in the space of three overs, with the spin of Wanindu Hasaranga accounting for both of them.

Harry Brook (4) quickly followed, caught and bowled by De Silva, then Livingstone (4) carelessly threw his wicket away with a slog and Moeen Ali (1) soon joined them back in the pavilion.

But Stokes kept his cool as the wickets tumbled and steered his side into the semi-finals alongside Woakes.

# I-League winner to be promoted to ISL next Season: All India Football Federation

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 6:

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday said that the winner of the I-League, which begins on November 12, will play in the Indian Super League (ISL) next season, without paying any fee as per the roadmap finalised three years ago.

But the participation of I-League winners of 2022-23 season — as well as 2023-24 — in the ISL will be subject to fulfilling the club licensing criteria.

"We can confirm that the I-League winner of this season will be promoted to the ISL (2023-24 season) subject to fulfilling the Premier one licensing criteria and sporting merit," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told *PTI*.

"They (I-League winners) will not give any (participation) fee. Since all the clubs playing in the ISL will have to fulfil Premier one licensing criteria, they (I-League winners) also will have to fulfil the criteria."

According to the roadmap

approved in 2019 with the involvement of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and agreed upon by the stakeholders, the I-League champion team of this season (2022-23), as well as that of next year (2023-24), will get direct slot in the next season of the top-tier ISL.

The promotion and relegation system was to kick in the ISL from 2024-25 season onwards.

Asked if the ISL organisers and AIFF marketing partners FSDL have agreed to the I-League winners from this year onwards qualifying for the ISL, Prabhakaran said, "The decision is as per the roadmap which was agreed earlier. We have just continued with the roadmap."

"This will end all the speculation and will take Indian football forward. The I-League clubs will welcome this decision."

There were speculations in certain quarters whether the roadmap will be adhered to by the new executive council led by president Kalyan Chaubey

though the AIFF had denied media reports which had suggested any move to deviate from the plan approved by the AFC.

The AIFF was to announce the decision at the press conference held here on Friday, but could not do that as it did not get the go-ahead from its legal team then.

"Our legal team could not complete work yesterday. But they have completed it today and we have got the legal go-ahead now," Prabhakaran said. "Since it was in the roadmap agreed earlier, there is no need for the executive council of the AIFF to approve it again. This decision (to promote I-League winner to ISL) is final."

The I-League, which begins on November 12 at Manjeri with defending champions Gokulam Kerala hosting last year's runners-up Mohammedian Sporting, will be telecast live on two channels — Eurosport and DD Sports — and will be live-streamed on the Discovery Plus OTT platform.