

## Chief Minister launches Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 theme song



IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched the Manipur Sangai Festival 2022 official theme song titled "Manipur" at the Chief Minister's Secretariat today. The theme song is sung by the State's renowned folk singer Mangka Mayanglambam and her team. Addressing the media on

the occasion, N. Biren Singh stated that the Sangai Festival is a beautiful festival, which could be brought up to international level if wide publicity is given. After a gap of two years, this time, the Sangai Festival is being planned to organize in a bigger way, with various events organized at 13 venues across the State, he added.

Stating that a large cultural

exchange programme would be organized at Makhel as a part of the festival, the Chief Minister informed that the people of Ahom and Nagaland would be invited to attend the festival. Arrangements are also being made to organize events at Behiang and Khoupum and other places apart from the main venue at the Sangai Ethnic Park, Moirang Khunou at the pe-

riphery of the habitat of Sangai, he added.

He continued that apart from the Manipur Polo International Tournament, the Sagol Kangjei game would also be held at the Manung Kangjeibung at Kangla where players will wear the traditional attire as a historic event.

Appreciating Mangka and her team for coming up with the beautiful Sangai Festival theme song, he informed that the video for the theme song would also be launched soon. He further appealed to the media persons to give wide publicity of the theme song in order to attract tourists.

The launching programme was also attended by Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, Chairman, Tourism Corporation of Manipur Ltd. Karam Shyam, Commissioner (Tourism) P.K. Jha, Director (Tourism) W. Ibihal and Folk Singer Mangka Mayanglambam among others.

## Tension erupts at Temporary Market shed as street vendors' issue remain unresolved

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

Tension erupted at temporary market shed at Khwairambandh Keithel here in Imphal after a group of street vendors thronged in at the market shed and demanded their space. Those group already occupied at the temporary market shed refused to leave and heated argument occurred between the two group.

The street vendors belonging to "Khwairambandh Keithel Street Vendors' Welfare Union" who thronged to the Temporary market shed that as per the government order the space should be shared among the street vendors on rotation basis.

Earlier, the members of the street vendors' Union went to the IMC office and protested to the IMC demanding space in the newly constructed temporary mar-



ket shed.

Talking to media, president of the Union said that

they are recognized and registered Union. She said that they too have been surviving by selling goods at street. She appealed the authority to do justice.

ing by selling goods at street. She appealed the authority to do justice.

## ILP centres opened at three railway stations

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

The Manipur government has set up inner line permit (ILP) centres in at least three railway stations in the state.

The ILP centres have been set up at Vangaichungpao, Rani Gaidinliu and Thingong railway stations in Manipur.

The Tousem police station has been entrusted with the work of issuing ILPs at Rani Gaidinliu and Vangaichungpao railway

stations in Manipur.

On the other hand, the work for issuing of ILPs at the Thingong railway station in Manipur has been given to Khongsang police station.

Notably, the Manipur home department had issued an order on November 4 for setting up of the ILP centres in these three railway stations.

The Manipur inner line permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the state government to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen visiting

Manipur for a specific time period.

The ILP regime was extended to Manipur on December 11, 2019, two days after union home minister Amit Shah announced in Parliament the central government's decision to do so.

As per the system, a temporary pass for 15 days will cost Rs 100 while labourers can get six-month passes for the same charge.

Frequent visitors can get six-month passes for Rs 1000.

## MDS Scam: ED attaches assets worth Rs 3.12cr belonging to Y. Ningthem Singh

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) announced on Monday that it has attached immovable and movable properties worth Rs 3.12 crore belonging to one Y. Ningthem Singh and his associates in connection with an investigation into a money laundering case involving the Manipur Development Society's massive fund embezzlement (MDS).

In 2017, the ED launched an inquiry against MDS offi-

cial and other people based on an FIR filed by Imphal West Police under various sections of the IPC and section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

There were charges of misuse of MDS funding over Rs 169 crore.

During the investigation, the ED discovered that Singh, the then-Project Director of MDS, embezzled and misused a large sum of money from the MDS account in criminal collusion with his colleagues.

Later, these misdirected funds were moved and laun-

dered into the accounts of numerous shell companies and other accomplices. Y. Ningthem and his associates purchased multiple properties in various areas.

The ED has attached six immovable assets worth Rs 3.04 crore and an amount of Rs 8,20,000 held in various bank accounts.

In this instance, "the ED had previously frozen eleven different bank accounts associated with the accused suspects on November 2021 with a balance value of Rs 41,53,489," an official said.

## CM inspects Sangai Ethnic Park and Manipur Olympian Park

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today visited the site at Moirang Khunou, Bishnupur District, where the Sangai Ethnic Park is being constructed and inspected the arrangements made for the upcoming Manipur Sangai Festival 2022.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, Chairman, Manipur State Power Distribution Company Ltd. Tongbram Robinro, Chairman, Loktak Development Authority M. Asnikumar, MLA of Moirang AC Thongam Shanti, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Managing Director, Manipur Police Housing Corporation Ltd. C. Doungel and Commissioner (Tourism) P.K. Jha.

While addressing the media, N. Biren Singh stated that various infrastructure development works had been taken up to generate income and to provide employment to youths of the State. The construction of the Sangai Ethnic Park is a long-term investment to generate income and it will do away with the expenditure incurred to set up the venue



for the Sangai Festival every year, he added. He further stated that the tourist destinations being developed at various places across the State will help in earning regular income for the State.

The Chief Minister informed that the State Government is in process of establishing Tourist Police, which will be attached to the Superintendent of Police of every district. Basic training of two to three months will be given to them. They will wear a different uniform and will not bear arms, he added. He continued that the tourist police will be used to guide tour-

ists visiting the State.

