

## Kakching Police raids residence and office of MD, MSPCL

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 24:

A team of Kakching Police led by SP Shrey Vats raided the residence of the Managing Director Manipur State Power Company Limited (MSPCL) and the head office of Manipur State Power Company Limited (MSPCL) at 8.30 am today.

Unconfirmed sources said that the raid was conducted in connection with a Lokayukta case related to the construction of 2 x 1MVA Sub-Station at Chakpikarong along with the associated 33 KV line (for 45 km) and related civil work on a turn-key basis under NLCPR. It may be mentioned that the work order dated September 25, 2009 for the construction of 2 x 1MVA Sub-Station at Chakpikarong along with the associated 33 KV line and related civil work on Turn-Key basis under NLCPR was issued to Shyama Power (India) Pvt Ltd, 15 and 16, Harton Complex, Electronics City, Sector - 18 (part), Gurgaon - 122 015, Haryana (India).

Details about the raid cannot be obtained as of filing this news report.

## Guv', CM and others wish people on occasion of Diwali festival

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 24:

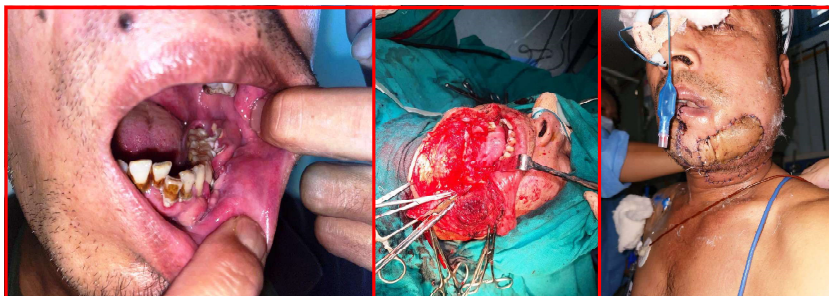
Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Seityabanta, Education Minister Th. Basanta, Works Minister Govindas among others wish the people of the state on occasion of the Diwali Festival.

In his message the governor of Manipur La. Ganesan said that Diwali festival is one of the biggest festivals of the Hindus and celebrated across the length and breadth of the country. It is also known as the festival of light and signifies the triumph of the good over the evil. The illumination on this day marks the joy and happiness on the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana. Let the light of Diwali dispel hatred, enmity and disunity among the people of the State.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh while wishing the people of the state said that Diwali is celebrated to commemorate Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after completing 14 years in exile. The festival signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, hope over despair and knowledge over ignorance. The festival also binds all communities together in celebration. People celebrate the festival by illuminating their homes to dispel darkness and to evoke the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi.

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## A big tumor inside oral cavity successfully removed at RIMS



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 24:

On 19th October 2022, a team of doctors led by Dr. Ak. Ibohah Singh, Head of Department, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, RIMS Imphal, Dr. P. Manisana Singh, Dr. L. Loken Singh, Dr. Nehar Sinam, Dr. Manish Rajpurohit and Dr. Shishi Elangbam successfully operated and removed the tumor at newly constructed Modular Operation Theatre. The operation took 8 hours to complete. As there was a big tumor inside the oral cavity, administering anaesthesia was an equally daunting task.

Prof. S. Sarat Singh, Dr. T. Hemjit Singh, Dr. M. Brajagopal Singh, Dr. I. Joyshankar, Dr. Anita Gurung performed endonasal intubation and monitored the patient minutely throughout the 8 hours of operation.

The patient was a 52 years old male, Yakub (name changed) hailing from Mantripukhuri, Imphal has diagnosed a case of cancer of the inside of the left cheek (Buccal Mucosa, near the gingivobuccal sulcus), which was presumably a result of his age, old habit of chewing tobacco. After visiting a few doctors in the town, he was

ultimately referred to the Department of Plastic Surgery, RIMS, Imphal. At the very first OPD visit, he was admitted to the recently inaugurated Burn Unit and worked up. His cancer had already encroached onto his lower gums, alveolar bone of the lower jaw bone (mandible), underlying cheek skin and the lymph nodes in the left side of the neck. But this didn't discourage the reconstructive surgeons of RIMS Hospital to go ahead with the challenging operation. The left cheek, lower teeth on the left side, upper portion of the mandible and all the lymph

nodes on the left side of the neck (Level 1 to IV) were removed. The through-and-through defect was reconstructed by a free radial artery forearm flap harvested from the no-dominant (left) forearm, fashioned into a bipaddle by folding onto itself, so as to recreate both the skin as well as mucosa. Later, the blood vessels of the flap were joined to those in the neck through a painstaking process of microvascular anastomosis.

