

## CM extends greetings on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Durga Puja

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

CMN. Biren Singh extends best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. In his message, the Chief Minister said it is the day on which the nation has also been observing National Cleanliness Day every year. The United Nations also declared October 2nd as International Non-Violence Day to disseminate the message of non-violence to the world. Gandhi Jayanti reminds us to rededicate ourselves towards promoting amity, peace, and tolerance.

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## UCM sets to fight Dengue spread at Moreh

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

The United Committee Manipur (UCM) in collaboration with the State Medical Health Directorate and the National health Mission has started taking up measures to prevent the spread of dengue in border town Moreh from today. Four team of the state malaria department along with the UCM team will smoke to prevent Mosquitoes at various places of Moreh. The team will also distribute Chemically treated Mosquito nets.

## AMDDA Noney Branch Office Open

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

All Manipur Dalit Development Association (AMDDA) opened its Noney Branch Office at Longmai Bazar in Noney district today. The Office opening programme was attended by Dr. TM Rajen Ayangba, president of AMDDA; N. Ibochouba Singh, Chief Controller of AMDDA; Moirangthem Sorojini Devi, Advisor of AMDDA and Kaapao Meitei, general secretary AMDDA were attended as presidium members.

## State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 concludes

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

The State Handloom Expo 2022-2023 which has been going on at Urban Hatt, Nilakuthi concluded today. The handloom expo was organised by Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers and Handicrafts Artisans' C.S. Ltd. (AWAS), Paona Bazar, Imphal under National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) with the sponsorship of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

## International Day of Older Persons observed Central and the State Government had taken up various schemes for the welfare of older persons - CM



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

International Day of Older Persons, 2022 was observed today at Iboiyama Shumang Lila Shanglen, Imphal East with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh gracing the function as Chief Guest. The programme which was organised by the

Department of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur was also attended by Social Welfare Minister Shri Heikham Dingo as President and Health Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan and Additional Chief Secretary (Social Welfare) P. Vaiphei as Guests of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, N. Biren Singh stressed the

need for a stringent Act suitable in Manipur, to deal with those people who misbehave with their parents at their old age and force them to stay at old aged homes. Continuing that instances of keeping aged parents at old age homes have increased a lot, he cautioned that such culture will make the State move backward and

hinder its development. He also expressed that parents at their old age should be given respect and taken good care, adding that making them feel insecure at their age can be termed as a crime against humanity, he added.

The Chief Minister maintained that the Central and the State Government had taken up various schemes for the welfare of older persons. He informed that the State Government is in process to increase the pension amount under Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme (MOAPS) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension (IGNOAP) from Rs. 200 per month to Rs. 1000 per month for beneficiaries of 80 and above years of age. Around 25,000 older persons will be benefited by this initiative costing about Rs. 20 crore from the State exchequer, he said. He further informed that 16,000 additional beneficiaries had been provided old age pensions under MOAPS during the current financial year.

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## Separate 50 bedded Covid block inaugurated at RIMS



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), the premier medical institute of the Northeast with its headquarters at Imphal today inaugurated 50-bedded Covid care/Infectious Diseases Centre along with PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) oxygen generator & refilling station and Covid care private ward at its campus.

Director Prof A Santa of RIMS, Medical Superintendent Prof Nepram Sanjib

Singh and Prof Brogen Singh Akoijam were present at the inaugural function.

During the day's function, a hospital record department and a store house for condemned materials were also inaugurated by the Director Prof Santa led officials.

Later addressing a gathering inside the new 50-bedded Covid care centre Prof A Santa said that the new separate Covid care centre will help a lot in terms of providing the services to the patients besides enhancing the health workers.

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## PM launches 5G Services

PIB  
New Delhi, Oct 1:

Ushering in a new technological era, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched 5G services in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi today. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the sixth edition of the India Mobile Congress and also witnessed the IMC Exhibition that was put on the occasion.

Industry leaders expressed their views on this historic occasion.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, Reliance, thanked the Prime Minister for inspiring the vision of a developed nation by 2047. "Every action and policy of the government is skillfully crafted to propel India, towards that goal. Steps taken to fast-track India's march into the 5G era provide compelling proof of our Prime

Minister's determination", he said. He narrated the possibilities of 5G in key areas like education, education and climate etc. "Your leadership has raised India's prestige, profile and power globally like never before. In today's fast-changing world there will be no stopping a resurgent India from soaring to the top", Ambani concluded.

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman, Bharti Enterprise remarked that the launch of 5G is the beginning of a new era and since it is happening during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it makes it even more special. "With the efforts of the Prime Minister, this will usher new energy in the country. We are fortunate to have a leader in the Prime Minister who understands technology very minutely and deployed that to the development of the country in an un-

matched manner", he added. Mittal further said that it will open up a sea of opportunities for people, especially in our rural areas. He recalled the Prime Minister's initiatives in the field of infrastructure and technology from his Gujarat CM days. He said that during the pandemic, traffic shifted to villages and homes and the country's heartbeat did not stop even for a second. Credit for that goes to the digital vision. He also praised the audacity and achievement of the vision of Make in India. "Along with Digital India, the Prime Minister also took forward the Start-up India campaign and soon enough, India started producing unicorns", Mittal added, "With the advent of 5G, I'm sure that the country will add many more unicorns in the world."

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## SOREPA celebrates 1st anniversary

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

Armed rebel group Socialist Revolutionary Party, Kangleipak (SOREPA) today. A statement of the outfit signed by M.C. Yaiphabi, Publicity Secretary, SOREPA, Kangleipak said that the 1st anniversary in a simple way at its Central Head Quarter, Tactical Head Quarter, its units, Militia units, civil units etc, by maintaining by maintaining COVID-19 appropriate behavior.