Later, the Chief Minister also visited the ongoing construction site of Manipur Olympian Park at Sangaiethel and inspected the progress of the construction work.

N. Biren Singh was accompanied by Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) Minister Govindas Konthoujam, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, MLA of Lamsang AC Sorokhaibam Rajen, Principal Secretary (YAS) S.S. Chhabra, Director (YAS) T. Phulen Meitei and other officials among others.

## Reception ceremony of Lukanand Kshetrimayum held at RIMS

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

A reception ceremony of Lukanand Kshetrimayum, First Runner up of 14<sup>th</sup> Mister International 2022 was held today at Dr. Kamal Hall, Department of Psychiatry, RIMS, Imphal which is jointly organized by Department of Clinical Psychology, RIMS, Imphal & Share & Care (SAC), Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, Imphal in presence of N. Indrakumar Singh, DDA (Admn.), Prof. RK Lenin

Singh, Head of Department Psychiatry, RIMS, Imphal and Dr. Sameeta Ng., Assistant Professor, Head i/c Clinical Psychology, RIMS, Imphal. During the program, Deputy Director (Admn) said when a person is Psychology, Emotionally and socially well-being, our goal can be achieved.

Lukanand Kshetrimayum has proved it and now an aspiration for better career and sound mental health. Prof. RK Lenin, Department of Psychiatry, RIMS, Imphal facilitate Mr. International with gift

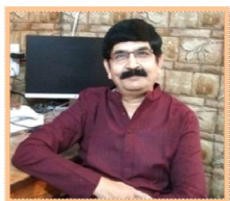
& memento. Lastly, Lukanand Kshetrimayum, thanks and show his gratitude for inviting him at RIMS. He mentioned that he wish to work on various projects cooperating with RIMS especially for mental health and drug abuse. He wishes and determines to work for welfare of our better society with joint collective efforts on various projects.

The reception ceremony was also attended by faculty members, officials, staff and students of RIMS, Imphal.

**Result of the Essay Competition organized by the Imphal Times on the topic "Manipur's Socio-Economic Problems: System Failure or Individual False." will be declared on November 20, 2022 and the prizes will be handed over on January 9, 2023 on the foundation day of Imphal Times.**



## 'Gurupurab' - one of the most important festivals in Sikhism



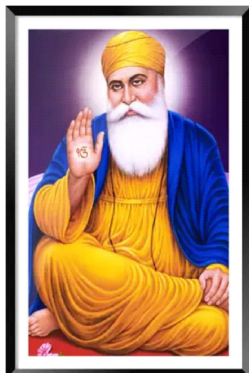
By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Guru Nanak Jayanti is one of the most prominent Sikh festivals which is observed as the birthday of the first of their gurus, Guru Nanak. The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak played an important role in shaping and strengthening the Sikh community. Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as 'Gurupurab' is considered one of the most important festivals in Sikhism. Guru Nanak was born on April 15, 1469, at Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi, near Lahore, which is in the Sekhpora district of modern-day Pakistan. Guru Nanak had always been a spiritual person since childhood. On this day, Sikhs from across the world pay their tributes to the Guru who now known as Nanaka Sahib, near Lahore (in Pakistan) in 1469. This year marks the 553rd birth anniversary celebrations. While Diwali falls on the 15th day of the Kartik month as per the Hindu lunar calendar, Guru Nanak Jayanti falls fifteen days after that on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima. He led so many people away from superstition and hypocrisy and showed them the correct path. One of the most famous teachings attributed to Guru Nanak Dev Ji is that there is only one God, and all human beings can have direct access to God. He denounced the caste system.

The festival is celebrated on the day of Kartik Purnima, which is the fifteenth lunar day in the month of Kartik according to the Hindu calendar, and usually falls in the month of November by the Gregorian calendar. Guru is inspiration, Happy Gurpurab! May you find happiness and peace with the blessings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. To spread the message of oneness and purity, he travelled several miles. Mainly, his teachings involved three things, namely 'Vand Chakko', 'Kirt Karo' and 'Naam Japna'. 'Vand Chakko' means sharing with others and helping the needy person. 'Kirt Karo' is making a living honestly without exploiting anyone and without any fraud, and 'Naam Japna' involves controlling our evils by meditating on the name of God. He focused on the rights of women and equality. His teachings were passed to further generations through his successor and were included in Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. It is a holy book of Sikhs that consists of all the teaching of Sikh Gurus and other spiritual leaders also.

Although there are no official reports about the origin of this festival, it is believed that the custom of celebrating Guru Nanak Jayanti is as old as Sikhism. There is a famous hymn; Sut Guru Nanak Purgattiya, Mitte Dhund Jugg Channun Hoyaa which means a Divine Teacher Nanak has taken holy birth; a great fog is lifted, and the world is bathed in divine light. Guru Nanak Dev firmly believed that an individual could connect to God through sincere prayers. He didn't encourage traditions that included sacrifices. All his teachings and preachings are composed together to form the sacred book called Guru Granth Sahib. It is the central holy religious scripture of Sikhism, regarded by Sikhs as the final, sovereign and eternal Guru.

The main verses from the Guru Granth Sahib elaborate that the creator of the universe was one. His verses also propagate selfless service to humanity, prosperity, and social justice for all irrespective of any demographic differences. Sikhism also forbids the concept of messengers and reincarnation. The role of a guru as a spiritual and social master forms the base of the Sikh religion. He focused on 'Kirt Karo' and 'Vand Chakko'. That is, earn an honest living, without exploitation or fraud and share with others, help those who are in need, so you may eat together, respectively. Let us spread the message of love, peace, and harmony among people as Guru Nanak ji wanted that nobody must be discriminated against on any grounds and people must live with unity. He was only the initiator of the community kitchen where people of any religion either rich or poor sit and eat together.