The operation was also assisted by team of theatre nurses, namely A. Asha, Eloni Susan, H. Shoroshoti and T. Desikanta.

## Cyclone Sitrang intensifies, red & yellow alerts issued for North-East States

Agency  
Guwahati, Oct 24:

The weather office said that Cyclone Sitrang will intensify into a severe cyclonic storm today with the wind speed of up to 90 to 100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph.

IMD said that on Sunday evening, the cyclone was 580 kilometre south of Sagar Island in West Bengal & 740 kilometre south-southwest of Barisal in Bangladesh.

Deputy director-general of the Regional Met Centre in Kolkata, Sanjib Bandyopadhyay said that the cyclone sitrang

will mainly hit the Sunderbans spread over West Bengal and Bangladesh as tidal waves are expected to reach a height of 6 metres owing to the twin effect of the weather system & new moon.

He said after changing the direction to northeastwards from northwest-bound, the system will reach the north Bay of Bengal before making landfall between Tinkona island & Sandwip close to Barisal in Bangladesh on Tuesday.

He also said that the system will cause heavy to very heavy rainfall in the coastal

districts of South 24 Parganas & North 24 Parganas. East and West Midnapore will witness heavy showers today.

Met officials said that rainfall will continue in southern West Bengal districts till Wednesday morning.

The officials said Kolkata, Howrah & Hooghly will also receive moderate showers on Monday as well as Tuesday. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall will take place in North and South 24 Parganas & Nadia districts on Tuesday.

The administration has deployed the civil security

forces at the riverbanks of South 24 Parganas. It is making all necessary arrangements to move people along the riverbanks to safer places.

The weather office has also predicted heavy rainfall along with strong winds in the north-east region.

According to IMD, Tripura is likely to be the worst-affected, with rainfall up to 200 mm in 24 hours.

A "red alert" has been issued for Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Manipur & Nagaland, and an "orange alert" has been raised for Arunachal Pradesh.

## As NSCN-IM meets rival Naga groups, hope for reconciliation, shared roadmap to peace

Courtesy: Indian Express  
New Delhi, Oct 24:

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM), which has resumed talks with the Indian authorities, met members of the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), an umbrella organisation of seven rebel teams from Nagaland, in an attempt at reconciliation final week.

The NSCN-IM, one of many largest rebel teams within the Northeast, and the NNPGs have been conventional rivals and have had seemingly irreconcilable variations over the Naga peace accord. They got here collectively for a gathering in

Kolkata on October 17-18 to "discover frequent floor" on easy methods to proceed with the peace course of.

The assembly was attended by 5 members from the NNPGs and two from the NSCN-IM.

The 2-day assembly was organised by the Discussion board for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) — a civil society physique that has previously organized comparable conferences between the rival rebel teams. Having began the method in 2008, in anticipation of a doable Naga accord, the FNR had tried making a united entrance of Nagas that might negotiate with the Indian authorities.

However regardless of conferences and dialogues

between Naga teams, the conferences got here to a halt in 2015 after the NSCN-IM signed the Framework Settlement with the Indian authorities unilaterally, without having consulted both the NNPG, the FNR or Naga civil society.

"This was actually seen by many as a stab within the again by the IM," mentioned one supply.

However with the Nagaland elections across the nook (the polls are more likely to be held in February-March subsequent yr) and the NSCN-IM resuming talks with the federal government as soon as extra after a hiatus, the FNR has resumed its actions, reaching out to the rival teams for the primary

time in seven years earlier final month.

