

## Normalcy crippled in Manipur as Rebels shut down against the annexation of Manipur



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

Life across the state of Manipur was partially crippled as almost all business establishments, shops, market centers, shut due to general strike called by various armed rebel group operating in the region since midnight yesterday till 5 pm today in protest against the annexation of Manipur to the Indian Union.

Normal passenger buses, auto and other private vehicle were seen moving in the

street of Imphal in few numbers. However, all shops at major market places in Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Kakching and Thoubal were shut following the general strike called by the different rebel group.

However, there were large people seen gathering in front of the Manipur Police Head Quarter till 4 am today morning as the government declared the result of the 10th and 11th IRP recruitment test after two years. The various armed rebel groups had called the general strike from

the previous midnight by almost all rebel groups operating in the region.

Mentioned may be made that rebel group Socialist Revolutionary Party (SOREPA) Kangleipak s called general strike across the region from 5 am to 5 pm of October 15 against alleged colonization of Manipur by India on October 15, 1949, another major rebel group CorCom, a joint platform of four armed rebel group in the region also called General strike on October 15 from the midnight of October 14 till 5

pm of October 15. While rebel group Alliance for Socialist Unity, Kangleipak (ASUK) called general strike from 6 am to 6 pm of October 15.

All the rebel groups called the general strike protesting the annexation of the erstwhile nation on October 15, 1949. The day has been observing as "National Black Day" by the rebels.

CorCom, ASUK and almost all rebel groups appealed the people of the region to stay indoor during the general strike as the rebel group has imposed total shut down across the region. However, the rebel group said that ritual related events, medicals, fire service and media will not be covered during the general strike.

United People's Revolutionary Front of Manipur (UPRFM) also announced total shut down today, observing it as "National Black Day". A statement of the rebel group said that the outfit announced 18 hours total shut down on October 15. The shutdown will end at 6 pm of the day.

## RIMS observed Global Hand Washing Day 2022

Director RIMS distributed certificates & cash reward to most cleanest Hospital Ward



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal observed Global Hand Washing Day 2022 at Jubilee Hall, RIMS Imphal. Prof. L. Ranjit Singh, Director, RIMS distributed certificates and cash rewards to the prize winners of the RIMS Hospital Wards Cleanliness Contest today i.e. 15th October 2022. The contest was held on 2nd October, 2022 to select the cleanest ward/section/washrooms of the RIMS hospital in connection with the National Cleanliness Day. PMR Ward, Septic Ward and Post Natal Ward were declared as 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cleanest Ward respectively and awarded certificates and cash rewards.

Paediatric Ward, Psychiatry Ward, Casualty Ward, Antenatal Ward & Labour Room, Paediatric Emergency, Gynaec Ward, Female Ortho Ward, Female Surgery Ward I & IV, Male Ortho, Neuro ICU and Uro Ward were given consolation prizes. Postnatal & Fe-

male Medicine Ward Toilet Complex, Causality Emergency Toilet Complex and PMR Toilet Complex were given 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively in the Cleanest Washroom category. Further, prizes for outstanding performance for their duty were awarded to Kh. Mina Devi, Nursing Sister, Gynaec OPD, and L. Nirmala, Nursing Sister, Burn Ward as **Best Nurse**, **Best Attendant** awarded to M. Binashakhi Devi and Haobam Premjit Singh, **Best House-keeping** prizes given to Ayeekpam Sandhyarani Devi and Laishram Rabikanta Singh and **Best Security** awarded to L. Devananda Singh (ASO MSS) and Yanglem Jayanta Singh (Supervisor MSS).

Prof. L. Ranjit Singh, Director, RIMS, congratulated all the prize winners for working tirelessly and keeping hospital neat and clean. The Director also encouraged those missed out deserving team/wards to feel proud of keeping their wards neat and clean.

Later on, Prof. Brogen

Singh Akoijam, Prof. Kh. Ranjana Devi and Mrs. Ngangbam Sobita spoke on the topic "History of Global Hand Washing Day", "Role of Hand Washing and Infection Prevention" and "Hand washing Technique" respectively.

Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital also appreciated to all the employees who are working tirelessly and keeping hospital neat and clean. He also requested to all the staffs of hospital to work continuously until our hospital win best ward in Kaya Kalp competition.

Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Prof. Brogen Singh Akoijam, Dean (Academic), RIMS and Prof. Y. Govindaraj Singh, Nodal Officer, SAP 2022-23 Kaya Kalp graced the occasion as President and Guest of Honour respectively. The program was also attended by HODs, faculty members, Chief Nursing officers and Nursing officials, staff and CRED team.

## NIA raids residence of alleged PLA cadres arrested in connection with the killing of Sailendra Saha

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

After Manipur police arrested two alleged PLA cadres allegedly involved in the killing a small time businessman Sailendra Saha at Uchol Chingjin under Andro Police Station at around 4 pm of July 8 this year, a team of NIA

along with the state police raided the residence of the two persons at early hour today.

Source said that 8 different houses belonging to some suspects in connection with the killing of Sailendra Saha (32) of Ekraisi village in Buxar district, Bihar, presently residing at Ragailong (Pandon) on

July 8, 2022 were also reportedly raided by the NIA.

