

## CM interacts with heads of six Indian Missions

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 17:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was called on by a team of six Ambassadors/High Commissioners of India at the Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

The Ambassadors/High Commissioners were Ambassador of India to Indonesia Manoj Kumar Bharti, Ambassador of India to Tunisia Nguikham Jathom Gangte, Ambassador of India to Republic of Cote d'Ivoire Y.K. Sailas Thangal, Ambassador of India to Romania Rahul Shrivastava, Ambassador of India to Ethiopia and High Commissioner of India to Jamaica R. Masashi. Out of the six Ambassadors/High Commissioners, four hail from Manipur.

During their meeting with the Chief Minister, the visiting team suggested to set up Special Economic Zone for country made liquor of Sekmai with better packaging



and brand building. Scope for training of selected athletes in Jamaica was also discussed. Discussion was done for export of horticulture products.

The Chief Minister and the visiting team further discussed on promotion of Manipur's cultural heritage in Europe, Africa and other international fora. Besides, opportunities for employment of skilled manpower in Euro-

pean Countries such as Romania were also discussed. The Ambassadors had also agreed to promote the upcoming Manipur Sangai Festival using their personal good relations with Embassies of foreign countries in India for their participation.

The team of Ambassadors arrived Imphal on 16th October, 2022. They will interact with officials of different Government Depart-

ments including Textiles, Commerce and Industries, Horticulture and Tourism for export promotion of State's products, services and tourism. The team will also have discussion with officials of District Administration of Chandel, Bishnupur and Imphal East regarding One District One Product (ODOP). The visiting team will leave Imphal on 19th October, 2022.

## Imphal City ICDS Project staffs staged protest against transfer of CDPO by violating state govt. transfer and posting policy

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 17:

Staffs of the ICDS project Imphal City today staged a sit-in-protest at Imphal West DC Office Complex at Lamphel in protest against the transfer of CDPO Roshnichand Tourangbam by violating the State government transfer and posting policy issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reform, Govt. of Manipur on May 12, 2022.

Staffs of the ISDC project Imphal City hold placards with slogans against the transfer of the CDPO Roshnichand Tourangbam, who was transferred on March 24, 2022 on promotion as CDPO at Imphal City ICDS Project. The protestors also



hold placards denouncing taking over of the office by a new CDPO.

It may be mentioned that under the clause III (II) of the Transfer and posting policy issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reform, Govt. of Manipur on May 12, 2022, it is clearly

mentioned that – "No transfer may be effected unless the concerned employee has completed 1 (one) year and 6 (six) months in the post, unless there are compelling reasons/ circumstances to do so."

CDPO Roshnichand Tourangbam have not even

completed seven months at ICDS Imphal City Project and report also said that there are no logical compelling reason for her transfer.

Mentioned may be made that CDPO Roshnichand Tourangbam was transfer by an order dated 13/10/2022 to ICDS Project Mao Maram.

## Understanding core issue: Is the CM serious? IPAK terms 'one family four children policy' adopted by State Cabinet as hasty and illogical decision

IT Desk  
Imphal, Oct 17:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh yesterday called on the people of the state to support the government initiative to root out illegal migrants from the state of Manipur. In a press meet held yesterday evening at the CMO, N. Biren Singh stressed over the diversion of core issues the state should be deal. But one wanders if the urgency of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was another technique to overshadow the criticisms on the October 13, 2022 cabinet decision regarding "one family four children" policy or not.

N. Biren Singh was right when he said that the indigenous people of the state is endangered due to the influx of various illegal migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh – a voice that has been raise time and again to draw the attention of the government from a long time.

Interestingly, while appealing the people to support and co-operate the government in its effort to trace and deport the illegal migrants from the state, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh also stated about the need for family planning as India is becoming one of the

most populous country in the world. N. Biren Singh shrewdly put forth the October 13 cabinet decision about the 'one family four children' policy adopted by a cabinet decision chaired by him. Family planning may be a policy for a democratic government, but so far there were no penalty across the country for having more than two children. But the October 13 cabinet decision stated that all government benefit will be suspended from those parents which have more than four children.

The October 13 cabinet decision received series of criticisms from individuals, academicians and civil society organizations.

Civil body 'Indigenous People's Association of Kangleipak (IPAK), in a press statement said that the decision to suspend all government benefits from parents having more than four children is a hasty decision which lacks logical point of view.

The statement said that India which is the 2nd most populous country in the world may become the number 1 most populous country in the next census. The Meitei community constitutes only 0.09% of the total population

which makes it a Micro minority community in the country. It said that the total population of non-indigenous people have crossed seven lakhs. As the force family planning is imposed in the state of Manipur than it is no different from saying it as a policy to abolish the indigenous people of Manipur. Saying so the IPAK suggested such family planning to be enforced in state like UP, Bihar, Delhi, etc.

Since 2005, the Federation of Regional Indigenous Society has been taking up to protect and preserve the Indigenous people of the state from the illegal outsiders. And since September 7, 2014, IPAK has also been taking up various measures to protect and preserved the Indigenous people besides encouraging increasing the population of the indigenous people. For the cause the IPAK has been conferring award as an honour to the mothers who have the highest number of children.

The IPAK appealed the government to reconsider the Oct. 13 cabinet resolution regarding limitation to 4 children to a parents. The IPAK also is skeptic of the resolution as it amount to root out the indigenous people of the state.