The statement further said that the main function of the 1st Anniversary was held at its Central and Tactical Head Quarters.

At the function held at its Central head Quarter, the Chairman and General Secre-

tary of the organization graced the occasion as Chief Guest and President respectively. At the function held at its Tactical head Quarter Military Affairs Secy. Col. Chinhyang and Chief of the Army Staff of its army wing Peoples Revolutionary Army (PRA) Lt. Col. Angou Kuman graced as chief guest and president respectively.

At all the function held various units, the message of the Chairman was read out. At the function held at Central H. Q., Chairman of the outfit Toijam Ibochouba stressed on the need to strengthen the revolutionary movement in view of the present revolutionary struggle.

He said that without a revolutionary ideology the movement will not last long

and will never get support from the people. This was a lesson learnt from the prolong revolutionary movement since the annexation of WESEA and Manipur/Kangleipak by India. The Chairman added that without the people the revolutionary movement will never reached its goal.

He stressed on the importance of peoples participation to the movement saying that only the weapons that the revolutionary cadres have will not succeed the movement. While saying so it does not require to distribute weapons to all the people. What the movement need is the common ideology which the revolutionary organization and people should share as a common weapon.

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## Abuse of elders is not a good sign - Leisemba Sanajaoba

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

Rajya Sabha MP Leisemba Sanajaoba inaugurated an Old Age Home and Auditorium today at during the observance of International Day of Older Persons at Kakching. The said Old Age Home and Audito-

rium were built under the MP Local Area Development Fund of the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency MP Dr. Lorho Pfoze.

Speaking at the function, Rajya Sabha MP Leisemba Sanajaoba said the number of old age homes is increasing in Manipur. This is not a good

sign for our society. As the rate of parents abused by their own children increases, the number of old age homes also increases. Children are putting their elderly parents into old age homes instead of caring for them. We all should help this old age home so the elderly can live a comfortable life.

## Revoke the Show Cause Notice served to Dr N Sanatomba - YFPHR

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) has urged the Vice Chancellor of Manipur University to revoke the show cause notice served to Dr. N. Sanatomba Singh, Assistant Professor, MU. For sharing his opinion against the plan and policies of state government during his speech.

"Being a citizen of India under democratic country it is

very much in need to express our opinion in public interest before initiating any plan and projects of the government to discuss for the better implementation of the same", a statement by the Forum said.

In the statement signed by its Media Coordinator, S Ngouba the YFPHR said that the forum appreciates all the good policies & programs initiated by the present Govt. of Manipur, however it has been very unfortunate that state Government & its machinery

like law enforcement agencies are violating the right of activist, academicians from exercising their rights to freedom of speech & expression as enshrined in the Indian constitution and various other International law & covenant, it added.

"We all have witnessed in many of instance that some of our journalist, scholars & activist are arbitrarily arrested by the state police for their mere comments and criticisms of state policy & program.

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## Online Essay Competition

Commemorating the 126th Birth Anniversary of Lamyamba Hijam Irabot, Team Imphal Times is organizing an Online Essay Competition. This is the 2nd time that the Team Imphal Times is organizing an Essay Competition. This year theme is - "Manipur's Socio-Economic Problems: System Failure or Individual False."

All submitted essays will be published in the Imphal Times newspaper and the name of the winners will also be published. The word count for the essay must be between 1000 and 1200 words.

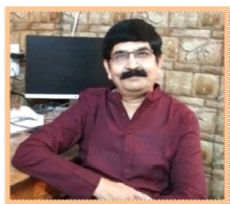
1st prize Rs 5000, 2nd prize Rs 3000, and 3rd prize Rs 2000 with certificates. The competition is opened to all individuals and every submission must be accompanied by a photo/image of the candidate. The last date of submission will be 6 pm on October 30.

All participants should enclose details of their identity. Father's or Mother's name, Address, Qualification, Contact No. (Cell Phone or Landline) should be enclosed at the of submitting the write up. Language medium : English.

Participant can be sent by e-mail to: [imphaltimesessaycomp@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimesessaycomp@gmail.com) in MS Word or PDF format.

Team Imphal Times

# Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength



By: Vinod Chandrashekhkar Dixit

Stephen Richards has said "When we age we shed many skins: ego, arrogance, dominance, unreliable, pessimism, rudeness, selfish, uncaring ... Wow, it's good to be old! 1st October is celebrated as the International Day for Older Persons every year. It is specially celebrated for the senior citizens all across the world to focus on the responsibilities towards their lives. This day is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing in today's world. It is a time not only to highlight their valuable contribution to the globe but also to stress their basic human rights. Many older persons are unaware of their rights and how to enforce them, due to a variety of reasons.

This is why celebrating the International Day of Older Persons is important in raising global awareness as a huge advocacy effort to call for more enhanced international thinking and actions on elderly rights. The age problem certainly confronts us and the matter is taking a turn for the worse with the passage of time. Today the life expectancy has risen sharply due to medical advancement, improvements in nutrition, sanitation, medical science, health care, education and economic well-being. Ageism is widespread and an insidious practice which has harmful effects on the health of older adults. The problem of loneliness and isolation is the gift of modern society. The society forces an old person to live like an island. The ageing process is a biological reality and affects every human being on earth. Physical strength leaves us resulting in general weakness and physical and mental infirmity. Ageism rests on the assumption that discrimination against older persons is the norm and acceptable. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". We must do everything possible to ensure that our elders can lead a life of dignity, enjoy the best of medical attention, economic security as well as emotional stability. Every phase of life has its own problems which require prudence, wisdom, courage and strength to attend to. In childhood and youth one has parents and other close elderly kin and kin to help, cooperate and guide. Besides, one himself is full of energy, strength, stamina and courage. But the situation takes a reverse turn in the old age.