Different team of NIA with the state Police raided the houses of the suspected people from around 8 am in same hour at 8 different houses at Andro Lapao Ching, Andro Nungyumbi Khuman of Imphal East district, Kakching Nongthou

Leikai, Kakching Wairi Salam Leikai, Kakching Wairi Saban Bamon Leikai, Kakching Wairi Panji Leikai of Kakching District and Awang Sekmai Koujengleima Thanga Leikai and Patsoi Luker Mayai Leikai of Imphal West.

There are no information of any arrest received at the time of filing this story.

## Sanamahi Temple Board lauds CM N. Biren Govt. for recognition of sacred places

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

Lainingthu Sanamahi Temple Board lauded the state government under the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh for declaration of the "Awang Koubru" and "Ibudhou Thangjing" as sacred Place by a cabinet meeting held on October 13.

A statement by the member secretary of the Lainingthu Sanamahi Temple Board, Sivadutta Luwang said that it is fortunate for the people of the state to have N. Biren Singh as the Chief Minister of the state for activities to preserve the important sacred places of Meitei indigenous Religion.

## Failure to follow safety measures in Road construction has caused serious health hazards to people along NH-37

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

The ongoing road widening activities along the stretch of Oriental College to New Keithelmanbi on NH-37 (3.275 Km to 15.940 Km. Package-I) has caused serious health hazards to the people living in the vicinity of the road.

A statement by Imphal West Students Club (IWSC) said that enormous volumes of dust have been emitting continuously because of the irresponsible ongoing construction activities. It added that people living in the vicinity of the road, commuters, school going children, etc. are facing breathing problems and other respira-

tory diseases.

This prolonged situation is making it difficult for the people to even stroll out from their respective homes. The IWSC had made several verbal complaints to the field staff of the contracting firm i.e. Avantika Contractors (I) Ltd. for taking up adequate measures to control the situation. However, this issue has been going on since the last few months and no adequate measures have been taken up. Secretary of the IWSC Atom Samarendra added.

The present measures of sprinkling water along the road is not adequate and requires an increase in the number of dedicated water carrying trucks, tankers for

continuous water sprinkling to control dust along the road.

Imphal West Students Club (IWSC), Khumbong appealed to the authorities of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and Manipur Pollution Control Board to look into the above situation and instruct the contractor concerned to take up adequate measures without any further delay.

The statement added that the IWSC, Khumbong may be compelled to take legal assistance in the form of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) to intervene the matter, if visible adequate measures are not taken up at the earliest.

## JS Angam sworn as Chairman of Japhou Bazar Authority



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

JS Angam was sworn in as chairman of the Japhou bazar authority at the District Headquarter Baptist Church Campus. ALCA President KL John Motab administered the oath

of office to JS Angam, Chairman of the Japhou Bazar Authority.

The coronation ceremony was attended by District Headquarter Baptist Church Pastor L.H. Alembert as Blessing Administrator, Japhou Bazar Authority Speaker L.H. Jonah as

Ceremony Master, and Mayanglabam Rajkumar, Deputy Commissioner Chandel.

During the Coronation Ceremony, 42 village chiefs, former ADC members and Women's Society members also attended. As a part of the coronation ceremony, traditional folk songs and cultural and customary dances were presented by the youth of the village. The new chairman, JS Angam, presented gifts to those well-wishers, the village chief, newly elected members, relatives, seniors, and land donors of the office of Japhou Bazar Authority.

Lulu Monsang, Secretary of Japhou Bazar Authority, stated that before the Chandel station was fully faded district, forefathers formed the Japhou Bazar Authority in 1962. The JBA is formed by 42 different communities.

## Apps track your location to make money

**Personal data stolen by the apps are being sold to brokers, aggregators, and legal firms. Advertising agencies are part of the game that target ads based on the location and preferences of mobile users.**

### Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



Social media plays the role of an effective communication mechanism in the modern world. Most of the people in the country use smartphones. On the other hand, the use of

mobile and net banking, debit cards, and credit cards has increased for transactions of money. With this, the pace of cyber crimes has also increased. These include cases like fraud, fake news, character assassination on social media, and blackmailing through objectionable viral videos. The personal data stolen by the apps are being sold to brokers, aggregators, and legal firms. Ad agencies are part of the game that target ads based on the location and preferences of mobile users.

Mobile apps are in demand these days, but one should keep only those apps in the smartphone that are trustworthy. Keep the minimum number of apps on mobile. Never grant permission that is not necessary for the functioning of the app. Do not allow access to your photos and videos. Your mobile apps are thieves and spies who steal your confidential information and data all the time. The apps will track your habits, places visited, lifestyle, and health condition means each and everything about your personal life. Your life is under constant watch.

Similarly, the use of WhatsApp has increased tremendously nowadays. Its chat can be used against a person who has indulged in illegal activities. This is a great tool for investigating agencies to track illegal activities in depth. In the case of Aryan Khan or the drug abuse case associated with the actor Sushant Singh Rajput, it was noticed that NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau) had been relying on WhatsApp chats of the Bollywood stars and drug suppliers.

Every word written on WhatsApp or any other app can be further evidence against the user. Always assume that someone other than the receiver is reading your messages. Remember, whatever goes on in the internet world, stays there forever. People think that if they delete what they write on social media, they will be saved. It is not so, deleted chats can be found in the backup server or another person's history.