## Congress polls underway to choose non-Gandhi president

Agency/IT News  
New Delhi/Imphal, Oct 17:

Voting began on Monday in the Congress presidential polls as senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor face off for the post of AICC chief.

This is the sixth time in its nearly 137-year-old history that an electoral contest would decide who would take up the mantle of the party's president.

Over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates form the electoral college to pick the party chief in a secret ballot.

Voting began at 10 am at the AICC headquarters here and at party's polling booths in state offices across the country.

Veteran Congress leader P Chidambaram was the first to cast his vote at the AICC headquarters here, sources said.

Kharge is considered the favourite for his perceived proximity to the Gandhis and backing by senior leaders, even as Tharoor has pitched himself as the candidate of change.

Electors in the Congress presidential polls have been asked to put a tick mark against the name of their choice on the ballot paper after AICC president candidate Tharoor's team



took up with the party's top body the issue of its earlier directive that voters write "1" to reflect their preference, citing that it may lead to confusion.

The polling agents for Mallikarjun Kharge are MP V K Sreekandan and MP Dean Kurukos and former MLAs V S Sivakumar and A A Shukkoor. The polling agents for Tharoor are Mannamoola Rajan, R Sivakumar, Sanal Kumar and Vijayachandran.

Prior to the start of the election, Kodikunil said once the elections are over the party will be united. "But Tharoor should have withdrawn from the race. There is no scope of rivalry once the elections are over", said Kodikunil.

During the campaign, even though Tharoor raised issues of uneven playing field, both candidates and the party have maintained that the Gandhis are neutral and that there is no "official candidate".

Ahead of the polling, Kharge had said he would have no shame in taking the advice and support of the Gandhi family in running the party affairs, in case he becomes its president, as they have struggled and put their strength for its growth. The veteran leader had said he is the "delegates' candidate" in these polls.

In Manipur, MPCC delegates, including CLP leader Okram Ibobi Singh, deputy CLP leader K Ranjit Singh, CWC member Gaikhangam, president K Meghachandra, former presidents TN Haokip and N Loken Singh, MPCC working presidents Fajur Rahim and K Devabarta Singh MP have so far cast their votes to elect a new Congress President at Polling Booth No.33, Congress Bhawan, Imphal. A total of 54 voters from Manipur will cast their votes to decide the fate of the Congress party.

## PM inaugurates PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022; Releases PM-KISAN Funds worth Rs 16,000 crore

PIB  
New Delhi, Oct 17:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 at Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi today. The Prime Minister also inaugurated 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK) under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers. Furthermore, the Prime Minister also launched Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana - One Nation One Fertiliser. During the event, the Prime Minister also released the 12th instalment

amount of Rs. 16,000 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through Direct Benefit Transfer. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Agri Startup Conclave and Exhibition. During the event, the Prime Minister also launched 'Indian Edge', an e-magazine on fertiliser. Modi took a walkthrough of Theme Pavilion of Startup Exhibition and inspected the products on display.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister started by acknowledging the presence of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan in one premise, and said that we

can see the live form of this mantra here today. He further elaborated that Kisan Sammelan is a means to make the lives of farmers easier, boost their capability and promote advanced agricultural techniques.

"More than 600 Pradhan Mantri Sammriddhi Kendra have been inaugurated today", Modi said. He further elaborated that these Kendras are not merely sales centres for fertiliser but a mechanism for establishing a deep bond with the farmers of the country. Regarding the fresh instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), the Prime Minister

said that the money reaches the accounts of the farmers directly without involving any middleman. "Another instalment of Rs 16,000 crore has also been released to crores of farmer families as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi", Modi added and expressed happiness that this instalment is reaching the farmers just before Diwali. The Prime Minister also said that today, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana - One Nation One Fertiliser has also been launched which is a scheme of ensuring affordable quality fertiliser of Bharat brand to the farmers.

contd. on page 4

# Putting the Cart Before the Horse: Governance Joke in Manipur

By: Amar Yumnam

I learnt Economics from two institutions: the first in the Imphal College and the second from the University of Mumbai. On hindsight, I can always say that the teaching-learning process was very robust in the Imphal College at the time of the early 1970s while we were undergraduate students opting for Honours in Economics; for the Mumbai University Economics, it was one of the Best in Asia while we were students. The memories of the teachers in these two institutions and their key approaches in teaching the subject have always remained fresh in my mind.

During the last three days, an example of putting the cart before the horse such that there would be no progression and referred to by our teachers in the Imphal College while teaching us about Economic Policies has been recurring with unprecedented freshness. Two decisions announced by the provincial government of Manipur relating to population are the causal factors for this recall with laughter. One decision relates to the establishment of a Population Commission while the other relates to limiting the number of children to Four; while announcing these two decisions and particularly limiting the number of children per family, it was mentioned that it was being taken as a step forward in Population Policy.

While the limitation to Four has understandably aroused a social humour asking as to whether the number limitation applies to the parents, Husband or Wife, all the wives of a common husband taken together, etc., my interest is looking at the issue from the pragmatic angle considering the realities of Manipur.

Before I question the decision on the Adoption of Limit Theorem of Four, let me assert that the announcement of a Population Policy in 2022 itself is outdated at least by Four Decades. The idea of Population Policy as a means to control population *inter alia* got peaked by the mid-1980s, and by the beginning of the 1990s, the talk and discussion on it got completely transformed. By the mid-1980s, it was firmly established that Education is more important than family planning and human capital was more critical than physical capital. From the 1990s the world has been talking about and framing Knowledge Economy Policies in place of the Population Policies.