## Kartik Purnima : Festival of Dev Deepawali



By: E.R. Prabhat Kishore

India is a country known for its diversity in terms of people and culture and there are different kinds of festivals and rituals. Kartik Purnima is one of the auspicious festivals for three prominent communities Sanatan Dharma, Sikh and Jain together. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over the country and abroad on Shukla Paksha Purnima Tithi of Kartik month and falls 15 days after Deepawali.

Kartik Purnima also known as "Tripurari Purnima" or "Tripuri Purnima" is celebrated as the victory of Bhagwan Shiva over the demons Tarakaksha, Viryavana and Kamalaksha (together called "Tripurasur"). All the Devas rejoiced at their killings and celebrated "Dev Deepawali" by lighting Diyas in the heaven. On this day, Dev and Devis descended from the heavens on the earth to take a bath in the Holy rivers. So, by lighting Deeyas, taking holy dip in rivers and other water sources (called Kartik Snan) and worshipping deities, devotees wish for divine blessings and attract prosperity. Devotees offer "Deep Daan" (floating of lamps) on the rivers. Deepalpas or towers of lights are illuminated throughout the night in the Mandirs on this occasion.

This day marks the emergence of Matsya, the Matsyavatar (Fish incarnation) of Bhagwan Vishnu to

rescue living beings save life on the earth. It is also believed that on this day Bhagwan Krishna and Radha performed Rasleela with the Gopis in Brajdhumi. In Dakshin Bharat, this day is celebrated as the birthday of Kartikeya, the lord of war and son of Shiva-Parvati.

On Kartik Purnamashi, Guru Nanak Dev ji Jayanti is celebrated worldwide as "Guru Parab" or "Prakash Parva". Various programmes along with Kirtan, Gurubani and Akhand Pathare organized in the Gurudwaras in every corner of the country. Although his birthplace Talwandi Nankana Sahib now falls in Pakistan.

Jains believe that Rishabh (also popular as Adinath), the first Tirthankar, had sanctified the Shatrunjay hills at Palitana on Kartik Purnima by visiting it and delivering his first sermon. So, Jain pilgrims flock to the foothills of the Shatrunjay hills to under-

take the auspicious Yatra. Shri Shatrunjay Tirth Yatra is an important religious event for a Jain Devotee, who circumambulate the rough mountainous terrain covering a distance of 216 km on foot to worship at the Adinath Mandir atop the hills.

On Kartik Purnima, many world famous fairs such as Harihar Kshetra Sonpur Pashu Melain Bihar, Pushkar camel fair in Rajasthan and Lugu Pahar Mela in Bokaro (Jharkhand) are organised.

Whatever be the belief and happenings behind the festival of Kartik Purnima, this day marks harmony, joy, celebrations, devotion, spiritual Bhajan-Kirtans in Mandirs, Gurudwaras and everywhere. It illuminates the houses, hearts and heaven and spread the message of friendship and togetherness.

(Author is a technocrat and academician.)

## A Deliberately Disruptive Analogy



By: M.R. Lahu

Senior Congress leader Shivraj Patil's discovery of Jihad in Bhagavad Gita was not in tune with what his party understands about the holy text. This was probably visible when his party distanced itself from his statement and agreed to term his assertion on the Hindu holy text as unwarranted and baseless. It is improper to cross check the Congress sentiments on what the Gita professes. But the party's sensibility to outrightly reject its leader's senseless clamour on the Hindu religious text should be seen as an approach it began to feel appropriate and secular. Patil served as union minister in the Manmohan-led UPA government from 2004 to 2008.

The statement of the veteran that caught the ire of the moment was obviously an ill-equipped assertion deliberately meant to stir the hornet's nest. "The concept of Jihad is not limited to the Quran but also the Bhagavad Gita, which is part of Mahabharata," he declared at a book releasing event. To emphasize his view further, he claimed that Lord Krishna taught Arjuna about Jihad in the battlefield; therefore, essentially the Gita accentuates the authority of Jihad. His insinuation did not stop with his reference to Hinduism and Islam. But he was vocal about elements of Jihad in Christianity as well. For him, Lord Krishna, in essence and practice justified war and

promoted use of weapons and appreciated bloodshed when threatened.

A comparison of Islamic Jihad with the Kurukshetra war by the Congress veteran was a balancing act to cover up terrorism. This was almost in line with the Hindu terror narrative that the Congress had unsuccessfully launched during the UPA regime. The party thought that such a narrative could be an effortless makeover presenting Jihad and terror in a dim light. The saffron terror jargon by the Congress turned out to be a sharp weapon that the BJP met the 2014 National Elections with. The Congress had this remark haunting it throughout the elections and the result of 2014 was a culmination of the discontent that the majority in India registered against the party vigorously. The prospects of the Congress began to dispel with the party sensing its significance being terribly capsize.

The Bhagavad Gita is known to have been delivered amid a terrible war that was fought for eighteen days between two groups in the same family. The principal reason that pushed the Pandavas and Kauravas into a ruthless bloodshed was the dispute on the share of a rightful portion of the country that the Panadavas had a genuine stake on and when the Kauravas refused to concede. Krishna's arbitration for a peaceful settlement failed though he attempted multiple times amicably trying to dissuade the warring sons of the blind king. Throughout the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna seems to be playing the role of a friend and a mentor and his efforts to enlighten the warrior prince Arjuna was mainly by tutoring him on the elements of dharma or duty based on righteousness. Therefore, the philosophy of Bhagavad Gita unequivocally parades the reader through the essen-

tial principles of dharma and the importance of being dharmic. Despite his being the divine, Lord Krishna, the benign friend of the Pandavas, had to undergo remorseful moments and the imprecations by the blindfolded mother Gandhari in the battlefield had brought disaster in his life. His clan was totally wiped out and his kingdom got submerged in water. The Mahabharata epic, through the battle portion, is obviously suggesting the need of following one's own dharma and the deliberations of Krishna is a solid proof of the great Indian philosophy that advocates liberal coexistence of multiplicity.