Never forward or transmit communally sensitive or obscene material from your mobile phone or computer devices. There are specific provisions under the IPC and the IT Act to deal with such offenses. Avoid coming in contact with fake and suspicious people. Do not answer their queries. Do not download, forward, or save fake, false, defamatory, and character assassination kind videos on WhatsApp. Similarly, never post or tweet anything of defamatory nature, or else it may create a serious problem for you. Remember the FIRs lodged against actor Kangana Ranaut, poet Kumar Vishwas, and recently against the notorious filmmaker KRRK, who got arrested on his arrival at the Mumbai Airport for tweeting bad words about Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan after their demise.

In case of financial loss due to online fraud, inform the police immediately or within 24 hours on toll-free number 112 or 55260. The police try to recover the missing amount as soon as possible. Jamtara area in eastern Jharkhand is considered a major hub of cyber crimes in India. There is poverty, and there is no electricity, but there is a lot of cyber fraud in hundreds of villages in that area. These illiterate thugs are adept at cheating on mobile phones. They operate from their huts in a discreet manner.

## In case of breathing in toxic air, the use of coal has to be reduced



By: Vijay Garg

Coal use is believed to be responsible for up to 40 percent of temperature-raising pollution. The problem with India, China and other developing countries is that their power plants and factories run on coal. There are currently around 2500 coal power plants in the world. 1080 of them are in China alone. A new coal power plant is being built there almost every day. The number of coal-fired power plants in India is 281.

Apart from them steel and Coal is also burnt in cement factories and brick kilns. Most of the power plants in developed countries run on gas. There, electricity has also

started to be generated with renewable energy sources like solar and wind. India's problem is also that it has to import oil and gas worth about 7.5 lakh crore rupees every year and also spends three lakh crore rupees on oil and gas exploration and subsidy for consumers. Coal is abundant in India. In such a case, if he adopts the alternative of electricity to reduce his dependence on oil and gas, then they will have to build hundreds of power plants like China, which will be mainly coal-fired. This is because it will take a lot of money and time to expand the nuclear energy capabilities, while the demand for electricity will increase rapidly along with economic growth and nuclear energy alone may not be able to meet it.

In order to deal with this challenge, India has been leading the developing countries in this campaign along with demanding clean energy technology from the developed countries and necessary funds to adopt it. Climate justice also has the same need because of developed countries. Due to pollution, the climate has reached its present critical condition. Worryingly, developed countries are not ready to finance the adoption of clean technology. In the convention of 2009, he had promised that he would donate 10,000 crore dollars every year, which he has not fulfilled till date.

contd. on page 3

## PM SHRI scheme : A Visionary Initiative in the Education Sector



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

The Government of India has launched a centrally sponsored scheme PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) in the education sector. This initiative is intended to prepare selected existing school of the country as PM SHRI schools, which will help showcase the implementation of all aspects of NEP 2020 and emerge as exemplary schools over a period of time.

These schools will be learning spaces in which every student fills welcomed and care for, where a safe and stimulating learning environment exists, a wide range of learning experiences are offered, good physical infrastructure and appropriate resources conducive to learning are available to all students. It will nurture the students in such a way that they become engaged, productive and contributing citizens towards building an equitable, inclusive and plural society.

Under this scheme, a total of 14597 PM SHRI schools across the country will be qualitatively strengthened by providing them with dedicated, targeted and all-inclusive interventions to ensure holistic transformation and all-inclusive interventions to ensure holistic transformation at all levels, including access, quality, equity and inclusion. The aim of such schools would be to produce well-round in-

dividuals equipped with skills. More than 20 lakh students are expected to be the beneficiaries of the scheme.

Pedagogy in these schools will be more experimental, integrated, play-based in foundational years, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable. Focus will be on the learning outcomes of every student in every grade i.e. assessment of quantitative, verbal and logical reasoning skills. Assessment at all levels will be based on conceptual understanding and application of knowledge to real-life solutions and will be competency-based. Skill-based Aptitude test will be introduced for Vocational Education.

Assessment of the resource effectiveness in terms of availability, adequacy, appropriateness, and utilisation for each of the domains will be done and the gaps will be filled in a planned manner. Linkage with local industry will be incorporated for enhancing employability. To develop these schools as GREEN School, eco-friendly aspects like solar panels & LED lightings, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management, water conservation etc. will be incorporated. Efforts will be made to involve the community as well as alumni in the volunteer efforts by organising help sessions, career guidance and mentoring.

By carefully tracking the students and their learning levels, universal participation will be ensured. Regular visits to these schools by other schools in the district will be organised to motivate them to adopt the interventions and become exemplary schools themselves.

Adequate infrastructure, including toilets, clean drinking water, at-

tractive spaces, electricity, computing devices with internet, library, sports material and recreational resources will be ensured so that teachers and students of all genders as well as disabilities receive a safe, inclusive and effective learning environment to teach and learn. The use of plastic will be restricted in PM SHRI schools. Children will be encouraged to wear uniforms made from locally sourced and sustainable materials.