The Older persons make wide-ranging contributions to economic and social development. They should be encouraged to get out of their retirement mentality and think about old age as second innings and opportunity to complete so many unfinished tasks and expand horizons to look beyond the family and work for the community. When one grows old, this natural love and affection of other members of the family for him vanishes and the elderly person becomes like a planet which has lost its gravitational force and has consequently been lost in the boundless and endless empty space.

As per WHO, there are around 600 million persons world-wide aged 60 years and over and this total will double by 2025 and it is estimated to reach virtually two billion by 2050 - the vast majority of them in the developing world.

Do we forget that the luxuries enjoyed by us were created by them through their hard work. At the same time we must also remember that we too will be like them one day and if our children treat us in the same fashion, are we going to happy then? We need to look at creating a more enabling and inclusive environment that is supportive and inclusive to people of all ages, including older people. The failure to tackle ageism undermines older persons' rights and hinders their contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life. The younger generation should know how the world addresses the elderly. The problem of old age should be seen as a societal issue rather than an individual's problem. A day will come when we all will be old and we will be facing the similar situation as faced by our elders today. It is our responsibility to provide long term care to them and thus contribute to healthy ageing.

## Bird diversity is lower in urban forests



By: Vijay GarG

According to a recent study done by Lund University in Sweden, cities have a detrimental impact on bird diversity. Even if the forest areas are of the same quality, urban woods have much fewer bird species than rural forests.

The researchers examined 459 natural woodlands located in or near 32 cities in southern Sweden. They counted the occurrence of different bird species, and the result is clear: in natural forests located in a city center, there are on average a quarter fewer species of forest birds compared to forests outside the city. In terms of endangered species, about half as many species were found in urban forests compared to rural forests.

The results deepen our knowledge of the impact of cities on biodiversity, says William Sidemo Holm, one of the researchers behind the study. It is already well known that urbanization is one of the main driving forces behind the loss of biodiversity, as cities spread out across the globe. What is not as well known, however, is how cities affect protected natural areas in a city. "Our study demonstrates that you cannot surround nature with urban development and believe that it will remain as it is, there is going to be a negative effect", says William Sidemo Holm, who worked on the study during his time as a doctoral student at Lund University. The researchers wanted to specifically examine similar forests, or habitats. It is therefore not city parks that have been compared to countryside forests, emphasizes William Sidemo Holm.

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# India among 42 countries where people are being silenced

## Suffered reprisals and intimidation by State and Non-State actors

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

India is among the 42 countries where victims of rights violations, human rights defenders and journalists have suffered reprisals and intimidation by States and Non-State actors - including being detained, targeted by restrictive legislation and surveilled both online and offline.

It has been revealed in the report submitted to the UN Human Rights Council on September 29, 2022. The report titled "Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights" said that for a third of the countries named in the report, individuals and groups either refrained from cooperation with the UN, or only agreed to report on an anonymous basis for fear of reprisals, which is a disturbing trend.

"People are pursued and persecuted for raising human rights concerns," said Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ilze Brands Kehris, adding, "Shocking though this number is, many cases of reprisals are not even reported."

The report highlighted cases happened between May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2022. People who sought redressal for human rights violations and abuses and who tried to cooperate with the UN or were perceived as doing so, were affected by reprisal and intimidation.

The report said that the surveillance of individuals and groups who cooperate with the UN to defend human rights continued to be reported in all regions, with growing evidence of expanded online surveillance and cyber attacks. Moreover, the massive digital shift accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic further increased challenges relating to cyber-security, privacy, and access to online spaces. At the same time, the use and impact of restrictive

government legislation that prevents and punishes cooperation with the UN, resulted during the year, in some long-term prison sentences or house arrest.

All these have a "chilling effect" on the people. Self-censorship, choosing not to cooperate with the UN or doing so anonymously amid concerns for their safety, is becoming another global tendency. Increased surveillance and monitoring, as well as the fear of criminal liability, have created the "chilling effect" of silence when it comes to reporting violations, stopping people from cooperating further with the UN and deterring others from doing so.

The report shows, as in the previous years, that intimidation and reprisals disproportionately affect certain populations and groups, including representatives of indigenous peoples, minorities, or those who work on environment and climate change issues, as well as people who may suffer discrimination based on age, sexual orientation and gender.

"The risks affecting women victims, as well as women human rights defenders and peace builders, who share testimony and cooperate with the UN, remain daunting," stressed Ms Brands Kehris vowing to work to "ensure that all can safely engage with the UN".

In India, the report said that staff and the secretary of the Centre for Social Development (CSD) in Manipur, Nobokishore Urkhimbam, and his relatives have continued to suffer intimidation, harassment, and physical violence during the present reporting period, despite the fact that their case have been included in every annual report since 2018 which mentioned allegation of surveillance, the freeing of bank accounts under FCRA and attempted

killings of close relatives for his human rights work and his engagement with the UN in relation to uranium mining and cement factories in Meghalaya. During the previous reporting period, CSD refrained from sharing information on environmental damage and health risks to communities from mining in Manipur for fear of further reprisal.