"It was a really fruitful assembly. There have been tensions between the teams, and we now have opened channels as soon as extra for dialogue which is a giant step, and a welcome one. We've got determined to arrange a joint committee and have determined that any more, the highest leaders of the teams — together with the IM chairman and the NNPG Working Committee convener — will meet commonly and that no resolution on the subject of the accord will happen without permission from all sides," mentioned a pacesetter who was current on the assembly.

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## The Editorial:

## The ghost of SAUBHAGAYA started haunting

A team of Manipur Police raided the office of the MSPCL and the also the residence of the Managing director of the MSPCL at his Thangmeiband residence today. Source said the raid is being conducted as per the directives of the Manipur Lokayukta in connection with corruption case filed against the officials. No official comment has been given by the state police regarding the raid conducted today. But unconfirmed source said that the raid conducted today by stated police at MSPCL office at Keishampat and at the residence of the Managing Director of the corporate office is somewhat connected with the news report carried out by Imphal Times under the heading 'MSPDCL officials swindle over Rs 200 crores from PM Modi's SAUBHAGAYA scheme' in its October 21 edition.

Source also reveals that the MSPDCL officials are now running here and there trying to file case against the Imphal Times newspaper for filing the story. It is also learnt that the top official of the MSPCL and the MSPDCL are consulting at the level of the Chief Secretary to file case against the Imphal Times to save their image. But Imphal Times still stand with the news report as the report were produced based on the documents provided by them through the Manipur Information Commission. All documents provided through the Manipur Information Commission should be official and if not the MSPDCL is punishable.

"Any Information Officer who willfully provides wrong or misleading information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act to any application, can be penalised Rs 25,000 by the Commissioner, plus disciplinary action can be recommended against him". This was a stated by former CIC Shailesh Gandhi.

Time and again Imphal Times had revealed that the MSPDCL had refused to provide documents to queries related to the implementation of the SAUBHAGAYA scheme sought through the Right to Information Act 2005.

"Corruption", which the Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh always took with extreme seriousness and has been appealing people to co-operate with the government root it out from the soil of Manipur will have no meaning if the large scale corruption that has been going on at the Manipur State Power Distribution Limited (MSPDCL) is not being checked.

Well and good the government did not intervene to the investigation carried out by the police under the directives of the Lokayukta. Considering the act of the governed and the anti corruption cell of the state government by raiding the office and the residence of the top official of the Power department to find out those involved in corrupt practice in a state where the chief minister committed to root out.

Let us hope justice be delivered to the people by the N. Biren Singh Government by punishing whoever involved in corruption in the state.

## National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation -2022

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 24:

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Loktak Power Station in association with Education Department, Manipur is organizing State Level Painting Competition 2022 for Group-A (Class 5th, 6th & 7th) and Group-B (Class 8th, 9th & 10th) students with an objective to propagate the message of energy conservation among the general public as well as various sectors of the economy. Winners of Group A and Group B will participate in National Level Painting Competition on December 12, 2022.

The Topic of the painting: Group A: Light the Candle of Patriotism save Energy for the Nation or Let's make a world of dreams by creating rule of energy saving. Group B: Let's

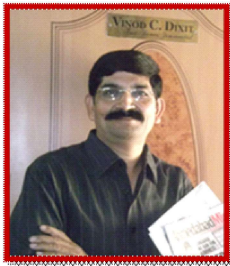
write the future, switch to Electric Vehicle or Let us rise and complete our duty save energy for nation. The total prize money in state level painting competition is Rs. 3.50 Lacs and in Nation level Rs. 6.60 Lacs.

Don't miss this opportunity! Registration is going on for Manipur state level Painting Competition 2022. Interested Schools and Students of Manipur are requested to register at [www.bee-studentsaward.in](http://www.bee-studentsaward.in) as soon as possible. The last date for registration and participation in school level Painting Competition is October 31, 2022.

Further we will also provide participating students Certificate, LED Bulb, etc.

So Hurry up and do register for Nation Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2022 at the earliest.

# Social distancing a weapon to fight Coronavirus



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

While addressing the nation our PM Narendra Modi has urged every Indian to resolve to fight against the Covid-19 and exhibit restraint by practicing social distancing and avoiding hoarding. COVID-19 has been labeled as a pandemic, a global outbreak of the disease. The term "Social distancing" might sound like an emotional phase in early but in reality, it is a public health term describing our best defense against the coronavirus. Social distancing practices are the changes in behaviour that can help stop the spread of Coronavirus infections.