The PM SHRI schools will have convergence with various existing schemes such as Samagra Shiksha for teacher's salary, quality inputs & digital resources etc., PM POSHAN for Mid-Day meal, ICDS for ECCE linkages, Jal Jeevan Mission for drinking water, National Child Labour Project (NCLP) for mainstreaming of child labour withdrawn & rehabilitated, Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) for provision of Aids & Appliances, School Health Programme (SHP), Department of Rural Development for provision of playground, boundary wall, toilets etc., Department of Panchayati Raj for recycling of waste, Department of Telecom for extension of Bharat Net services to the schools, MSDE for skill initiatives and vocational education, Department of Sports & Youth Affairs for greater participation in Khelo India, Geo-tagging of schools for selection and monitoring of PM SHRI schools will be done with the support of Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N).

The selected schools should have certain minimum benchmarks like own pucca building in good condition, barrier free access with safety norms, equipped with fire safety measures, separate toilets as well as hand washing facility for

boys & girls, potable drinking water facility, power supply, library & sports equipment, Photo ID Cards to all teachers. Also, enrolment at Elementary and Secondary/Senior Secondary level should be at least more than the state average enrolment for the category.

The Elementary as well as the Secondary/Senior Secondary schools managed by the Centre/State/UT/Urban Local Bodies/KVS/NVS will be considered for selection under the scheme. PM SHRI schools will be selected through Challenge Mode, in which Schools will have to self-apply on the online Challenge Portal, which will be opened four times a year, once every quarter, for the first two years of implementation of the scheme. A maximum of two schools (one Elementary and one Secondary/Senior Secondary) will be selected per block/urban local bodies. States can create clusters around PM SHRI schools to enable the benefit to reach to more schools in the cluster. By setting high standards, these schools will become model for all other schools to follow.

PM SHRI schools is a visionary and ambitious scheme in the education sector and will be vibrant schools focusing on the all round development of the students. They will provide leadership in their respective regions in providing high quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful environment that takes care of the diverse background multilingual needs and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process.

*(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)*

## India & Educated Unemployed Problem

By: Kaustov Kashyap

government education providers.

But the same was not the situation with higher professional courses like medical, engineering, law and others as still most of the colleges were under a government set up with very few private colleges. This higher professional education generally needed competitive exams to be qualified after the higher secondary examination. These competitive examinations needed extra preparation and attention. A parallel industry of coaching centers developed that varied from a single room setup to corporate coaching centers in major cities.

Young students had started to travel from their hometown to these centers for their preparation and those who were not able to do so were doing it by self-preparation or local tuitions. Due to the very limited number of seats in these government-run colleges, it was tough to get in. By this time there was high demand for these professionals and the supply was low owing to the less number of higher professional colleges and seats in each college. Due to this high demand and less supply, this was the best time for these professional students to settle and earn as soon as they came out of college.

But there was a need for this to be changed as there was a need to gear up the opening of new colleges, which ultimately led to the entry of private players in higher professional courses. With the growth of the private sector in higher education, various regulatory authorities were set up to keep standards of education high.

During this period, the Infor-

mation Technology sector experienced tremendous growth and India started its journey to become a global leader in the IT and software sector. More and more youngsters were attracted to the lucrative packages by companies and they saw a promising career and better lifestyle. Other sectors were also growing but at a little slower pace.

Until then, the Indian education system was parallel to employment opportunity, but it soon started deranging after a few years. Suddenly, the number of professional graduates and even postgraduates jumped to new heights, but the demand grew at its own speed. Demand and supply reversed and there were more doctors, engineers, lawyers and other professionals than the jobs available for them in both the government and private sector. This led to a new concept which was new to India and a new class of people emerged due to this — "Highly Educated Unemployed".

The Highly Educated Unemployed class had their own miseries, which were completely different from the normal unemployed class. For this new class, who invested a long time and plenty of money, education turned out to be meaningless as the ultimate practical goal for them was getting a job, which could not be fulfilled because of the prevailing demand-supply issue. This class is generally not heard because they are not a collective united group of people but a collection of many individuals. The problem is so deep that it has caused many young people to commit suicide out of frustration. Most of these people suffer from

mental or behavioural disorders as they are generally in the age above 25 years and social pressure from all around keeps on increasing for them to get settled or look like settled.

In my opinion, things started getting out of control primarily when the number of educated people outnumbered the number of jobs. Job creation is primarily the role of the government and the private sector, so we may say these sectors failed to create infrastructure with the required pace to provide employment. Another justification by many scholars is that it was not the problem of job creation, but it was the mushrooming of private colleges. Regulatory authorities have often been corrupt and few higher authorities of these regulatory bodies face high corruption charges.

Increasing quantity and decreasing quality of these courses are two consequences of all the irregularities due to which young graduates and postgraduates who are part of this crisis are the main sufferers. Therefore, measures are necessary to create a balance and education should be made career-oriented.

This is a very complex issue that can only be solved with structural changes right from its basics from primary education, where children should be able to choose the subject of their interest and progress in that for a career. Parents should also be made aware of the different fields and safe careers other than the old Doctor-Engineer duo. Hope time will balance the imbalance with proper attention from policymakers who are equally responsible for creating the problem.

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# Pakistan one of the most dangerous nations in world, says Joe Biden

Agency  
New York, Oct 15:

United States President Joe Biden deemed Pakistan one of the most dangerous nations in the world. The White House statement quoted the president's address at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Reception on Friday.

Biden said, "What I think is maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world, Pakistan. Nuclear weapons without any cohesion."

The US president made the comments at the reception while talking about the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and how it has impacted the globe. He also spoke about Washington's ties with other countries.