Now coming to the Adoption of Limit Theorem of Four, let us look at what the figures tell us. The National Family Health Survey 1 (NFHS 1) did not have much data on Manipur, but from the NFHS 2 we have been getting regular data. Let us look, to begin with, at the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) which tells us: "The average number of children a woman would have by the end of her child bearing years (15-49) if she bore children at the current age-specific fertility rates." For any group of population, the Replacement Rate (such that the total size of the population does not decline continuously and ultimately disappear) should be 2.1. The various rounds of National Family Health Surveys give us TFRs of the three years preceding the year of the actual survey. The NFHS2 (1998-99) gave the TFR of Manipur as 3.04 as compared to the all-India average of 2.85. By the time of the NFHS3, it came down to 2.83 for Manipur and 2.68 for India. In the NFHS4 (2015-16), it became 2.61 for Manipur and 2.18 for India. In the latest round, NFHS5 (2019-21), it has become 2.17 for Manipur and 1.99 for India. These data reveal that the TFR of Manipur has been falling over the years, from 3.04 in 1998-99 to 2.17 in 2019-21; it is only 0.07 higher than the Replacement Rate of 2.1 and at the present trend would fall below the Replacement Rate within the next Ten Years.

In the light of this background, one wonders how the government reached at the Adoption of Limit Theorem of Four. Further, if the government wanted to make it applicable to families (in the sense of only one husband and one wife) having more than four children till about September 2022, it would be tremendously wrong for the prime principle of justice is that no policy in such cases can have retrospective validity. Still further, if we look at the Age-Specific Fertility Rates of the women aged 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 today, there is no indication that the GFR of Manipur would pick up and attain FOUR anytime in the future *ceteris paribus*.

Instead of these bombastic announcements, the attention should have been given into more critical issues which necessarily demand attention of the government. The NFHS5 reveals many unpleasant facts for the five years preceding the survey. First, the percentage of women of the age group of 15 - 49 years who have experienced non-live birth stands at 25.4 for Manipur which is more than the double of the Indian average of 12.2 percent and higher than any other State or Union Territory in India. Second, the percentage of women of the same age group which had experienced non-live birth in the five years preceding the survey stands at 10.6 for Manipur as compared to 3.9 for India as a whole; no other State or Union Territory reach the double-digit figure like Manipur. Third, the percentage that ended in a non-live birth in Manipur is higher at 15.4 than any other State or Union Territory and about double the Indian average of 8.8. Fourth, the percentage of women of the child-bearing age receiving all recommended types of ante-natal care is still below 50 in Manipur.

Well, it is important that if any announcement is being made by the government, the facts should first be ascertained, analysed and firm up the foundation of the announcement. True, no government would go behind bars for making announcements founded on wrongful assumptions, but this does not by any means implies that the government should ignore facts and go on making announcements. If the government possesses facts which are different from what the public have got and have a context which the public do not have in their mind, it should be put out in the public domain; it is the collective engagement that matters in democracy.

# International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and our Environment



By: N. Munal Meitei

Poverty is a disease that has no cure. The deeper this disease is, the deeper its wound. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated on 17th October with this year's theme "Dignity For All in Practice". The dignity of the human being is not only a fundamental right in itself but constitutes the basis for the life.

Poverty is a situation when a person starts to lack important things in his life such as the roof, food, clothes, medicines etc. to continue his life. Inequalities of opportunities and income are sharply on the rise and each year, the gap between the rich and poor gets even wider. In last year, due to COVID-19, millions faced the jobs erosion and records of poverty unprecedentedly increased. Poverty and inequality are not inevitable.

The causes of poverty are excessive population, fatal and contagious diseases, natural disasters, low agricultural yields, unemployment, casteism, untouchability, illiteracy, gender inequality, environmental problems, changing trends in economy of the country, little or limited access to people's rights, problems such as political violence, sponsored crime, corruption, lack of encouragement, inaction and ancient social beliefs etc.

The climate change and global warming constitutes new violence

against people living in poverty, as these communities are unduly burdened by more frequent occurrences of natural disasters and environmental degradation, leading to the destruction of their homes, crops and livelihoods.

Poverty is akin to being a slave. Living in a world of poverty is a curse. Poverty makes children spend life in compulsion. About half of India's population suffers from this epidemic. Poverty is not just a human problem but it is a national problem. Poverty robs people of their freedom, mental health, physical well-being and security. Everyone must strive to eradicate poverty from the country, ensuring appropriate physical and mental health.

It is very important for everyone to recognize that poverty and environment are interrelated. Poverty among people puts stress on the environment; at the same time environmental problems cause severe suffering to the poor. People, whether they are rich or poor, consume water, food and natural resources in order to remain alive. All economic activities are directly, indirectly or remotely based on natural resources and any pressure on natural resources can cause environmental stress. Environmental damages can prevent people, especially the poor, from having good and hygienic living standards. As poor people rely more directly on the environment than the rich for their survival, they are mostly on the receiving end of environmental problems.

Poverty often causes people to put more pressure on the environment which results over-exploitation of natural resources and more deforestation. On the other hand environmental problems add more to the miseries of poor people and cause more suffering among poor as environmental damage increases the impact of other environmental catastrophes. In short, the worst consequences of environmental deterioration, whether they be economical, social, or related to mental or physical wellbeing, are most experienced by poor people.