Social distancing is not the same as self-quarantine or isolation, two other practices being utilized to minimize the coronavirus spread. The key difference is that a quarantine or isolation restricts the movement of people within a certain area or zone to limit transferring and spreading an infection. Measures like social distancing can help communities achieve that second line — a slower growth in the number of cases — so that they have more time and resources to care for all the sick patients.

Social distancing is practicing putting physical distance between yourself and others at least 6 feet and staying home when you can. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic is infiltrating every aspect of life, and we're already longing for it to end. As an individual, one can lower the risk of infection by reducing the rate of contact with other people. Avoiding public spaces and unnecessary social gatherings, especially events with large numbers of people or crowds, will lower the chance that a person will be exposed to the new coronavirus as well as to other infectious diseases like flu. Social distancing accepts or acknowledges that the coronavirus is likely widespread, community transmission is already occurring and the number of diagnosed cases is going to rise as more people receive testing. Social distancing is a societal effort to contain transmission. It is recommended to separate yourself from people you live with as much as possible. Governments around the world are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and social distancing is a central aspect of plans to limit the spread of the virus. Public health experts believe social distancing is the best way to prevent a Coronavirus. Social distancing can reduce virus transmission from infected persons to susceptible individuals by increasing physical distance between people or reducing frequency of congregation in socially dense community settings, such as schools or workplaces. The best way to prevent "community spread" is to spread out the community.

It is widely viewed as an effective behavior and something that anyone and everyone should practice. Until a vaccine or even an effective treatment can be developed, the best hope for protecting ourselves is slowing the spread of the disease by practicing "Social distancing". We must understand that the measures are aimed at trying to cut down the amount of virus spreading around, and ultimately protect those most vulnerable, including the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

There is no doubt that the spread can be slowed down, if people practice social distancing by avoiding public spaces and generally limiting their movement. Let us remember that to stop the spread of the coronavirus, social distancing is becoming the new normal, at least for a few weeks. Less contact with others outside of household unit is the best option to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## Centre's Hindi Push: A threat to the minorities

By: Jayanta Sharangthem

Contd. from yesterday

Different contexts may be mapped out in this regard. First, the context of colonisation, wherein colonisers threatened the languages of the land by advocating an ideology that aimed to "civilise" and "modernise" the colonial subjects so that they could serve their "tastes". Secondly, the context of the formation of the post-colonial nation state, which had patronised the dominant language of the land as the lingua franca of the state (by adopting it as a national/official language) and of the education system (by adopting it as a medium of instruction or as a compulsory language). This process was driven by the political elite who often used linguistic nationalism as a weapon to achieve oneness, unity, integrity, and nationhood. Thirdly, in the post-independence era, the rise of sub-national linguistic identities challenging the national linguistic identity has also contributed to the marginalisation of the minority tongues within their sphere of influence. Fourthly, and most recently, the context of the market-driven process of globalisation, which sought to blur the boundaries between nation states, let alone the "nations" within the nation states, through the increasing use of English, which has consolidated and strengthened the onslaught on the minority languages. The assimilative nature of dominant languages makes them detrimental to the survival of minority languages or languages of less power. The "majority" ethnic languages or English, as the case may be, depending on the context, are the culprits for the extinction of minority languages in any given society. For instance, the minority tribal languages in many states are taught in either the dominant language of the state or in English (as in the case of many or all of the north-eastern states) and seldom in their own tongue. The immediate justification given for such policies is that the scripts of these native tongues are either not developed or do not exist. Even when they do exist, it is not "appropriate" for teaching and learning. Secondly, the much propagated and envisioned three-language formula has never gained ground except in a few states, leaving the goal of trilingualism or multilingualism a distant dream for most parts of the country. Thirdly, the minority language speakers constantly face the ridicule from peers and teachers when they speak the dominant school language or the language of their home. Usually, these are reflected in the informal or formal references to the minority tongues and peoples in talk, behaviour and in imitations that may indicate humiliation and discrimination toward the speaker of minority tongues.

to be continued

# International Day for Climate Action 2022



By: N. Munul Meitei

The 24th October is the United Nations day which is responsible world peace, development and security with 193 member nations worldwide. Now for maintaining peace and security, our most challenging task has become the climate action. In this vast universe, the earth is the only planet where living beings can survive. If we do not take action right now, then the beautiful hills, lakes, fields, meadows, forests and all living beings on this blue planet will be perished. Therefore, the celebration of International Day for Climate action on this UN day itself has the greatest meaning.