It is pertinent to note here that Biden's comment surfaced almost three weeks since the US and Pakistan materialised a defence deal on the F-16 fleet. On September 26, US State Secretary Antony Blinken said it was Washington's responsibility and obligation to help provide military supplies "to whoever" required them for military sustenance.

"To be very clear, this is a sustenance programme for F-16s that Pakistan has long had.



These are old planes and systems that they already have. We have a responsibility and obligation to whoever we provide military supplies to maintain and sustain them. Pakistan's programme bolsters its capability to fight terror and terrorist threats emanating from Pakistan or from the region," Blinken had said.

It may be noted that Blinken was posed a question pertaining to the F-16 deal with Pakistan after Indian foreign affairs minister S Jaishankar questioned the ulterior motive of the pact.

Voicing his doubts about the merits of US-Pakistan bilateral ties, Jaishankar had said, "...Very honestly, it's a relationship that has neither ended

up serving Pakistan well nor serving American interests. So, it's really for the US today to reflect on what the merits are of this relationship (US-Pakistan ties) and what they get by it."

Shortly after Jaishankar approached the US-Pakistan F-16 deal with a view, Pakistan was quick to justify. Issuing a statement, Islamabad said, "Responding to media questions about unwarranted remarks by the Indian Minister for External Affairs, the spokesperson said that Pakistan has a longstanding and broad-based relationship with the United States."

"India is strongly urged to respect basic norms of interstate relations and refrain from

commenting on the bilateral ties between the US and Pakistan. India also needs serious introspection of its diplomatic conduct," Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry said.

The comment on Pakistan comes at a time when Islamabad may be ejected from the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global financial watchdog. Pakistan has been listed under the category owing to deficiencies in counter-terror funding and anti-money laundering policies.

The anti-terror funding laws failed to comply with FATF standards, thus, Pakistan has been named on the 'grey list' since June 2018.

Speaking about Xi Jinping, the 79-year-old president said that former US President Barack Obama had tasked him to engage with the Chinese leader.

"I have spent more time with Xi Jinping than any person in — any head of state — in the world. I spent over... they keep count of it... 78 hours' worth. Of that, 68 were in prison, over the last 10 years, because Barack knew that he could not be dealing with a Vice President. And so, he assigned me," Biden said.

# India logs 2,430 new Covid cases in last 24 hours

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 15:

With 2,430 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 4,46,26,427, while the active cases have increased to 26,618, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 5,28,874 with 17 fatalities, which includes nine deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The active cases comprises 0.06 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.76 per cent, the

health ministry said.

An increase of 35 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.01 per cent. The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.07 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,70,935, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 219.27 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

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

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

The eight new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include four from Maharashtra and one each from Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

# U.P. Singh, Secretary Textiles inaugurates the 54 Edition of IHGF Delhi Fair-Autumn 2022



UNI  
New Delhi, Oct 15:

The 54 edition of IHGF-DELHI FAIR - AUTUMN 2022, organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPC), is being held from 14 to 18 October 2022 at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida Expressway. The fair, spread across 16 halls and 900 Permanent Showrooms at the India Expo Centre and Mart raised its curtains to overseas buyers, buying and sourcing consultants as well as large domestic volume retail buyers. This was inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, U.P Singh, IAS, in the presence of Raj K Malhotra, Chairman, EPC; Kamal Soni, Vice Chairman, EPC; Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPC and Chairman, IEM; Avdesh Agarwal, President, Reception Committee, IHGF Delhi Fair-Autumn 2022; Committee of Administration Members, EPC; and R K

Verma, Executive Director, EPC. The fair was also visited by Venu Gupta, Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Rajasthan; and Mahendra Kumar Parakh, IAS, Commissioner, Government of Rajasthan, Dharmendra Pratap Yadav, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Textiles and Khadi Department Government of Tamil Nadu.

Congratulating team IHGF Delhi Fair and EPC, U.P Singh Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, U.P Singh, IAS, called this platform, a vital international connect to the Indian handicrafts community, especially the weavers and artisans who contribute significantly to nurture the sector, at the ground level. "With every visit to this fair I have always seen something new or different, be it in terms of product or workmanship, raw material usage or innovated craft skills. This time I have noticed many sustainable products.

I feel sustainability, circularity and traceability are very important for these times and times

to come. India's handicrafts and hand weaving crafts sector is a huge treasure trove. While a lot has reached the overseas market, a lot more remains to be explored. I hope this fair is instrumental in achieving such objectives," he said.

The fair features over 3000 exhibitors for home, lifestyle, fashion, textiles and furniture, who are displaying their products in 12 well-defined categories. Regional fairs and artisan crafts are on display too. "This is the largest business-to-business event of its kind in Asia that comprises a grand spectrum of Lifestyle, Home Décor, Furniture, Furnishings and Accessories from several renowned export houses across India. This makes the extensive display, an all-encompassing amalgam of design, manufacturing as well as hand embellishing skills," said Raj Kumar Malhotra, Chairman, EPC.

Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPC, shared, "To keep our exporters well informed and updated in today's times of fast changing information and technology, we have a panel discussion on 'How waste can be utilized to generate value' as well as seminars by leading industry professionals and international consultants on topical issues of trade importance like Lifestyles and Trends, Branding, Sustainable ZED Certification Benefits, Effective Organizational Communications, Forex Solutions, etc."