For Islam, Jihad is one of the most pious duties that the religion has authenticated. And whoever stands in the opposite of the edifice of Islam is a Kaffir and Jihad is a divinely ordained struggle that every devout Muslim is supposed to live for. Jihad or 'Holy war' gives licence to a Muslim to spread his religion among the non-believers through all possible means, including violence. Who should be the Islamic Jihad declared against? The clear answer is that the holy war should be fought against the non-believers. Those who express views against the supremacy of Allah deserve to be exterminated or punished and the war declared against them is a holy manoeuvre which is seen in various forms and fashions. Islamic scriptures depicting bloodthirsty remarks on non-believers and the action plans to consolidate power for an Islamic globe are part of a long cherished dream and unsurprisingly there are young men and women ready to explode for a heaven that they would be rewarded, once they perish.

Whereas, the mega epic the Mahabharata elucidates on the difference between dharma and adharma and the battle that the epic

is vocal about is the one that was fought for the establishment of dharma or righteousness. This was probably the reason that India, as a country has always been upholding values of nonaggression and it never thought of capturing another land. Bhagavad Gita for that matter has never justified a war for the establishment of the power of any particular God. Interestingly, Lord Krishna shares his wisdom with Arjuna and in a later period suggests him to follow his words if he found them genuine and wise. Krishna's persistence on Arjuna was to follow his righteously duty as a warrior prince and war was a tool to establish that genuine morality in his kingdom. In the beginning, Arjuna was intellectually incapable to delve into the philosophy that Krishna elaborated for him and the teachings of Gita were discovered to be life fulfilling theories and master plans to live life with its fullest potential.

The war that was fought in the Mahabharata was between two branches of the same family while Jihad is a war declared against those who refuse to acknowledge Islamic religious ethos. Its aggressive invasion had toppled religious monuments of Hindus and other religions and forget not, the division of this subcontinent into two distorted pieces in 1947 was also the result of a mindset that propelled discontent and disregard for other religions. Overwhelmed by unethical political appeasement, political parties in India had almost forgotten the values that the essential Indianness is built on. Bhagavad Gita has contributed so much so that the cultural edifice of India is rock solid while many civilizations disappeared from the face of the earth.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/ Social Worker)

## Digital University to be set up in the coming academic session



By: Vijay GarG

In view of the UGC Chairman's latest announcement of a digital university to be set up in the coming academic session, it is time to mention that the spectre of Coronavirus haunted the

policy makers of education for more than two years and it is, undoubtedly, education technology that came to their rescue. Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype, Google Hangout and other apps helped all to communicate and exchange knowledge with each other.

The universities also embraced these solutions, but the time has come to ask if India can come up with the concept of a digital university, as visualised by the National Policy of Education (NEP 2000), thereby providing learners with a new experience of learning? It sounds exhilarating to think of attending a class whenever one wants to because of prerecorded sessions, asking the teacher questions and receiving answers instantly as the

teacher is logged on at the same time. Also, it could be a moment of enjoying financial relief because one does not have to travel or stay at some hostel.

The plan to set up digital universities is premised on the National Education Policy's objective of enhancing the gross enrolment rate in higher education in the country from the current 26 per cent to 50 per cent by 2035. However, on the basis of global experience, it is feared that the quality of education delivered by such universities may have to be compromised. The concept of digital universities has been developed for students to obtain almost immediate feedback from teachers through emails or online discussions. When the term came into existence it applied to things that were simulated by the computer, like virtual memory.

Now, this came to be applied to things that physically exist and are cre-

ated by means of computers. In fact, the concept of digital universities first came with the idea of a wireless university at the BBC. In the tele-university concept, courses were taught on the radio and television in the name of "university on air" which came to take the shape of an open university. Online courses mean that students will learn in their own time by reading course materials, working on course activities, writing assignments, and interacting with teachers and other students through teleconferences.

Digital classroom environments will be accessible to any student provided he or she has access to a computer or internet connection. This may allow dynamic interaction with teachers and among the students themselves. The synergy that may exist in student-centred digital classes is one of the most vital traits of the digital learning format.

Virtual Global University in Germany offers a graduate programme in information and management where students can have access to a wide network of people and interactions. They are able to work at their own pace. Hence, the importance of the development of such skills including creativity, communication, and knowledge application.

However, the fact remains that a digital university cannot provide face-to-face interactions. So, the students would be deprived of opportunities for better communication and deeper understanding. Their computer literacy may also deter them from adopting new technology which may lead to incomplete learning and low performance. The performance of many students at DeVry University in the US was examined some time ago. The university offers online and contacts versions of all

its courses, using the same textbooks, assessments, assignments, and lecture materials for each format. Even though the courses are seemingly identical, the students who enrolled online performed worse.

As a result, online students would be more likely to drop out. The hardest hit would be the unwilling few and those who enter the virtual classes with low grades in their previous examinations. The weaker students would be the worst sufferers. An overwhelming advantage to student learning by trusting information technology has not been perceived as yet when simple chalk and talk methods could have done equally well. We have not thought of an equally good alternative to the classroom lecture - the discussion method that has been at the heart of the teaching-learning experience.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# Bengaluru Court directs Twitter to temporarily Block Congress, Bharat Jodo Yatra handles

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Nov 8:

Additional City Civil Judge, Bengaluru Lathakumari M on Monday directed Twitter to take down three tweets posted from Congress party's main handle @INCIndia and ordered the micro-blogging site "to block" the social media handles @INCIndia and @BharatJodo till next date of hearing.