This day is celebrated to promote action against global warming and its effects. From 6 to 18 November, 2022 the member states and negotiators, along with climate activists will meet at COP27 in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh for the largest annual gathering on climate action under the slogan "a radical turning point in international climate efforts in coordination with all parties, for the benefit of Africa and the entire world". But in reality are we actually getting the benefits and improvement from such International Meets?

Hope that COP27 will surely build an outcome after COP26, Glasgow Climate Pact to deliver action on an array of critical issues to tackle the climate

emergency — from urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience, adapting and mitigation to the inevitable impacts of climate change, to deliver on the commitments to climate finance in developing countries. Faced with a growing energy crisis, record greenhouse gas concentration and increasing extreme weather events, COP27 need to deliver a firm decision for the people and planet.

We cannot let passivity condemn the planet to a path of no return. To ensure temperature not to exceed 1.5°C at the end of the century, it is essential to generate agile and sustained large scale GHG reductions, a scenario from which we are still far from. Climate action failure is also perceived as one of the most important risks globally, in terms of severity and probability. IPCC proposed to cap global temperature to 1.5°C to 2°C by 2100 but as per IPCC WGI Fourth Assessment Report, the climate change predictions are not encouraging; a further increase in temperatures may be 2.8°C to 6°C by 2100. This risk, together with the exponential increased world population and industrialization in almost every countries, it's essential to adopt without any alternatives to combat the effects of climate change.

Tropical coral reefs which contribute about 52% of all oxygen on the earth are leading to mass extinction due to bleaching effects. Climate change also affect the terrestrial biodiversity, food production, health, education and every aspects of life. As predicted, the climate change will affect the security of nations as conflicts brew over competition for resources, water, food and land. The climate refugees migrating across borders is also a concern for many governments provoking the civil wars. Climate change will also have tremen-

dous impact on social and cultural aspects of life.

Caring for the planet is the moral issue. Countries have recognized that climate change presents an ever growing threat to development, poverty and the welfare of the citizens. The impacts of climate change are already being felt everywhere across the globe. We have felt the increase in temperature and of the extreme climates like flood, drought, cyclone, earthquakes very frequently as compare to the before years. And non-planting and non harvesting of crops due to scanty rainfall were also not happened in the past.

Climate change is impacting on all aspects of life and Eco-systems. More than 80% of Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks. 17 of 20 people in the country are vulnerable and out of which every 5 Indians live in areas that are extremely vulnerable. Manipur ranks fourth in climate vulnerability index in the country and Chandel is most vulnerable district in the state. The state is facing with climate disasters in all aspects such as temperature, rainfall, pollution, heat waves, fog intensity, cyclones, soil erosion, flash flood, insects and pests in the agricultural fields, diseases to poultry and animals husbandry and many more.

The Loktak Lake being the largest fresh water lake in North-east is deteriorating. The Lake has its own cultural legacy. The great epic of Khamba-Thoibi still echoed in the wave of Loktak Lake. This is not the poetic of Shri Hijam Anganghal but it really nestled deep in our culture. But due to the environmental degradation and climate change, everything seems to be emerging in the cloud. Huge volumes of plastics are carried down by the Nambul River and due to indis-

criminate felling in the catchments, huge siltation is going on in the lake. The Lake is now swallowing with the highest speed that the current generation may also not be able see the present Loktak Lake in the next 20 years.