Environmental degradation due to pervasive poverty is a matter of great concern in both rural and urban areas in India. The interaction of poverty and environmental degradation sets off a downward spiral of ecological deterioration that threatens the physical security, economical well being and health of many of the country's poorest people. Thousands of forest dwellers have traditionally managed and controlled the forests and ensure sustainable use of their lives.

The effect of natural hazards on the loss of human lives is directly related to the poverty. Now climate is the driving factor for natural disasters. WHO has called poverty the world's biggest killer. Although efforts to reduce poverty and increase income levels continue, the key to identify new strategies lies in an understanding of how poverty affects both the environment and human health.

Environmental health problems emanate from a lack of access to essential environmental resources, primarily sufficient and clean water, enough food, appropriate shelter and fuel and healthy air. This implies that developed countries will need to play a proactive role in accepting responsibility and should bear a larger burden through the means they have at their disposal, particularly

**"Poverty is the worst form of violence"- Mahatma Gandhi.**

larly spending their wealth in conserving the environment.

In Manipur agriculture is our main source of economy and food sector contributing state's 22.13% GDP according to 2011 census. About 7.41% of the geographical area i.e. 231.19 sq.km. is used for cultivation in which rice accounting for about 98% and 52% of cultivation confined mainly in the valley. Thus 67% of the state population is in agriculture sector.

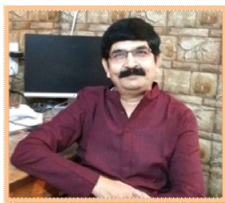
There are 18 main cultivated crops in the state which are under tremendous pressure to meet the food demand of the increased population which is next to impossible to meet by the capacity of the high-yielding varieties. Food production in Manipur is also crucial due to irregular & erratic monsoon, floods, tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation events, heat and cold waves.

The poverty and environment are inseparably intertwined. Sacrificing environment for poverty will also mean injustice for the planet. People living in extreme poverty, are the first to act decisively within their communities in response to poverty, climate change and environmental challenges.

Participation of the poor themselves and recognising their rights has been at the center point of today's celebration. Therefore with coming of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty-2022, let's uproot the poverty, save the food and the mother earth for the future generations.

(The author is a Environmentalist, email- nmunnall@yahoo.in)

# Red Salute to Meiningsiliu Pamei



By: Vinod Chandrasekhar Dixit

Recently, it is reported and that a 11-year-old girl Meiningsiliu Pamei from Tamenglong Manipur takes care of her baby brother while attending offline classes. How interesting it is that this girl is just 11 years old and she has the responsibility of raising her baby brother and the most important thing is that she doesn't want to leave her studies either and so she goes to school with her brother in her arms. Pamei studies at Dailong Primary School in Tamenglong district of Manipur. Her dedication for education is what left all amazed.

Manningsiliu is the eldest of four siblings. After the parents go to work, the responsibility of the house and younger siblings is on them. She cannot go away leaving her little brother on the basis of her younger siblings, so she takes him along. The girl wears a school uniform. Hangs the bag on the back and goes to school on foot with her brother in her lap.

Such dedicated children leave us speechless but proud of this nation who keeps giving us such strong children who are the reason of this nation's might this little girl is a great example for current students, alumni and minors. Many have sincerely praised the Mining



Cross that poverty or denial of opportunity will not always be an obstacle to education.

Instead of their parents going to work on the farm, with the responsibility of looking after her brother for a few months after birth, the motivation to study and the competition eventually won both. The Government is concerned with declining child sex ratio and so in 2015 it launched "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" Scheme, to create awareness on the need to protect the girl child and focus on their education.

Although twenty-first century India is developing at a fast pace, there is still a preference for a male child among scores of people. Education is the biggest power in the world and those who

are serious about it can go to any extent to acquire knowledge. What a girl child needs is a good education. Education levels the playing field and enables her to compete fairly across gender. Education exposes a girl child to opportunities and helps develop her skills. A girl child needs to be mentored and taught the proper values that will improve herself worth. Today, what we observe in rural areas is that a girl child go to school, help with housework, work in factories, make friends, care for elder and younger family members and prepare themselves to take on the responsibilities of adulthood. Girls play multiple roles in the household, society and the

economy. In order to achieve true women empowerment, it is important that we begin with the girl children. This is because girls of today are the women of tomorrow. The role of social welfare organizations is critical here as it is not possible for the government to reach every nook and corner of the country. Just as we say that the youth of today are the citizens of tomorrow, so are the same with our girls. They are the women of tomorrow. If we want to empower them, we must reduce inequality and gender gaps, and create strong women leaders. What we need is to work to ensure that girl child gets every opportunity to realise her potential. By celebrating, protecting and educating the girl child, we can empower her.

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# AAP protests, leaders detained amid Manish Sisodia questioning by CBI

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 17:

Several AAP leaders, including MP Sanjay Singh, were detained today after a massive protest by them against the questioning of Manish Sisodia by the CBI in the liquor policy case. Dramatic visuals showed the leaders being into a bus by the police. Several women workers, while being taken to the bus, alleged the police "misbehaved" with them.

The police acted after hundreds of party workers gathered outside the CBI headquarters.