On February 26, 2022, Mr Urkhimbam's son, secretary of United NGOs Mission Manipur, was brutally assaulted at gut point by unknown individuals who took him in car, assaulted him and threatened to kill him, and dropped him at a police station seriously injured. On February 20, two unknown individuals verbally attacked Mr Urkhimbam's wife, who is the secretary of the NGO Women Action for Development. CSD's registration have not been renewed as on April 30, 2022 which was to expire on June 30, 2022 though renewal application was submitted in July 2021.

The case of the Central Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) was reported in the report of 2020 and 2021 also on allegation of reprisals. The situation of JKCCS and its chair Khuram Parvez, and other members of the coalition were included in every annual report since 2017. Government of India has responded in the case. However, Mr Parvez was still under travel ban in May 2021. Government of India responded in August 2021 and justified his detention, and that he had been provided legal and medical assistance and access to his family, subject to security requirements. He was again arrested on November 22, 2021 under UAPA, and his case was addressed by special procedures on December 1, 2021 and expressed their concern that Mr Parvez has been victim of a number of incidents

of reprisals for sharing information with UN.

On January 5, 2022, Government of India responded, the details of which were not made public due to their confidential nature. According to the latest information received by OHCHR, as a result of increased surveillance, online and offline, and police questioning and intimidation of JKCCS staff and associated personnel, their human rights work has been impacted and they could not come out with public report on the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir (both Indian and Pakistani side) since 2020.

The situation of Mr Henri Tiphagne from the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC, also known as People's Watch) was included in 2018, 2019, and 2021 reports. Their foreign funding has been restricted on allegation of financing terrorism, but the UN body has said it a clear case of reprisal. In January and February 2022, CBI raided, and the case is pending in the High Court of Delhi, due to which petition requesting intervention filed with National Human Rights Commission of India have been rejected.

The case of International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), a Denmark-based NGO working against caste-based discrimination and for the rights of Dalits was included in the report of 2020 and 2021. IDSN application for consultative status with ECOSOC has repeatedly been deferred since 2008 limiting its engagement with the UN. Government of India responded in August 2021 only to say that it is not aware of any incident of reprisal and intimidation against the organisation, and that 'legitimate scrutiny' of an application cannot be termed as reprisal. (IPA Service)

## Sandalwood for Skin



By: Shahnaz Husain

Sandalwood is popularly known for its fragrance, evoking peace and calm, and finding its use in aromatherapy and meditation.

Sandalwood's soft, woody aroma works well in soaps and body scrubs, and it's been used in Indian skin care for centuries.

Sandalwood, often known as Chandan, is a sacred Ayurvedic ingredient. The sandalwood tree, frequently utilised in religious rituals, has long been associated with Indian culture.

Sandalwood oil, obtained from the Santalum album tree, is a vital component of numerous beauty products used worldwide. In reality, most of us grew up hearing our grandmothers gush about the advantages of sandalwood oil and paste for the skin, particularly if you have acne.

Because they may solve a variety of skin issues, sandalwood oil and extracts can be an amazing elixir for your skin. Let's delve more into sandalwood's advantages for beauty. Go on reading.

### Prevents acne

Acne and pimples happen to be common skin problems faced by most people.

Sandalwood is a highly effective medicine for healing boils, ulcers,

and acne as well as preventing their aggravation because of its antiseptic characteristics, which restrict bacterial growth on the skin.

Make a paste by adding sandalwood oil to some turmeric powder and camphor. Apply it to your zits and leave it on overnight. Use plain water at normal temperature to wash it off. Rose water and red sandalwood face pack help in the reduction of acne and acne scars and also the irritation caused by acne due to its cooling properties. You can even add a teaspoon of honey and a pinch of turmeric to the pack for better results.

Additionally, sandalwood can prevent your skin from developing those terrible zits.

### Anti-ageing

Sandalwood oil contains antioxidants that help maintain the buoyancy and structure of the skin cells. It also reduces dryness and replenishes the moisture in the skin, increasing elasticity.

Take a large bowl of steaming water and add one to two drops of sandalwood oil to it. Keep your face over the bowl for 10 minutes (with your head covered over by a towel). Doing this daily or weekly may enhance your skin glow and reduce your face wrinkles significantly.

### Calm the skin

Due to its abundance of anti-inflammatory characteristics, sandalwood is a fantastic treatment for skin rashes and sunburns. It also prevents breakouts and acne while treating skin itchiness and irritation brought on by infections, bug bites, or product sensitivities. Mix the milk powder and a few drops of sandalwood oil in a bowl. Add a little amount of rose water for a fine paste. Apply the paste to your face and neck. Leave to dry for 30 minutes. Wash off with cold water and mois-



turize your skin. Repeat this twice/thrice a week for calming your skin

### Anti-tanning

A suntan might have long-lasting repercussions if it is not immediately treated. Rub sandalwood oil or apply its paste to the affected regions to lessen the redness and burning that result from excessive sun exposure.

Rubbing sandalwood oil or applying its paste on the affected parts can remove suntan gradually as well as reduce the redness and burning caused by overexposure to the sun's rays.

### Turmeric And Sandalwood

**Pack:** Mix half a teaspoon of turmeric powder with one teaspoon of sandalwood powder and some curd to make a smooth paste. Apply on the T zone and blackhead effect area. Let it sit for 20 minutes and gently scrub it off. Wash with lukewarm water use this mask once in 15 days.