The judge passed an ex-parte order in response to the suit filed by "MRT Music" alleging the use of sound records of the film "KGF Chapter-2" by Congress, thus infringing its copyrights. The Indian National Congress, Supriya Shrinete, Rahul Gandhi, Twitter Inc and Ashok Kumar are the respondents. The next hearing has been posted on November 21.

A suit has been filed by M Naveen Kumar (40), partner of MRT Music, accusing the Congress of using the music from the Kannada film "KGF-2" during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

"The prima facie material available before this court establishes that if the same is encouraged, the plaintiff who is in the business of acquiring at cinematography films, songs, music albums etc., will be put to irreparable injury and it will also lead to encouraging the piracy at large", the judge noted.

The court restrained the defendants from using the copyrighted work owned by the plaintiff and from distributing pirated copies of the same. It also restrained the respondents from uploading, storing, posting, communicating or digitally transmitting the work held by the plaintiff, till next date.

The court appointed S.N. Venkateshmurthy, District Sys-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Degloor in Nanded as he began his Maharashtra leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra on Monday.

tem Administrator of Computer Section, Commercial Court, Bengaluru as Local Commissioner to visit the defendants' website to carry out electronic audit, preserve the infringed material available in the above social media, prepare inventory and store the same in the court's system and separate CD.

An FIR No. 362/2022 was registered with Yashwantpur police station under sections 403, 465, and 120B read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and Section 63 of the Copyright Act, 1957 against the Congress and above mentioned accused, by Kumar on Friday. Then the matter was referred to the 9th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

After the news broke out, Congress in a tweet said, "We have read on social media about an adverse order from a Bengaluru court against INC & BJY Social Media handles. We were neither made aware of nor

present at court proceedings. No copy of the order has been received. We are pursuing all the legal remedies at our disposal."

**Bharat Jodo Yatra enters Maharashtra**

In the meanwhile the Yatra reached Degloor in Nanded in Maharashtra on Monday evening from Telangana. The entire Degloor town was aglow with flaming torches on the occasion. Over 3000 torches were lit at the giant statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

A host of Maharashtra Congress leaders including MPCC Chief Nana Patole, former CMS-Ashok Chavan, Sushilkumar Shinde and Prithviraj Chavan and CLP leader Balasaheb Thorat welcomed him.

Addressing a huge gathering, Gandhi said "come what may, no force on earth could stop the yatra until it reaches Srinagar. He also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his inability to control the rising prices of essential com-

modities and fuel.

After that Gandhi walked for nine km from the Shivaji Maharaj statue and offered prayers at Gurudwara Yaadgar Baba Zoravar Singh Ji at Vanali.

During his 14 day leg in Maharashtra, Gandhi will walk 381 km through 15 assembly and 06 parliamentary constituencies. In Nanded, Gandhi will walk 106 km in five days. It will be followed by 91 km in Hingoli district, 54 km in Washim district, 59 km in Akola district, and 71 km in Buldhana before entering Madhya Pradesh. NCP Maharashtra President Jayant Patil, NCP MP Supriya Sule and NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad will walk with Gandhi on November 10. Gandhi will address public rallies in Nanded and Shegaon on November 10 and November 18 respectively.

The 150-day marathon walk which began on September 07, from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu will cover 3570 km and will conclude in Kashmir to unite the country against "divisive politics".

# With 625 fresh Covid cases, India sees lowest daily tally in over 7 months

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 8:

India's daily Covid tally reached a new low in nearly seven months with total new cases totaling 625 in a 24-hour span, according to a Union Health Ministry data update on Tuesday. The overall number of cases in India - ever since the pandemic started stand at 4,46,62,141, with no new deaths reported. This is also a first in many months.

As of Monday, the overall death count stood at 5,30,509 with a fatality rate of 1.19%. There were 937 new cases reported on Monday, 312 more than those reported in the last 24 hours. The number of active cases in India has dropped to 14,021 from 14,515 on Monday. The number of active cases in Kerala also decreased over the previous day, falling by 69 from the previous day's total with 2,600 active cases by Tuesday. Of all the states and UTs,

Kerala currently has the most active cases. Around 198 people have been discharged in a day which also increased compared to the previous day. Assam has the second-highest number of active cases, with 2552 total active cases remaining unchanged in the last 24 hours.

Meghalaya has the fewest active cases overall among the states, with only four cases as of Tuesday, unchanged from yesterday.

# Baba Farid Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Uppal, conferred upon Innovative Academician Award-2022

IT Correspondent  
Bathinda (Punjab), Nov 8:

Maharashtra's SIDRA Bahuudeshiya Vikas Santha, registered society conferred "Innovative Academician Award-2022" on Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Uppal, Principal, Baba Farid College of Management and Technology, Bathinda, in reorganization to his outstanding contribution to the field of higher education.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, a prolific writer, a Man of Letters, an acclaimed academician, research stalwart, and the more ingenious guide has won accolades not only in the academic field but also in the genre of research. He is also a frequent reviewer, discussant, and on session chair for several professional organizations. Truly, he is a visionary in the field of banking and finance, with exceptional theoretical and applied contributions in the subject. Little did he know that this inclination towards a subject could ignite his passion in ways that would lead him to make global records. Completing the Maximum Number of Major Post-Doctoral Research Projects on Banking and Finance, he has registered his name in the India Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, International Book of Records, and World Book of Records.