The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi earlier in the day predicted his arrest as part of what he called a BJP "plan" to stop him from campaigning for the upcoming Gujarat election. He also took out a roadshow in an open-roof SUV on his way to the CBI office and made many stops, including at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Raj Ghat, and addressed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers.

Mr Sisodia, 50, left home after a "tilak" ritual, accompanied by AAP leaders like party MP Sanjay Singh and MLAs Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj. He also shared a video of his mother blessing him.

The CBI has prepared a list



of questions and will ask them in "several phases", sources say. The evidence found so far, and statements of others accused in the "liquor scam" will be placed before the Deputy Chief Minister, they say.

"They raided my home, nothing came out of it. They went to my village to find anything against him, but they got nothing. Now they plan to arrest me to stop me from campaigning in Gujarat. I am not afraid of CBI, ED (Enforcement Directorate) or going to the jail," he said, addressing party workers on the way.

"Even Bhagat Singh had to go to jail for the country," he declared.

The BJP criticised the roadshow and said it was seem-

ing like "Aam Aadmi Party has won the World Cup of corruption".

"The way Manish Sisodia was raising slogans in an open car on the streets along with his supporters today, it seems as if Aam Aadmi Party has won the World Cup of corruption," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said.

Backing his deputy, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged the case against him was "completely fake". He also tweeted a cartoon depicting Mr Sisodia in a heroic avatar. The picture shows him holding a shield named "Delhi education model" while helping a girl study even as arrows named ED and CBI rain on him.

"He was supposed to go to Gujarat for the election campaign. In an attempt to stop him,

he would be arrested. But the election campaign will not stop. Every person of Gujarat is canvassing for the AAP today," Mr Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

The AAP boss claimed Manish Sisodia "will be kept in jail till the Gujarat election results are out". "Gujarat results will be out on December 8. These people will keep Manish in jail till then," tweeted Mr Kejriwal.

The dates for Gujarat assembly polls haven't been announced so far by the Election Commission.

Mr Sisodia, hours before his questioning, attacked the BJP in a series of tweets. "The BJP is scared because it knows it's losing Gujarat... Their purpose is to stop me from going to Gujarat," he tweeted.

# India logs 2,060 new Covid cases, 10 deaths

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 17:

India reported 2,060 new coronavirus cases, raising its tally to 4,46,30,888, while 10 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 5,28,905, the Health Ministry said on Monday.

The active cases increased to 26,834 and comprise 0.06 per cent of the total infections, according to data updated by the ministry at 8 am.

The national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.75 per cent, it added.

An increase of 209 cases was recorded in the active COVID-19 case count in a span of 24 hours.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,905 with 10 more fatalities, which included four deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data stated.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.86 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.02 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,75,149, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent, it said.

According to the ministry, 219.33 crore doses of coronavirus vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 inoculation drive.

India's COVID-19 tally

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, 2020. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore cases on May 4, 2021, three crore cases on June 23, and four crore cases on January 25 this year.

The six new fatalities reported in the past 24 hours included two from Karnataka, and one each from Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal, as per the data.

# The 90th General Assembly of the Interpol to be held in New Delhi from Tuesday onwards

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Oct 17:

The 90th General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the world's largest police body with 195 members, will be held in Pragati Maidan venue in New Delhi from Tuesday to Friday, October 18 to October 21.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Assembly on October 18, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address the valedictory function on October 21.

Interpol, with Headquarters in Lyon (France), is the world's largest international police organization, each represented by a National Central Bureau (NCB).

The meeting will be attended by around 2,000 overseas dignitaries, including ministers, police chiefs, police officers, and support staff from Interpol member coun-

tries, apart from Interpol head office representatives, Indian officials and media representatives, an official statement read.

In addition, the Assembly will elect the members of the Executive Committee, the governing body which provides guidance and direction in between sessions of the Assembly. The Assembly takes decisions in the form of resolutions. Each member country represented has one vote. The decision-making process is made by either a simple or two-thirds majority, depending on the subject matter.

The Assembly, meets once a year to take key decisions to bring international cooperation in law enforcement. The Interpol has 90-million records spread across 17 database. Equipped with secure global data communication channel I-24/7, incident response teams, command and control centre, a worldwide network of NCBS, the organisation assist law enforcement agencies of member countries.

All the Central and State law enforcement agencies in India have a link through Interpol New Delhi to all law enforcement agencies in other member countries, through Interpol Global Communications System for seeking and providing assistance in dealing with criminal investigations.

There is a daily inflow and outflow of communications between Interpol New Delhi and NCB of member countries which ranges from a compassionate request to locate and notify the next-of-kin of a death, request to search for a missing person, criminal history requests, re-

quests from law enforcement agencies for informal assistance in case of fraud, commercial crime, trafficking in narcotics drugs, and criminal code offences.

The Assembly is being held in India after 25 years – it was last held in 1997. Now it culminates with celebrations for 75th year of India's independence. The Interpol flag was handed over to India on November 25, 2021 during 89th Interpol General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey.

Founded in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC), the name Interpol served as the agency's telegraphic address in 1946, and was chosen as its common name in 1956. India is one of the oldest members of Interpol, having joined the organization in 1949.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is designated as the NCB of India for Interpol. The Director of the CBI is the ex-officio head of the Interpol National Central Bureau-New Delhi.