Take one tablespoon of sandalwood powder with 1 teaspoon of honey or milk and make a paste. Apply it onto your skin. Leave it on for about 30 minutes and then wash it off with cold water. Do this 3 times a week for better results

### Eliminates scarring

Sandalwood helps your skin tissues to repair quickly. Eczema, acne, dark patches and wound scars can all be removed with the help of this therapeutic property. Additionally, because sandalwood powder removes impurities and evens out skin tone, it can help in whitening the skin. Moreover, future brides frequently like to apply sandalwood to their faces in order to seem flawless on their wedding day.

Sandalwood oil helps nourish the skin, improve the elasticity of skin cells, and even out skin tone. Because of these qualities, it can be beneficial in reducing the appearance of scars.

Sandalwood has long been used on family altars and in grandmothers' medicinal cabinets in India. It is currently readily accessible in a variety of convenient forms, including oils, lotions, soaps, and ointments.

Sandalwood can surely be a lovely addition to your skincare regimen for radiant and healthy skin.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

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## Centre extends AFSPA in several Districts of Nagaland & Arunachal for 6 more months

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 1:

The central government has announced that it would extend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA for six months in 12 districts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, and some areas of five other districts of the two northeastern states to facilitate the armed forces to continue the anti-insurgency operations.

The AFSPA extension would be implemented in districts including - Tirap, Changlang and Longding and also in areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai & Mahadevpur police station in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh.

In Nagaland the AFSPA extension would be in nine districts that include - Dimapur, Nuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, Peren and Zunheboto - as well as 16 police stations in four other districts including - Kohima, Mokokchung, Longleng and Wokha. Nagaland has 16 districts while Arunachal Pradesh has 26 districts.

The extension of AFSPA powers would mean that these territories would be termed a 'disturbed area' and the six-month extension would take effect from today unless withdrawn earlier.

The announcement comes after the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on March 31 said that the centre would try and reduce AFSPA opera-

tions from April 1 in parts of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. The announcement was made amid an outcry by most political parties and NGOs who have been demanding the complete repealing of AFSPA.

Almost all Chief Ministers of the northeastern states and most political parties had welcomed the Home Ministry's announcement to reduce the disturbed areas under the AFSPA in the Northeast.

AFSPA allows the Army and other central para-military forces to conduct raids, operations, arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice or arrest warrant. It has been in force in Nagaland, Assam, Manipur barring the Imphal municipal council area and

certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The reduction of jurisdiction of AFSPA in certain northeastern states came in April 1 following the recommendation of a high-level committee constituted to examine the possibility of lifting of the AFSPA after the killing of 14 civilians in Nagaland. AFSPA was entirely lifted in Tripura in 2015, in Meghalaya in 2018, and in Mizoram in 1980s.

Under the AFSPA, the Army and other central para-military forces can conduct raids, operations, and arrest anyone without prior notice. It was in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (except for the Imphal municipal council area) and some districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

## India records 3,805 fresh Covid infections, active cases fall to 38,293

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 1:

India saw a single day rise of 3,805 new coronavirus infections, taking India's tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,45,91,112, while the active cases declined to 38,293, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,655 with 26 fatalities, which include 13 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Of the 13 fresh fatalities, five were reported from Maharashtra and two from Kerala.

The active cases comprise 0.09 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.73 per cent, the health ministry said.

A decline of 1,290 cases has been recorded in the active caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.29 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 1.39 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,24,164, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 218.68 crore doses of Covid

vaccine 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.

## Ashok Gehlot likely to continue as Rajasthan CM; Sachin Pilot expected to be brought back as his deputy



Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 1:

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is likely to continue to hold the CM post and his bete noire Sachin Pilot is expected to be brought back as his deputy, sources said.

Gehlot, a longtime loyalist of the Gandhi family, on Thursday met Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi to discuss the political crisis in his state over a recent public revolt by his loyalist MLAs.

Following the meeting, the senior leader announced that he will not run for Congress president, taking moral responsibility for the recent public rebellion of his loyalist MLAs

in Rajasthan.

The Congress in Rajasthan plunged into political crisis on Sunday after MLAs loyal to CM threatened mass resignation over a possible move to appoint Sachin Pilot as Gehlot's successor if the latter contest Congress chief polls.

Speaking to reporters, Gehlot, a three-time state chief minister, said he apologised to Gandhi for the developments and said the decision on whether he would remain CM would be taken by Gandhi.

He described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his disappointment over the turn of events in the state.

More than 80 MLAs sup-

porting Gehlot on Sunday skipped the official legislature party meeting convened for passing a resolution authorising the Congress chief to appoint a successor to Gehlot, who was to contest the Congress presidential election.

The legislators, instead, held a parallel meeting to pitch for Gehlot's continuation or the guarantee that his arch-rival Pilot, who had rebelled against the CM in 2020, does not replace him.

On Thursday, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said that the party president will decide on the Rajasthan CM post within a day or two.

## FEMA Authority Confirms the Seizure of Rs 5551.20 Crore of Xiaomi India by ED

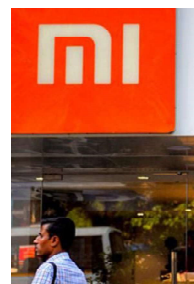
By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Oct 1:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday stated that the competent authority has confirmed its seizure order of Rs. 5551.27 crore passed against Chinese mobile phone maker - Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited, under the provisions of FEMA, on charges of illegally transferring money outside India in the guise of royalty.

This is the highest amount of seizure order in India which has been confirmed by the Authority till date.

M/s Xiaomi India, is a trader and distributor of mobile phones in the country under the brand name MI. The company procures the completely manufactured mobile sets and other products from the manufacturers in India.