Orville University awarded D.Litt. International Peace Uni-



versity awarded honorary D.Litt 2019 and Nelson Mandela University, USA also awarded Doctor of Letters to Dr. Uppal. University of South America also awarded honorary D.Litt. International Journal: Pune conferred the Best Reviewer Award on him. His monumental work encouraged various national organizations to honor such an inclusive academic and research stalwart with Jewel of India Award, Best Educationist Award, Shatiya Shiromani Purskar, Pride of India Award and Excellent Research Award by Punjab Commerce and Management Association respectively. This colossal figure earned Life Time Achievement Award from Dashmesh Girls College, Badal for his exemplary service to the cause of education. Deputy speaker, Punjab assembly, S. Ajab Singh Bhatti also awarded Life Time Achievement award. Malout administration honored Dr. Uppal during 71th R-Public Day celebration due to unparalleled contribution in the field of higher education and quality research.

Nelson Mandela University Awarded International Dr. Abudal Kalam Best Economist Innovative Award for the year 2019. He was also awarded Eminence Social Scientist Award by Deshmesh Girls College, Badal. He was also honored during Jagat guru shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji birthday (550) Celebration. His name is also selected for Amity Excellence Award for the Best Academic Author in the area of Banking and conferred during INBUSH ERA 2020, Best Outstanding Researcher Award-

2020, Outstanding Researcher-2021 Award and MTC Global Life time Achievement Award-2022, Top 10 Thinkers Award-2022, Punjab Rattan Award-2022 and Best Researcher Award-2021.

An Excellent Academician Award-2022, Pre-eminent Professor Award-2022, Indian Institute of Finance Professor Award-2021. Dr Uppal's contributions to the societal benefits of mankind are beyond speculations. His zeal to bring about change is an inspiration to every young student and researcher to work in a way that helps the world and brings us closer to the idea of global peace. He is an embodiment of passion, perseverance, excellence, critical thinking, and professionalism. He has also successfully defended his D.Litt thesis on the very burning topic, "Managing Transformation in Indian banks Through E-Delivery Channels- Challenges and Opportunities" in Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India in 2021. He desires to restructure and revolutionize Indian banking. Industry by linking it with e-technology thereby ushering a new era of competitive banking system not only at home but also abroad. For him, research is a never-ending process. The loss of human resources due to cancer has again caused a stir in his indefatigable research mind and he has embarked on a new project i.e. An empirical Study of "Loss of Human Resources with the Extensive Penetration of Cancer in the Malwa Belt of Punjab and its Future Perspectives." Infact, he is an asset for the society.

# 16 Indian sailors detained in Equatorial Guinea cry for help, send out SOS

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 8:

A crew of 16 Indian sailors, who are stuck in Equatorial Guinea, flagged an SOS for help. The crew have been detained in the region for over 80 days and they fear arrest by the Nigerian Navy. Equatorial

Guinea is located along the west coast of central Africa.

Alleging illegal detention, the crew appealed to the authorities for assistance and release.

Earlier, the Indian embassy in Equatorial Guinea said that officials are closely working

with the authorities of Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria for the early release of crew members of the MV Heroic Idun.

Promising an early resolution to the issue at hand, the Indian Embassy stated that authorities have been monitoring their situation.

"Since their detention in

mid-August, this Mission has been in regular contact with the crew members over the phone. We have also had several consular access/visits to them. We are closely monitoring developments and are actively engaged for an early resolution of the issue," the embassy said.

Contd. from Page 2

# Digital University to be set up in the coming....

No instructional technology has been developed to replace cooperative learning that takes place in group projects, field studies, recitals, and presentations. It is generally agreed that students do not learn merely from textbooks; if so, teachers would not be required. Only when textbooks and supplementary study materials are brought to bear upon a topic to be discussed in the classroom does the teaching-learning process become live. This is further accentuated through projects and assignments followed by term-end examinations.

Lack of access, whether it be for economic or logistic reasons, may exclude otherwise eligible students from the digital courses. This is an important issue in rural and lower socioeconomic neighbourhoods. Internet access may pose a significant cost to the users in a

digital university. Both students and facilitators must be able to use a variety of search engines and be comfortable navigating on the web, as well as be familiar with newsgroups, FTP procedures and e-mail. Even the most sophisticated technology is not hundred per cent reliable.

At the same time, to successfully participate in an online programme of a digital university, students must be well-organised, self-motivated and possess a high degree of time management skills. An online teacher must compensate for the lack of physical presence by creating a supportive environment in a digital classroom where all students feel comfortable participating. Computer-related frustration and the fear to face new things on the part of teachers may make them unacceptable to students. A Digital class environment

means the transfer of traditional pedagogy towards an electronic pedagogy in which the teacher becomes a facilitator of the learning process. This new pedagogy presupposes that the teacher should be qualified in new techniques. For many, it may be a threatening experience. It may be important to recognise that some subjects may not be taught online in a digital university because the electronic medium does not permit the best method of instruction.

Examples are hands-on subjects, such as public speaking, surgery, dental hygiene and sports where physical movements contribute to the achievement of the learning objectives. Hybrid courses may represent a solution, thus making that area of the course more accessible to a greater number of people who would otherwise have difficulty getting to the

campus. An online curriculum should reflect the use of dialogue among students and group discussions. Quality education may be provided in a digital university only if the curriculum is developed or converted to meet the needs of the online medium.

The task of accessing both the curriculum products and curriculum experts is an important issue for the success of a digital university. As the students cannot have access to the entire curriculum products, it is likely that scientific visualisation is used as an educational tool. The curriculum may not be easily updated or very interactive. The use of email may be effective for the exchange of information. Video conferencing over the internet may not be a practical substitute. From the administrative point of view, the question of accreditation becomes perti-

nent. Where would the credits go? How can Intellectual Property Rights be maintained? How will the issue of faculty control over content and curriculum be preserved?