India has also been one of the relatively more active members and has earlier hosted an Inter-Regional Meeting of Heads of Drug Services in 1988, the first Interpol conference on Methamphetamine in 1992, the 13th Asian Regional Conference in 1994, the 66th General Assembly Session of ICPO-INTERPOL in 1997 and the Sixth Global Focal Point Conference on Asset Recovery in 2015.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Interpol in Vienna, the annual General Assembly for the Interpol will take place in Vienna in 2023.

# BSF shoots down drone along IB; over 170 drones entered Punjab from neighbouring country so far this year

Agency  
Amritsar, Oct 17:

A Pakistani drone was shot down by India's Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday night along the India-Pakistan international border in the Amritsar region. The drone weighing 12-kg was suspected to be carrying narcotics.

The quad-copter drone had four propellers and was intercepted by the 22nd Bat-

alion of the BSF and shot down at around 9.15 pm near the Rania border post in the Amritsar sector.

Notably, yesterday's drone incident is the second such incident in the past three days at this frontier.

A BSF spokesperson informed that a green-coloured packet that had two kg material was recovered from under the drone.

Earlier, the Border Security

Force shot down a drone in Punjab's Gurdaspur on the intervening night of October 13-14.

It may be noted that, security forces have intercepted illegal entry of over 190 drones into Indian territory from neighbouring Pakistan.

In the past nine months, security forces have observed the illegal entry of 191 drones into Indian territory from neighbouring Pakistan.

According to ANI, of the 191 illegal drones observed, 171 entered into Indian territory through the India-Pakistan border along the Punjab sector.

"UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) observation in Indo-Pak border was seen in Punjab and Jammu frontier with effect from January 1, 2022, to September 30, 2022," as per the document accessed by the news agency.

## Career Guidance

# Career and job opportunities in decision Science



By: Vijay GarG

Data technologies have succeeded in turning this data into useful insights. The future will see more data spawning, though. Massive data repositories present a tremendous opportunity for organisations if they are used effectively. Decision science can help in this situation.

Data has been advancing quickly towards the cutting edge of enterprises for many years. It is now possible to store enormous amounts of data produced by sales, customer interactions, and digital experiences thanks to the availability of advanced storage technologies. The corporate world is constantly being inundated with massive

amounts of data thanks to mechanisms that make it simple to integrate different systems.

Data technologies have succeeded in turning this data into useful insights. The future will see more data spawning, though. Massive data repositories present a tremendous opportunity for organisations if they are used effectively. Decision science can help in this situation.

## Importance of Decision Science

Embracing data and using it in a way that can assist stakeholders in making important business decisions is a requirement of decision science. Making wise inferences from data, telling compelling tales, recognizing pertinent difficulties, and then accurately applying this information to the appropriate set of business problems are all examples of effectively using data to make educated business decisions.

A profession in decision science entails developing answers based on reliable probabilistic, predictive, experimental, and computational principles.

Decision sciences are very important in the modern world. Decision sciences aid in the improvement of judgment. Making a decision involves a number of processes, including comprehending the issue, using data, utilizing tools, and obtaining insights.

A very strong educational background is typically needed to obtain the amount of knowledge required to be a data scientist, even if there are notable exceptions. Data scientists are highly educated; 88% have at least a Master's degree and 46% have PhDs. A bachelor's degree in statistics, computer science, social sciences, or physical sciences could prepare you to work as a data scientist. Computer science (19%) and engineering (16%) are the next most popular disciplines of study after mathematics and statistics (32%). Your ability to process and evaluate large data will be facilitated by a degree in one of these programmes.

The majority of data scientists lack a strong foundation in machine learning topics and methods. These include neu-

ral networks, adversarial learning, reinforcement learning, etc. Knowing machine learning techniques like supervised machine learning, decision trees, logistic regression, etc. will help you stand out from other data scientists. You can use these abilities to solve various data science issues that are based on forecasts of important organizational outcomes.

Although NoSQL and Hadoop have grown to be significant parts of data science, it is still expected that a candidate will be able to construct and run sophisticated SQL queries. With the aid of the programming language SQL (Structured Query Language), you can add, delete, and extract data from databases. You can use it to perform analytical tasks and change database architecture. As a data scientist, you must be fluent in SQL. This is so because SQL was created to enable you access, communicate with, and work with data.

When hiring a great data scientist, companies look for someone who can communi-

cate their technical results to a non-technical team, such as the marketing or sales departments, effectively and fluently. In addition to knowing the needs of their non-technical colleagues in order to effectively handle the data, a data scientist must empower the company to make decisions by arming them with quantitative insights.

## Conclusion

Data scientist plays a crucial role in integrating the data pieces that have been retrieved from silo specific little pockets and putting them all together by applying their understanding of business dynamics, intuition and long term vision to build the overall picture. In a nutshell decision scientists are creative who mix the diverse sciences of math, technology and business to do their duties.

These abilities are helpful in decision science work and aid in delivering precise solutions. To develop solutions that support decision making, decision scientists examine the data related to the business problem.

## Admit Card Lost

I, Md. Soidul Alom have lost my original Admit Card of High School Leaving Certificate Examination, 2022, issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur, bearing Roll No. 17704 on the way between Lalpani to Babupara, Jiribam on 11th October, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Md. Soidul Alom  
Lalpani Pt-II, Jiribam  
Contact No. 9366663890

# New Pension Rules: After 80 years, pensioners get additional pension, know what are the rules

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 17:

Central government pensioners start getting increased pension after the age of 80 years. Central Civil Services (CCS) pension rules make special arrangements for super senior citizens and as the age of pensioners touches the figure of 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 years, their payment also increases rapidly goes.