The ED in a statement said that the Competent Authority appointed under Section 37A of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999 has confirmed its seizure order of Rs. 5551.27 crore dated April 29 passed against Xiaomi India under the FEMA. The ED had initiated investigation in connection with the illegal remittances made by the company in the month of February this year. The ED seized the amount on April 30, after which it requested approval from the competent authority,



A competent authority is an officer appointed by the Central Government to adjudicate an ED seizure order. Such an officer should not be below the rank of a joint secretary. The competent authority in this case was the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai, who heard the matter from both the sides.

The Xiaomi had challenged the seizure of amount in its bank accounts by ED, in the Karnataka high court. However Justice S G Pandit of the Karnataka High Court rejected the petition on July 05 this year.

Xiaomi India, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of China-based Xiaomi groups. It started its operations in India in 2014 and started remitting the money from 2015. It remitted foreign currency equivalent to Rs. 5,551.27 crore to three foreign based entities in the guise of royalty. They in-



cluded one Xiaomi group company and two US-based companies not related to Xiaomi. According to ED, the remittances to the US-based companies were also done for the ultimate benefit of Xiaomi group companies.

Xiaomi India had contended in the court that it had lawfully paid royalty to "Qualcomm" and "Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Service Software Company Limited" for using proprietary licensed intellectual property (IP), particularly Standard Essential Patents. The company had also claimed that it had disclosed to the Income Tax authorities the payment of royalty from 2016 onwards.

However the ED maintained that Xiaomi India does not use any technology or intellectual property of Qualcomm or Beijing Xiaomi Ltd and hence the question of

paying royalty does not arise.

ED stated that Xiaomi India did not avail any service from the three foreign based entities to whom such amounts were transferred. "Under the cover of various unrelated documentary façade created amongst the group entities, the company remitted this amount in guise of royalty abroad. The Company also provided misleading information to the banks while remitting the money abroad.

The ED also stated that Xiaomi India only buys from the manufacturers within India, the completely manufactured mobile phones that are boxed and ready to sell to the distributors without adding any technology or any other value to the purchased phones. As such the amounts transferred outside India in the guise of royalty is contrary to section 4 of the FEMA.

## Congress President Poll: Mallikarjun Kharge submits resignation from post of LoP in RS following Congress' 'one person, one post' norm

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 1:

Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge has sent his resignation from the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha to Congress Interim President Sonia Gandhi after filing his nomination for the post of party chief on Friday.

The 80-year-old Kharge, a grassroots politician and a hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family, has sent his resignation following his party's 'one person, one post' norm announced in May.

The grand old party announced wide-ranging organisational reforms, including 'one family, one ticket' and 'one person, one post' norms and a cap of five years on holding a party post in Rajasthan's Udaipur on May 15. It, however, added a caveat to the 'one family, one ticket' formula stating that if another member in one's family is politically active, then only after five years of organisational experience that person should be considered eligible for a Congress ticket.

Kharge, who has filed his nomination for the Congress

chief post, has been backed by leaders like Manish Tewari, Anand Sharma and others of the Group of 23 (those who are fighting for reforms in the party). His candidature was proposed by senior leaders including AK Antony, Ashok Gehlot, Digvijaya Singh, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari among others.

Besides Kharge, Congress MP and G-23 member Shashi Tharoor and Jharkhand leader KN Tripathi have also filed their nomination for the party president post.

Former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijaya Singh dropped

out of the Congress presidential race on the last day of filing nomination papers and extended his support to Kharge, saying he "cannot think of contesting an election" against a senior leader like Kharge.

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, Kharge was elected MLA for nine times in a row. He has seen a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home-district of Gulbarga, now Kalaburagi. He has been pitched as a Dalit leader by his party colleagues.

## Contd. from Page 2 Bird diversity is lower in urban...

The study is one of the first to compare the diversity of similar habitats along a so-called urban gradient. "This way we know that the results are not driven by differences in the actual habitats, which in this scenario was natural forest.

Instead, it was the surrounding environment that was different", he says. The fact that an urban environment has such a clear negative impact on forest bird diversity may have to do with access to food, the researchers believe. Many birds depend on food resources not only in their immediate vicinity but also in their surroundings, and in cities there are fewer insects, for example. In addition, some species are sensitive to arti-

ficial disturbances such as noise and light, which occur more in cities.

"Our results highlight the importance of taking surrounding nature into account in urban planning. Above all, it is important to avoid the expansion of cities adjacent to protected environmental areas where there may be endangered species we found that these are particularly sensitive to urban surroundings", says William Sidemo Holm. The study also showed that urban forests can be important for bird diversity. Although a majority of the bird species were more common outside the cities, there were species that were more often found in cities, such as the hawfinch. The reason may be

that cities have more fruit trees that can provide them with food.

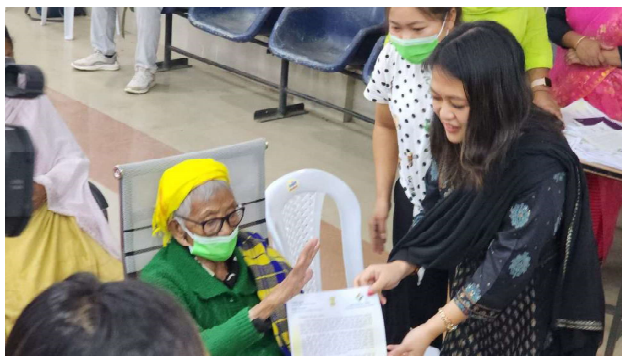
"Our conclusion is that it is important to preserve natural forests both in the cities and outside them in order to maintain local diversity", says William Sidemo Holm. In order to better preserve the biodiversity of cities, more knowledge is needed on how to reduce the negative impact on natural areas from the surrounding urban environment, say the researchers. "In the future, it would be particularly interesting to investigate whether coherent green infrastructure in cities, or between city and countryside, can increase the opportunities for bird species in the city to find the necessary resources",

# International Day for Older Persons was observed

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

International Day for Older Persons was observed today, across the State by felicitating the Centenarian and other Senior Electors. Booth Level Officers (BLOs)/Electoral Registration Officers visited the houses of each one of them and handed over to them a letter of gratitude from the Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar.