These questions must be addressed initially. The students may not be able to reach dramatic moments that occasionally result in witicism, humour and other such elements that help to enhance the joy of the teaching-learning process. If a colourful presentation using PowerPoint fails to lead to a lively classroom discussion, it will be of no use.

But the teacher on the dais in front of many students can do wonders. It is always challenging for the teacher in traditional mode to get his point across without facial gestures and vocal cues. He can create classroom animation - the thrill of being with the students - which is absent online.

# Documents Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Admit Card and Registration Certificate of Class-XII Examination, 2002, bearing Roll No. 04630 and Regd. No. 17854 of 2000, issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between Lamlong to Babupara on 30th October, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Nandeibam Ashalata Devi

Lamlong

P.O. - Mantripukhuri, P.S. - Heingang



# MHA annual report underlines need to update National Population Register across country

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 8:

With the government likely to bring a Bill to amend the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act for a centralised data management, the Home ministry in its latest annual report has underlined the need to update the **National Population Register (NPR)** database across the country, except Assam. This is to incorporate the changes due to birth, death, and migration for which demographic and other particulars of each family and individual are to be collected.

The ministry's annual report for 2021-22 said due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the work of NPR updation and other related

field activities got postponed. "For updating the NPR database, a three-pronged approach will be adopted. It will include self updating wherein residents will update their own data after following some authentication protocols, updating of NPR data in paper format, and mobile mode. The demographic and other particulars of each family and individual are to be collected/updated during the exercise. No documents or biometrics will be collected during the updation," it said, adding that the Centre has already approved Rs 3,941 crore for the purpose.

The report also said the from April 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, a total of 1,414 citizenship certificates have been

granted by all authorities, including the MHA. "Out of this, 1,120 were granted by registration under Section 5, and 294 by naturalisation under Section 6 of the Citizenship Act-1955," the report added.

The annual report also said that the Central government has delegated its powers to grant Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation with respect to members of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian or Parsi communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to Collectors of 29 districts and Home Secretaries of nine states. "The delegation (of powers) will speed up the process of granting Indian citizenship to aforesaid category of migrants as the decision would be taken at local level,"

the report said.

The Home ministry granted long-term visas — which is a precursor to Indian citizenship — to 2,439 members of minority communities from the three neighboring countries in the last one year; including 2,193 from Pakistan, 237 from Afghanistan and nine from Bangladesh, it said.

"On the direction of the Supreme Court, the hard copies of the supplementary list of inclusions and online family-wise list of exclusions have been published in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam, on August 31, 2019. A total of 3,11,21,004 persons were found to be eligible and 19,06,657 persons ineligible for inclusion in the final NRC," the report said.

# Assam Rifles trains Agniveer aspirants at Kangvai, Churachandpur

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

In a bid to help the unemployed youth and bring them into mainstream, Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) is imparting pre-recruitment training to the youth of Churachandpur district who had applied for recruitment into the three services as Agniveer under Agnipath scheme at Kangvai, Churachandpur.

The battalion has opened a doorway in the form of pre-recruitment training to assist local youth in obtaining entry in the Agnipath scheme as Agniveer for recruitment into



the three services (Indian Army, Air force & Navy).

The battalion has identified 20 potential youth and providing them pre-recruitment training which include free tutorial classes, coach-

ing for physical tests and free medical evaluation for fitness assessment. In addition, trainees are being prepared for written test examination by well-educated training team.

# MHA completes mother tongue survey of 576 languages across India

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 8:

The Ministry of Home Affairs has successfully completed a mother tongue survey with field videography of 576 languages and dialects across the country.

According to the annual report of the home ministry for 2021-22, it has been planned to set up a web archive at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to preserve and analyse the original flavour of each indigenous mother tongue.

For this purpose, proper editing in arranging the linguistic data by in-house linguists is under process, it said.

"The Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) project is successfully completed with

field videography of 576 mother tongues," the report said.

The home ministry said the Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) is a regular research activity in the country since the 6th Five Year Plan.

In continuation to earlier publications under this project, the volume on LSI Jharkhand is finalised and that on LSI Himachal Pradesh is nearing completion.

The field work of LSI Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh is going on.

The videographed speech data of mother tongues is going to be uploaded on the NIC server for archiving purposes, the report said.

The home ministry said in the upcoming census, which has been kept on hold due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, several new initiatives have been taken for facilitating smooth conduct of the mega exercise, including use of the advanced geospatial technology.

The pre-census mapping activities include the preparation and updation of maps showing administrative units of the states and UTs, districts, sub-districts, villages, towns and wards within towns to ensure proper coverage of the entire geographical area of the country.

Further, efforts are being made for dissemination of Census results through web based interactive maps. Preparatory work in this direction has already been initiated.

Some of these initiatives include purchase of versions

and re-modules of software for completing the Census mapping activities in a quick and efficient manner and all mapping manpower trained on using the latest software, the report said.

Jurisdictional changes that occurred in the country after Census 2011 till December 31, 2019 have been updated in the geo-referenced database and further updation is going on as the freezing date has been extended upto June 30, 2022.

More than 6 lakh maps (district, sub-district, village level) have been prepared and being uploaded in the in-house portal for census functionalities and the same will be further updated and finalised as per jurisdictional changes till June, 2022.

# Assam Rifles motivates students to Join Sainik Schools

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

In pursuance to lend a helping hand to the young school children & guiding them in cracking All India Sainik School Entrance Examination 2023, Loktak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) con-

ducted an awareness drive at Kangvai Higher Secondary School, Churachandpur District today.

The drive included distribution of posters, information brochures at prominent places followed by conducting awareness lecture on eligibility criteria, online registration process, exam pattern, syllabus, selection process, fee cri-

teria and documents required was also delivered by the team of Assam Rifles at Kangvai Higher Secondary School, Churachandpur District.