According to the CCS Pension Rules, 2021, after the pensioner reaches 80 years of age, his compensation allowance increases, which is available in the form of enhanced

pension. However, its benefit is available only to retired government employees. If you look at the rules, you will see that after the age of 80, the monthly payment of the pensioner increases every five years.

In this way, the amount of pension increases – above 80 years but below 85 years of age, the basic pension increases by 20 percent.

Above 85 years but below the age of 90 years, 30% of the basic pension amount is increased.

Above 90 years but below the age of 95 years, the amount of basic pension increases by 40 percent.

Above 95 years but below 100 years of age, the pensioner gets 50% increase in basic amount.

On attaining the age of more than 100 years, the pensioner is entitled to get 100% additional pension of his basic.

Whatever be the date of birth: According to the rules applicable from the 1st of the pension, even if the pensioner was born on any date, but he starts getting the benefit of additional pension from the 1st of that month only. For example, if a person was born on 15th August, then on attaining the age of 80 years, the benefit of 20% increased pension would start from 1st August. Similarly, pensioners born on August 4 will also be paid the increased amount as on August 1.

The new rule will be applicable to these employees only. The Central Government had notified the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules on December 20, 2021. Only those government employees who have been appointed before December 31, 2003 will get the benefit of this. It also includes civil government employees attached to the Defense Services. This rule will not be applicable to railway employees, employees of All India Services.

# Sourav Ganguly BCCI exit: After Mamata Banerjee's remarks, BJP leader drags Shah Rukh Khan into controversy

Agency  
Kolkata, Oct 17:

Amid ongoing political war-of-words over Sourav Ganguly's exit as BCCI president and the likely appointment of Roger Binny, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has now taunted West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and said that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) should 'remove Shah Rukh Khan and make Sourav Ganguly the brand ambassador of West Bengal'.

"Remove Shah Rukh Khan & make Sourav Ganguly the brand ambassador of West Bengal. If Mamata Banerjee wanted to extend Sourav Ganguly's tenancy then she should've made him brand ambassador of WB. Don't do politics in sports. PM Modi stays out of these things," West Ben-



gal LoP Suwendu Adhikari said, news agency ANI quoted.

His remarks came after West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee urged PM Narendra Modi to ensure that Sourav Ganguly is allowed to contest elections as ICC chief. Adding that outgoing BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly is 'being deprived', Banerjee said that his exclusion was 'unfair'.

TMC bats for Sourav

Ganguly as ICC chairman

"I request PM to make sure Sourav Ganguly must be allowed to contest ICC election. He's a popular figure which is why he is being deprived. Request GoI not to take a decision politically, but for cricket, sports...He is not a political party member," Mamata Banerjee said amid a political storm over Ganguly's exit as BCCI President.

Earlier, the TMC had also slammed the BJP alleging that Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah is allowed to continue as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary, but Sourav Ganguly's second term as BCCI President has been stopped as the BJP 'failed to induct him into the party'.

"Sourav Ganguly is our pride, he has skillfully managed his sports & administration career. He was BCCI president. He was excluded in an unfair way; the compensation for it will be to send him to ICC," Banerjee said.

Meanwhile, amid reports, claims and counterclaims over Sourav Ganguly's 'resignation' as BCCI President, the cricketing legend and former India captain said that it was great seeing 'both sides of the coin'.

## Contd. from Page 1 PM inaugurates PM Kisan....

Recalling the time before 2014 when farmers had to deal with the troubled agricultural sector and black marketing of urea, the Prime Minister said that the farmers had to bear the brunt of the baton to claim what was rightfully theirs. The Prime Minister interjected that the government tackled the black marketing of urea by coating it with 100% neem. "We worked hard to restart the country's 6 largest urea factories, which were closed for years", he added.

Highlighting the steps that have immensely benefited the hardworking farmers, the Prime Minister remarked that India is rapidly moving towards self-sufficiency in liquid nano urea production. Modi pointed out, "Nano Urea is a medium to produce more with less cost." Stating its benefits, the Prime Minister said that a sack full of urea can now be replaced by a single bottle of nano urea. He further added that the transportation costs of urea would go down significantly.

The Prime Minister mentioned two new measures in the fertiliser reform story of India. Firstly, a campaign is being initiated today to develop more than 3.25 lakh fertiliser shops across the country as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras. These will be centres where farmers can buy not only fertilisers and seeds but also implement soil testing and avail useful information about farming techniques. Secondly, with One Nation, One Fertiliser, the farmer is going to get rid of all kinds of confusion about the quality of the fertiliser and its availability. "Now the urea sold in the country will be of the same name, same brand and same quality and this brand is Bharat! Now urea will be available only under 'Bharat' brand name in the entire country", Modi remarked. He further added that it will result in reducing the cost of fertilisers and

increase their availability.

Stressing the need of the hour to adopt technology-based modern farming techniques, the Prime Minister said that we have to create new systems in agriculture, adopt more scientific and technological methods with an open mind. With this thinking, we have emphasized boosting scientific methods in agriculture, and maximum use of technology. The Prime Minister informed that 22 crore soil health cards have been distributed so far and scientific efforts are on for providing best quality seeds. "During the last 7-8 year about 1700 new varieties of seeds that are suited to the changed climate conditions have been made available to the farmers", he said.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the increasing curiosity about millets on the global level. He said, "Today, many hubs are being built in the country to increase the quality of the seeds of the traditional coarse grains- millets that we have here." Throwing light on the efforts of the government to encourage India's coarse grains all over the world, the Prime Minister informed that the next year has been declared as the International Year of Coarse Cereals.