The Election Commission of India stress the vital role played by the senior citizens in deciding the choice of Government and proving the real meaning of the value of one vote. Various facilities to ensure participation of 80+ age group and voters with Disabilities by provision of wheelchairs, ramps,



volunteers, free 'to and fro' transportation, queue less voting and Postal Ballot voting etc. are well in place.

A statement by Md. S. Daulat Khan, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur

said that a special program exclusively for felicitation of the Older Persons have been organised by District Election Officer, Imphal East, today at Panchayat Bhawan, in the Office Complex of DC,

Imphal East. We wish and pray that the older persons remain healthy and continue to exercise their democratic rights in the most comfortable manner and inspire the younger generation.

Contd. from Page 1

## International Day of Older Persons...

N. Biren continued that the State Government had also introduced "Chief Minister's Widow Pension Scheme" and 10,000 widows had been provided widow pensions of Rs. 500 per month. He mentioned that the amount of Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension had also been increased from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month by contributing State Top-Up of Rs. 200 per month.

The Chief Minister appealed to those people who keep their parents at old age homes, to take their parents back home and take good care of them. He assured to give required assistance for their living from the Government side. He warned of taking legal action against those people who force their parents to stay at old age homes.

Health Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, while delivering his speech, stated that elder persons are the ones who imbibe knowledge of our cultures and tradition to the younger generation since time immemorial. This has helped preserve our culture. He continued that the State Government under the supervision of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had been taking up certain measures to take special care of older persons of the State.

Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo, delivering his presidential speech, October 1 is observed as International Day of Older Persons every year to give respect to elders, who had done everything for their younger generations and the society. Older persons should be given respect and taken good care and the same thing should be made known

to young generations.

He informed that the Social Welfare Department is opening a particular cell to look into the matters related to inhuman treatment against older persons. He appealed to the public to raise complaints to the Department if anyone happens to come across any such act of misbehavior or ill-treatment to elder persons.

During the programme, N. Biren felicitated the State's well known singer Konthoujam Babin for his contribution in Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan campaign. The Chief Minister also felicitated some selected elder persons and took their blessings.

Director, Social Welfare Ngangom Uttam, officials of Social Welfare Department, older persons from different places of the State also attended the programme among others.

## NSF condemn extension of AFSPA

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 1:

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) condemns the overarching approach of the central government in extending the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers' Act (1958) for another six months under the pretext of "law and order" problems in major parts of Nagaland state.

In a press statement, NSF stated that the federation

denounces this continuous attempt by the central government to paint the state as a land of lawlessness and chaos. The world is witness to the fact that Nagaland is a beautiful state being inhabited by peace-loving citizens, which is contrary to what it is made to look like by the impugned order. The history of excesses committed by the armed forces upon the Naga people under the cover of AFSPA calls for condemnation from all right-

thinking citizens of the world.

NSF further stated that the federation, hereby, reiterates our earlier stand that the Naga people do not merit the draconian Act which has empowered the Indian Military and Para-military war machines with unlimited powers to extend evil claws and judicial impunity to arrest, torture, kill, and commit everything inhuman. Furthermore, AFSPA is unconstitutional as it only encour-

ages abuses and serious human rights violations by the armed forces acting on behalf of the state. The federation appeals to the central government to objectively assess the situation and not act upon bias reports from their various agencies and that the Ministry of Home Affairs take the right steps forward in order to ensure that the controversial law is repealed once and for all from the entire Naga homeland.

## Ministry of Ayush announces a short video making competition as part of the "Ayurveda Day 2022" celebrations

PIB  
New Delhi, Oct 1:

Ministry of Ayush Government of India in partnership with MyGov.in is organizing a short video making competition as a part of the Ayurveda Day 2022 celebrations. The participants can submit a video of not more than 03 minutes in Hindi and English languages on themes, which are in consonance with the main theme of this year's Ayurveda Day i.e. "Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda"

Theme 1: Ayurveda in my day.

Theme 2: Ayurveda in my kitchen.

Theme 3: Ayurveda in my garden.

Theme 4: Ayurveda in my farm.

Theme 5: Ayurveda in my food/diet.

Three top winners will be selected from each theme i.e. a total of 15 winners will be awarded prize ranging from Rs. 75,000/- to Rs. 25,000/-. The competition is open to all citizens/Indian Nationals above the age of 18 years and last date of submission is 10th October 2022. More details about the competition and process of submitting the video can be

obtained from <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/ayurveda-video-contest/>

Ayurveda is perceived as one of the most ancient and well documented system of medicine, which is equally relevant in modern times. Ministry of Ayush is organizing various programs in partnership with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education and supported of other Ministries and departments of the GoI, State governments, and UTs to take benefits of Ayurveda to the grass root level.