The event saw exhilarating participation by the students and teachers alike. It was attended by 70 students and 05 tea

# AR assists Pangsang Sejol Village under Civic Action Programme

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 8:

Churachandpur Battalion of Assam Rifles, under the aegis of IGAR (South), under its Assam Rifle Civic Action Programme, distributed two water tanks and four wash ba-

sins to P Sejol village, Churachandpur district today.

The two water tanks, each with a capacity of 1000 litres and four wash basins were handed over to P Sejol village authorities and will be further distributed to necessary households, which

will resolve the water storage issue faced by the villagers.

The P Sejol village authorities and villagers came forward to acknowledge the efforts of the troops of the Assam Rifles and thanked the forces for their selfless service.

## Sports

# 2022 Asian Elite Boxing Championships: Sumit into Semi-final

Agency  
Amman (Jordan), Nov 8:

Indian boxer Sumit toilied hard to enter the semi-finals at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships by earning a well-deserved 3-2 win against Thailand's Borworn Kadamduan in Amman, Jordan on Monday.

Sumit, the current Thailand Open champion, got off to the best possible start in the men's 75kg quarter-finals bout, courtesy his agility while dodging the opponent's attacks and powerful attacking technique that gave him the upper hand in the first two rounds.

Kadamduan, however, managed to stitch together a late comeback in the final round but it wasn't enough as the Indian clinched the thrilling bout by split 3-2 decision and also sealed his place in the Last-4. He will be up against the defending champion Jafarov Saidjamshid of Uzbekistan.

India's guaranteed medal tally is now up to 11 at the ongoing prestigious championships following Sumit's triumph.

Meanwhile, the other two Indians in action-Sachin (71kg)



and Lakshya Chahar (80kg)—exited after defeats in their respective quarter-finals bouts.

Sachin could not sustain the momentum from his previous win as he suffered a 1-4 loss against the 2018 Asian Games silver medalist Aslanbek Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan. Lakshya, on the other hand, lost to Uzbekistan's Aslonov Odiljon by 0-5 margin.

Later tonight, Naveen Kumar (92kg) and Narender (92+kg) will take to the ring against Kazakhstan's Aibek

Oralbay and Iran's Iman Ramezanpourdelavar respectively in their quarter-finals bouts.

Late on Sunday night, Amit Kumar (67kg), Monika (48kg) and Simranjit Kaur (60kg) bowed out of the competition after suffering defeats in their respective games.

The boxers will get a chance to rejuvenate and come back stronger to compete in the semi-finals with tomorrow being a rest day. The competition has been witnessing the participa-

tion of 267 boxers from 27 top boxing nations.

On Wednesday, the Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and reigning World Championships bronze medallist Parveen (63kg) will be among seven Indian women pugilists to play their semi-finals.

The other women boxers in action will be debutants Minakshi (52kg) and Preeti (57kg) along with Ankushita Boro (66kg), Saweety (81kg) and Alfiya (+81kg).

# Brazil team for FIFA world cup 2022: Neymar, Jesus in; Firmino misses out

Agency  
Brasilia, Nov 8:

Brazil has included 39-year-old defender Daniel Alves but left out Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino in its 26-man World Cup squad which was named by coach Tite on Monday.

After leaving Barcelona at the end of last season, Alves went to Mexico to try to keep his dream of playing in his fourth World Cup with five-times champion Brazil.

But he played his last game for Pumas in September and sustained a knee injury that has been troubling him since.

Alves has been working on his recovery with the Barcelona academy medical and technical staff over the last few weeks.

"We have been following his recovery up close and all the data that we have from Barcelona doctors show that he is fit to play," Brazil team physician Fabio Mahseredjian told a news conference in Rio de Janeiro.

According to Tite, Alves' long history with Brazil and lead-

ership qualities in the changing room were valuable but not the main reason he got a spot in the squad.

"He adds technical and tactical aspects that are impressive, to be an organiser, an articulator," Tite said. "Sure he is not a 60 to 70 metres player anymore, but he has other virtues."

"The criteria awards his technical quality, but mental and physical aspects too."

Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli is included among nine forwards in a list dominated by 12 players from England's Premier League.

The emergence of a new generation of attacking players like Martinelli, Vinicius Jr, Rodrygo, Raphinha, Gabriel and Pedro has resulted in Firmino, 31, failing to make the squad.

Aston Villa attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho also did not make the list after sustaining a thigh injury in training over the weekend that will sideline him for several weeks.

Brazil will take four centre-backs - Juventus' Bremer, Paris St Germain's Marquinhos, Chelsea's Thiago Silva and Real Madrid's Eder Militao while

leaving out Roger Ibanez (AS Roma), Lucas Verissimo (Benfica) and Gabriel Magalhaes (Arsenal).

The Brazilian FA also announced that former PSG manager Ricardo Gomes will join Tite's staff as an assistant.

The squad and Tite will gather on November 14 at Juventus' training facilities in Turin, where Brazil will hold a five-day training camp before flying to Doha on November 19. Brazil opens its World Cup campaign in Qatar against Serbia on November 24 and also faces Switzerland and Cameroon in Group G.

Full Brazil squad  
**Goalkeepers:** Alisson, Ederson, Weverton.

**Defenders:** Danilo, Dani Alves, Alex Sandro, Alex Telles, Thiago Silva, Marquinhos, Eder Militao, Bremer.

**Midfielders:** Casemiro, Fabinho, Bruno Guimaraes, Fred, Lucas Paqueta, Everton Ribeiro.

**Forwards:** Neymar, Vinicius Jr, Gabriel Jesus, Antony, Raphinha, Richarlison, Martinelli, Rodrygo, Pedro.