The Prime Minister cautioned against using indiscriminate amounts of water for irrigation and reiterated the government's efforts in the direction of per drop more crop, micro irrigation and drip irrigation. More than 70 lakh hectare land has been brought under micro irrigation in the last 7-8 years, he informed.

Stressing the need to encourage natural farming, the Prime Minister informed that it provides an important medium to solve the challenges of the future. We are experiencing a lot of awareness across the country today, the Prime Minister highlighted. Farmers are working on a large scale in

Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh as well as in UP, Uttarakhand for natural farming. In Gujarat, plans are being made for this at the district and gram panchayat level as well.

Highlighting the transformational initiative of PM-KISAN, the Prime Minister remarked that PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is an example of how small farmers benefit from the use of modern technology. "Since the launch of this scheme, more than Rs 2 lakh crore has been directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers. For small farmers who are more than 85 percent of the country's farmers, this is a huge support", he said.

Concluding his address, the Prime Minister urged the farmers of India to make the most of Mission Oil Palm which is a step in the direction of achieving Atmanirbharta in the edible oil sector. He further added that by increasing the production of oil seeds, India can reduce the consumption of edible oils. "Our farmers are more than capable in this field", Modi added. Recalling his clarion call in 2015 regarding the production of pulses, the Prime Minister expressed delight at the 70% increase in pulse production and thanked the farmers. "We will make agriculture attractive and prosperous in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", the Prime Minister said and concluded his address by wishing the best to all the farmers and startups.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Chemical and Fertilisers, Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shobha Karandlaje and Kailash Choudhary and Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilisers, Bhagwanth Khuba were those present on the occasion among others.

## Sports

# Qatar to host AFC Asian Cup 2023; India, Saudi Arabia shortlisted for 2027

Agency  
Kuala Lumpur, Oct 17:

Qatar will stage next year's Asian Cup in place of original host China after seeing off rival bids from South Korea and Indonesia, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced on Monday.

The continental championship was awarded to China in 2019 but the world's most populous country relinquished the rights earlier this year as it pursued a zero-COVID policy.

The AFC reopened the bidding process and Qatar, which will host the World Cup finals from next month, was preferred to bids from South Korea and Indonesia at an executive committee meeting on Monday.

"Qatar's capabilities and track record in hosting major international sporting events and their meticulous attention to detail are well admired throughout the globe," AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa said in a

statement.

"With their existing world-class infrastructure and unrivalled hosting capabilities, we are confident that Qatar will stage a worthy spectacle befitting the prestige and stature of Asia's crown jewel."

The Gulf state has staged the Asian Cup twice before in 1988 and 2011 and won the last edition in the United Arab Emirates in 2019.

The gas and oil-rich country has built seven stadiums and upgraded another around the capital Doha to host the 32-team World Cup finals in November and December.

The 24-team Asian Cup is now likely to be shifted from its original dates in June and July to later in 2023, or even into early 2024, to ensure matches are not played during the worst of the summer heat.

The Qatar Football Association and Qatar's government media office did not immediately respond to Reuters request for comment or to questions about when the tournament would be held.

South Korea had been favourite to be awarded the hosting rights as the country had not staged the finals since 1960, when it won the second of its two Asian titles.

Indonesia had been considered outsiders because of the lack of stadium infrastructure in the country, even more so after more than 130 people died in a stampede at a match at Kanjuruhan stadium in East Java on Oct. 1.

The AFC said the executive meeting had opened with the offer of "heartfelt condolences" to the Indonesian FA "as well as the families and loved ones of the precious lives lost".

Qatar was also one of three nations bidding to stage the 2027 edition of the Asian Cup after Iran and Uzbekistan withdrew expressions of interest.

The AFC executive committee on Monday shortlisted the bids from India and Saudi Arabia for that tournament with a final decision to be made at their next meeting in February.

# BFI appoints Irish legend Bernard Dunne as India's new high-performance director

Agency  
Kolkata, Oct 17:

Former Irish professional boxer Bernard Dunne has been named the high performance director (HPD) for Indian boxing.

Dunne, who had a five-year (2017-2022) stint with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, will take the place of Santiago Nieva.

During Dunne's tenure with the Ireland's team, Kellie Harrington emerged as the World (2018, Delhi) and Olympic champion (2021, Tokyo). Amy Broadhurst and Lisa O'Rourke won gold medals at this year's World championships in Istanbul and Aidan Walsh secured a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

"India has boxing talents and its boxers have been performing exceedingly well. It will be a great opportunity for me to work with them and contribute to their success. I'm excited to take the standards of Indian boxing to a new high," said Dunne, a well-known professional boxer who won the European



Championship in 2007 and the WBA World Championship in 2009.

"This is a major boost to our aim of winning medals at the Paris Olympics," said Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh.

The 42-year-old Dunne, who has bagged 13 national titles, has joined the Indian boxing elite programme at Patiala, said a release on Monday.

## 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: [imphaltimesessaycompt@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimesessaycompt@gmail.com) in MS Word or PDF format.

Team Imphal Times