Ministry of Ayush had inaugurated the six-week

long programme (12<sup>th</sup> September-23<sup>rd</sup> October) highlighting various themes and key events, with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi as the nodal institute to execute these programs. The programme will see participation from various stakeholders with the aim of 3Js - Jan Sandesh, Jan Bhagidari, and Jan Aandolan. Ministry of Ayush celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras) since 2016. This year it will be celebrated on 23rd October 2022.

## Separate 50 bedded Covid.....

"The opening of such a Covid care block is very useful for us and public because when the Covid patients were admitted to the main hospital, the main hospital was collapsed because there are so many protocols," says Prof Santa.

Earlier the Covid patients occupied half of the Surgery ward in the main hospital and it created many problems. The

new Covid block is away from the main hospital.

Interestingly the RIMS will be having a separate power supply within the current month to meet the increasing power demands of the health care institute. The institute is also making certain efforts for its sustainable water uses.

Since its establishment, the 50 year-old institute has so far

produced a total of 3,656 doctors including 2101 specialist doctors, 75 clinical psychologists, 157 dental surgeons and 300 BSc nurses.

Interestingly the OPD (Out-Patient department) attendance jumped to 7.67 lakh patients which recorded a 94% increase over the previous year figure. 1.3 lakh patients were treated in the casualty.

## CM extends greetings on the occasion.....

Gandhiji's ideals, principles, and philosophy have eternal value and have influenced many international leaders around the world. Gandhiji's philosophy and thoughts are even more relevant in today's world.

CM N. Biren Singh also extends his heartfelt greetings to

the people of Manipur on the festive occasion of Durga Puja. In his message, the chief minister said Durga Puja is celebrated with different themes in various parts of India. It signifies the triumph of righteousness over evil. The festival reminds us of the power of ethical and moral

behaviour and the value system, which are the bedrock of our society. May this festival provide an inspiration for us to follow the path of righteousness and also reinforce the bond of brotherhood and amity among all sections of society in the state.

## SOREPA celebrates 1st.....

General Secretary of SOREPA, K. Korou while speaking on the occasion called on the people to ponder on how and why the people have been falling as victims of drugs. He appealed the people to take a common stand

against drugs and to fight against it as a common cause. He also stressed on area to save the future generation.

At Tactical HQ, Military Affairs Secretary Col Chingyang, while speaking on the occasion called on the

need for sincerity of the revolutionary cadre while moving ahead the revolutionary movement. Chief of the Army of the organization also elaborated on the called on the PRA cadres to understand and deliver their responsibility.

## Revoke the Show Cause Notice served.....

And we also appeal to the state government to respect the right to freedom of speech laid down in the constitution. Therefore, the issuance of show cause notice to Dr. N. Sanatomba Singh us-

ing the rules of Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 is highly condemnable and need an amendment which suits with the interest of all the public workers and such kind of action from the

Manipur University Authorities is the violation of fundamental rights of an individual and is nothing but to suppress the voice of the academics", the statement added.

## PM launches 5G....

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group called the advent of 5G a transformational event that proves India's prowess on the global stage and reiterates the role of telecom technology as the bedrock of India's growth. He thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his vision and leadership for a generational leap in technology that has resulted in India making a mark on the global stage. He also thanked the Prime Minister for his inspirational role in supporting the telecom industry during the ongoing pandemic and for the path-breaking telecom reforms in the industry. Birla said that the launch of 5G marks the beginning of an exciting journey for India. "We will see limitless potential for 5G develop-

ment and use cases in the years to come", he added.

The three major telecom operators of the country demonstrated one use case each in front of the Prime Minister to show the potential of 5G technology in India.

Reliance Jio connected a teacher from a school in Mumbai, with students in three different locations in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Odisha. This demonstrated how 5G will facilitate education by bringing teachers closer to students, obviating the physical distance between them. It also demonstrated the power of Augmented Reality (AR) on screen and how that is being used to teach children across the country, remotely, without the need for an AR device. The

Prime Minister interacted with students from Dnyanjyoti Savitribai Phule School, Raigad, Maharashtra in presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde. Students from Ropda Primary School, Gandhinagar, Gujarat connected in presence of Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel. The Prime Minister also interacted with students from SLS Memorial School, Myrnbhanj, Odisha in presence of Odisha Chief Minister, Navin Patnaik. Abhimanyu Basu, Dhirubhai Ambani Int. School, BKC, Mumbai also demonstrated the use of 5G technology. The Prime Minister noted the enthusiasm of the students for technology in education. Author Amish Tripathi introduced the segment.

## Sports

## India announce 33 probables for National Hockey Camp starting October 3

Agency  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 1:

A 33-member core group of probables for the national hockey camp starting October 3 to prepare for the Pro League 2022-2023 season opener in Bhubaneswar was announced on Saturday, with almost the big names figuring in the list.

The Indian team will take on New Zealand and Spain in double-header matches to be played at the Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar.

The core group includes experienced goalkeeper PR

Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak and Pawan. Defenders Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Turkey, Sanjay, Manjeet and Sumit have been included in the list along with midfielders Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal and Pawan Rajbhar.

Forwards Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh,

Maninder Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mouscen, S. Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh have been named in the core group.

Chief coach Graham Reid said, "The Pro League 2022/23 will give us insights into the areas that require work ahead of the Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela. The matches against Spain and New Zealand are important for us and the players are upbeat and excited about the upcoming months of

hockey. We have chosen some fresh names in the core group who have shown great potential and are eager to perform when given a chance."

In their opening match on October 28, India will take on New Zealand. They will play Spain next on October 30. India will play their next double-header game against New Zealand on November 4 followed by their second match against Spain on November 6. The team will move to Bhubaneswar on October 21 after a three-week camp in SAI, Bengaluru.