# Western Naval Command Undertakes an Exercise to Review Operational and Combat Readiness

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Oct 15:

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command (WNC), embarked ships of Western Fleet off the West Coast of India from October 11 to October 13, to review Operational/ Combat readiness of the Fleet in a multi-theatre scenario.

Over 20 Indian Naval warships, six submarines, and a variety of aircraft participated in the exercise. This day and night tactical exercise included extensive weapon and integration drills and target engagements in all three dimensions, an Indian Navy statement read.

During the high tempo operations, the Commander-in-

Chief also witnessed anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine engagements, multi-ship underway replenishments, Boarding Operations/ Visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS), under rigorous operational situations. The ability of the Western Fleet to monitor the entire area of responsibility of the WNC through network centric capabilities was also proven effectively.

The anti-submarine operations included deployment of active and passive arrays for detection of submarines by ships; Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) capable P8I aircraft and shipborne helicopters; which culminated in torpedo firing.

The exercise also demonstrated the operational capability and readiness of the largest

air station of the Indian Navy-INS Hansa in Goa, to undertake 24x7 operations in support of the Fleet. Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I, Dornier and IL-38, HALE UAV Sea-Guardian, Integral helicopters Sea King, Kamov 31, ALH and Chetak, and fighter aircraft MiG 29 K of the Indian Navy and SU 30 of the Indian Air Force contributed effectively towards surveillance and combat operations.

The gun, missile and torpedo firings were solely focused on, Indian Navy's objective of "Ordnance on Target". The missile, torpedo and gun firings by ships were against high speed air /surface/ subsurface targets in a realistic tactical scenario to establish the Area and Point Defence capabilities of

the Navy. In addition, submarines undertook torpedo firings. The pinpoint accuracy, seamless and safe execution of these firings showcased the lethality and effectiveness of Indian Navy's arsenal and weapon systems, reflecting a high standard of combat readiness, the statement read.

The Commanding in Chief complimented the Western Fleet, INS Hansa and the maritime element of the Indian Air Force for the readiness to accomplish the concept of operations as envisaged by the Indian Navy and contribute towards maritime security of the nation. The ships at sea were under the tactical command of Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet.

Contd. from Page 2

# In case of breathing in toxic air, the use of coal has to....

In fact, for the past half a decade, people's opinion was divided in many developed countries regarding climate change. So they were not ready to pay the money but now their opinion has started to change. To save climate justice from falling prey to such problems World-renowned economist Jeffrey Shakes has suggested a trick.

According to him, considering the energy needs of developing countries and the principle of their social responsibility to spread pollution, pollution tax should be imposed on rich countries. In this, high-income countries will pay a pollution tax of five dollars per ton and middle-income countries will pay a pollution tax of 2.5 dollars per ton. This tax should be doubled every five years. At

present, the annual pollution of rich countries is 1200 million tons and that of middle income countries is 1600 million tons. In such a case from this tax about 10,000 crore dollars will be deposited annually. Out of this, 5,000 crore dollars should be distributed as direct grants. The remaining \$5,000 crore can be given to financial institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

This will help developing countries to adopt clean energy and face the effects of climate change, at the same time it will increase the pressure on developed countries to reduce pollution in order to reduce pollution tax. If the said plan of Geoffrey Shakes is accepted, then to achieve the goal of net zero and the developing countries things

like providing assistance of 10,000 crores of dollars annually will not remain mere fluff. Currently, all the countries are releasing a total of 3300 million tons of pollution into the atmosphere. In order to meet the target of keeping the average temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius, this level of pollution will have to be reduced to 2640 million tonnes by 2030.

However, if we look at the plans of the 197 countries that joined Glasgow, it will increase to 4190 million tons by 2030. With this, there is a fear that the temperature will rise to 2.4 degrees. In such a situation, developing countries like India have to think that Banning coal and advocating for climate justice cannot save us from climate change. Today, the air of almost every small and big city in India

has become so toxic that it has started killing about 17 lakh people every year. This figure is from 'The Lancet' magazine. According to a Harvard study, every third death in India is due to air pollution.

Air pollution is caused by coal power plants, airplanes, petrol-diesel vehicles, construction dust and stubble rotting in fields. That's why it is in the interest of India that they should stop using coal and petrol-diesel and soon make all electricity with clean energy and move towards vehicles running on the same electricity. Also, every citizen has to fulfill his responsibility by considering himself as a stakeholder in the climate. This is a huge fundamental change which is not possible without political consensus and public consensus. Along with this, all

the countries will have to work together to maintain the environment and bring the carbon emissions under control. Developed and industrialized countries have this issue you will have to be more careful.

America, China, Canada and some other countries are making a big contribution in polluting the air and water while the blame is falling on the developing countries. Being economically prosperous, they can contribute better to climate protection. These days pollution has become a problem for people in India. The Supreme Court is showing strictness, but the hands and feet of the central and state governments are swollen. This is because no concrete and effective framework has ever been prepared to solve this problem.

# CLARIFICATION

In connection with the news report published at Imphal Free Press on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 under the heading "Anganwadi rice transport scandal in Manipur Social Welfare Department" the N.E. Logistic hereby clarify that the Work Order No. 172/630100742 was issued on 01/04/2020 by the Reliance Projects & Property Management Services Limited, T2-22-6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Reliance Corporate Park, (RCP), Ghansoli, Thane Belapur Rd., Maharashtra, India for the period from 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021 (value Rs. 9900000/-) and the said work order was first revised on 02/03/2021 for a value of Rs. 19800000/- and again revised on 08/07/2021 for a value of Rs. 34800000/-.

That, N.E. Logistic submitted true and correct copies of the certificates issued by Reliance Projects & Property Management Services Limited, T2-22-6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Reliance Corporate Park, (RCP), Ghansoli, Thane Belapur Rd., Maharashtra, India to the NIT No. 8/28/2022-SNP(SW) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2022 and hence, N.E. Logistic never committed any fraud nor submitted any fake certificate. If any law abiding citizen wants to know the true then he/she may verify it from the above said company.

Sd/-  
Ramesh Kumar Baid  
N.E. Logistic

# India ranks 107th out of 121 countries in Global Hunger Index 2022

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 15:

India has been ranked 107th out of 121 countries in the 2022 Global Hunger Index released on Friday. Last year, India was ranked 101st out of 116 countries.

For the second successive year, India has fared poorer than its neighbours Pakistan (99th), Nepal (81st) and Bangladesh (84th). India ranked only two spots above Afghanistan which was 109th on the hunger index.

The index calculates the hunger levels and malnutrition across the world. This year, the report assessed data from 136 countries but evaluated 121 of them. The report on the index said that sufficient data was

not available for the remaining countries.

The Global Hunger Index score is calculated on four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting (the share of children under the age of five with low weight for their height), child stunting (children under the age of five with low height for their age) and child mortality (the mortality rate of children under the age of five).

India's global hunger index score is 29.1, which puts the country in the "serious" category of hunger problems. India's score has improved slightly from last year's 27.5. However, in 2000, India's score was a much better 38.8 points.

Apart from "serious", the

other categories of hunger are classified as "low", "moderate", "alarming" and "extremely alarming".

"India's proportion of undernourished in the population is considered to be at a medium level, and its under-five child mortality rate is considered low," the report said. "While child stunting has seen a significant decrease – from 54.2% in 1998-1999 to 35.5% in 2019-2021 – it is still considered very high. At 19.3% – according to the latest data – India has the highest child wasting rate of all countries covered in the GHI."

Globally, 17 countries, including China, Hungary, Montenegro, Uzbekistan, Russia and Saudi Arabia, shared the top spot. No coun-

try has been placed in the extremely alarming category this year.

The report said that global progress against hunger has largely stagnated in recent years and that African area south of the Sahara and South Asia are the regions with the highest hunger levels.

"The situation [globally] is likely to worsen in the face of the current barrage of overlapping global crises – conflict, climate change, and the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic – all of which are powerful drivers of hunger," it said. "The war in Ukraine has further increased global food, fuel, and fertilizer prices and has the potential to contribute to food shortages in 2023 and beyond."

# NGT imposes a fine of Rs 500 crore on Karnataka Govt for failing to protect Bengaluru's Chandapura Lake

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Oct 15:

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a fine of Rs. 500 crore on the Karnataka government, early this week, for huge damage caused to the Bengaluru's Chandapura Lake and its failure to maintain and restore the lake.

A bench comprising Justices Adarsh Kumar Goel and Sudhir Agarwal, and expert members Prof. A Senthil Veil and Dr. Afroz Ahmad in its order dated October 10, observed that the damage to the Chandapura lake was clearly attributable to inaction of state authorities.

The bench was dealing with Original Application No. 324/ 2021 in a suo moto complaint registered in response to a media report, related to the damage caused to the lake. The bench listed the application for further consideration on February 22, 2023 and directed the Chief Secretary, Karnataka to remain present in person by video conference on that date.

The tribunal had constituted a seven-member joint committee to look into issues related to buffer zone violations and solid waste management guidelines concerning the lake. There are illegal encroachments and construction activities, unchecked violations of environmental norms by the industries, failure to protect and regulate buffer zones and catchment areas of the lake and to control pollution," the NGT said.

In absence of precise data, the bench fixed the compensa-

tion at Rs.500 crore and directed the Karnataka Government to deposit the amount within one month in a ring-fenced account with the State Pollution Control Board (PCB) under the care of the Chief Secretary, Karnataka.

The buffer zone of lake was encroached upon and waste was being dumped into the ancient lake, which was choked by encroachments, effluents and waste. The lake is in the area of 7.2 acres in Heelagalli Village and 17.27 acres in Chandapura town.

Out of the total 24.27 acres, nearly two acres of the lake has been encroached by construction activities. The buffer zone has been encroached by a government hospital and local shops. The fence around the lake has been broken. Garbage is littered on its boundaries. There is no Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) due to which untreated sewage is discharged into the lake, the NGT observed.

Sources of pollution include Jigani-Bommasandra industrial area and discharge of effluents into lake, in violation of the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) Policy of the Government of India. Under the ZLD water management system, no untreated water can be released into lake. There are around 195 "red" category industries in the Jigani-Bommasandra area which include drug manufacturing companies, electroplating, power coating, pickling, heat treatment, galvanizing, casting, lead-acid battery manufacturing, used oil reprocessing, lead smelting and chemical industries.

Water tanker lorries supply water directly from bore wells

next to the lake to the consumers in Bengaluru for domestic needs. Water packaging industries in Bommasandra supply water to the entire city. The sewage-laden storm water drains flowing between the lakes in Anekal (suburban Bengaluru) also passed through many farms and vegetable plots where farmers grow produce and supply it to the local market.

There is no buffer zone between Jigani-Bommasandra industrial area and the adjoining residential areas. These industries are supposed to hand over the effluents to Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) after pre treatment which is not done.

The matter was earlier considered on November 26, 2021 and March 29 this year in light of report of the joint Committee comprising CPCB, State PCB, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and other agencies and the District Magistrate, Bengaluru.

The bench observed that although the Chief Secretary had issued certain directions, there was no meaningful compliance in the form of restoration of the damage caused, no accountability was fixed and no compensation was recovered from the polluting industries. The continuing damage to the environment and public health was a clear breach of 'Public Trust Doctrine' and as such the Government should be accountable for it.

Advocate Rajat Jonathan Shaw represented the Karnataka Government, while Advocate . Amit Singh Chauhan represented the Central Pollution Control Board.

# AR organises 'Drawing Competition'

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

Somsai Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) organised Drawing Competition for students of Kalhang primary school, at Kalhang Village, Ukhrul district, today.

52 students of the school from Class I to Class V participated in the drawing competition. The young minds were excited and thrilled to express their vividness on paper as evident on their faces. The much-awaited event was acknowledged and received by the students and school staff with vigour & enthusiasm. As a token of appreciation and encouragement to the budding minds, the best drawings were scrutinised and awarded. Equally related were the non-winners



who received the consolation prizes.

The event culminated with light refreshments to the

students and the teaching staff. With the lasting impressions of the Security Forces, the conduct of the

event has garnered the local support for more such events in the future for the youth & students.

## Sports

### FIFA Women's U-17 WC:

# India lose 0-3 against Morocco, Out of reckoning for Quarterfinal berth



Agency  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 15:

Hosts India conceded three goals in the second half to suffer a humiliating 0-3 defeat to Morocco in their second Group A match and crash out of the FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup here on Friday.

Debutants Morocco scored through El Madani (50th minute), Yasmine Zouhir (61st) and Cherif Djennah (90+1) to script their maiden win in the tournament.

India, who were also making their debut as automatic qualifiers as hosts, had lost to

USA 0-8 in the opening match on Tuesday. They take on Brazil in their last group match on October 17, which will only be of academic interest.

Morocco still remained in contention for a quarterfinal berth with three points after title contenders Brazil and USA played out a 1-1 draw in another Group A match here earlier in the day.

Brazil and USA now have four points each after two matches. Morocco, who had lost to Brazil 0-1 on Tuesday, play against USA on October 17.

It was a much improved

Indian side after their humbling 0-8 defeat against USA and they dominated briefly in the early part of the first half which was largely evenly-contested. But the hosts lost the plot in the second half, conceding three goals to lose the match to the African team.

Goalkeeper Melody Keisham, who replaced Anjali Munda after the USA match, had a forgettable game as her mistake led to Morocco's second goal.

In the eighth minute of the match, India put pressure on the opposition defence. Nitu Linda collected the ball in

Morocco's box and she tried to set up Anita Kumari but a defender cleared the ball. Nothing came out of the Indian corner.

Four minutes later, it was Nitu again who won the ball after pressing her marker but her pass towards Anita was blocked by a Moroccan player.

After that brief domination by the Indians, Morocco were on ascendancy and they were unlucky not to have taken the lead with the crossbar saving India in the 18th minute.

Melody failed to collect the ball cleanly after a Hajar Said attempt. El Madani then sent a cross but two Moroccan players could not connect it but captain Zouhir was there to fire in a powerful shot but only to hit the crossbar.

Another Morocco chance came right at the half-time whistle when Melody again failed to collect the ball but India survived as both the sides were locked 0-0 at half-time.

Five minutes into the second half, Naketa handled the ball inside the Indian box and the referee had no hesitation to point to the dreaded spot and El Madani stepped up to score from the penalty.

Morocco doubled the lead after Melody fumbled while trying to collect a cross from the right and captain Yasmine Zouhir slotted the ball home with a left-footer in the 61st minute.

Morocco then added salt to India's injury as Cherif Djennah outran Indian markers on the left before scoring a clinical goal in the first minute of the added time.

"We fought hard but lost the match. We will try to give our best against Brazil," said captain Astam Oraon after the match.

# 36th N. Hazari and Dr. N. Tombi State Polo Tournament, 2022 to begin from October 22

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 15:

The 36th N. Hazari and Dr. N. Tombi State Polo Tournament, 2022, will be organised from October 22, 2022 at Imphal Polo Ground. A statement by the Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association informed all the polo clubs and teams affiliated to the association.

The statement informed all Polo clubs and teams interested in participating in the

said tournament to submit a duly completed entry form along with an entry fee of Rs. 500/- (five hundred rupees only) per team to this office on or before October 19, 2022.

New affiliation of clubs, transfer, new registration and renewal of players for the year 2022-23 will also be held from 16 to 19 October, 2022 from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Imphal Polo Ground, said Th. Chaa Mangilal, secretary general, Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association.

## 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 Fault."

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