In a land-lock state, about 36,000 vehicles are registered every year producing huge GHG challenging the overall climate of Manipur. Without a snow-fed but only rain-fed Rivers, the state is very prone to severe drought. Now the state has experienced all the adverse climatic effects in the recent past. Forests being natural capital in a green economy provide benefits to life on earth and benefits to people providing subsistence to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

In Manipur, the rate of deforestation is overwhelming and is a serious issue. Maximum felling of trees are going on for mass poppy plantation in the hill districts. If the Govt. does not find out an alternative solution, then this deadly menace will diminish all our rich forests. Selling of firewood become a big business to supply the mushrooming brick kilns in the state. Many of the households and small scale industries such as blacksmith, goldsmith, hotels and dholi depend on charcoals that are produced by uprooting the trees mostly of coppicing species. Thus a total area of about 400 sq.km of rich forests are lost annually in the state.

It is an undisputed fact that climate change is always interconnected with all environmental challenges. Climate changes everything including the human well-being. Therefore for a better tomorrow, we have to combat climate change for the mother earth and the future generations.

(The author is an Environmentalist, email- nmunul@yahoo.in)

## Prevention of Cancer through diet



By: Dr. Y. Prabhabati Devi

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death among adults. Heredity and exogenous factors are believed to be involved in cancer development. About 25% of cancer are related with nature of lifestyle and the rate of cancer can be reduced by changing the lifestyle. 75 to 80 % of cancers are environmentally induced and 30 to 40% of cancer are due to poor food choices and physical inactivity. Cancer is mainly due to high fat and low consumption of green leafy vegetables and fruits. Carotene and Vitamin E

have significant impact on the reduction of prostate, lungs, oral, breast and cervical cancer. Green leafy vegetables and fruits are very rich in vitamin and minerals. Carotene, lycopene, lutein, zeaxanthin, cryptoxanthin are the compound present in deep yellow, orange, red colour fruits and vegetables. Lycopene which is found in guava, grapefruit, tomato and tomato product and water melon may lower the risk of prostate cancer. Lutein, zeaxanthin, alpha-carotene, beta-carotene which is found in apricot, carrot, pumpkin, sweet potato and green leafy vegetables may lower the risk of lung cancer and oral cancer. Cryptoxanthin which is found in mango, orange, papaya and peach may lower the risk of cervical cancer. Those women who consumed lots of vegetables in everyday diet have lower risk of breast cancer than those who consumed less amount of green leafy vegetables. Those who consumed soyabean and soyabean product have low risk of stomach, colon, breast and lungs cancer. The foods are herbs like garlic,

ginger, soyabean and cabbage which have very high anticancer activities, should be consumed daily in order to prevent from cancer. Regular physical activity and diet rich in vegetable have significant effect on the reduction of colon cancer.

SOME TIPS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CANCER

1. Diet should include yellow and dark green leafy vegetables like spinach, amaranthus, carrot, pumpkin, tomato and any other seasonal vegetables.
2. Diet should include fruits like orange, mango, papaya, peaches, watermelon and other seasonal fruits.
3. Diet should include a variety of dal, roots and tuber.
4. Avoid being overweight and underweight.
5. Alcohol consumption is not recommended. Limit the alcohol consumption to 2 drinks a day for man and 1 drink for women.
6. Limit intake of red-meat like beef, pork and mutton less than 80gm. per day. Fish, poultry and meat is preferable than red meat.

7. Limit consumption of pan (betel leaves) and cigarette.

8. Limit consumption of oil and fat from animal origin. Choose modest amount of appropriate vegetable oil.

9. Do not eat prolonged store food as it is liable to contaminate with mycotoxin produced by mold.

10. Use refrigeration and other appropriate method to preserve perishable foods.

11. Do not eat charred food and burning meat juices.

12. Meat and fish grilled in direct flame and cure and smoked meat should be consumed occasionally.

So, in order to prevent from cancer, the diet should be low in fat and rich in green leafy vegetables and yellow vegetables. In addition, fruit should be consumed according to the seasonal availability. Regular physical activity should be maintained to have a healthy body.

(The author is a Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science), KVK, Chandel, ICAR, Manipur Centre)

## Deepawali : The Festival of Lights



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

India is the land of festivals. Deepawali or Diwali is one of them, which is celebrated on the Amavasya of Kartik Krishna Paksha. The Shanti Mantra from Brihadaranyaka Upanishad "Tamo Ma Jyotirgama" i.e. "Lead me from darkness to light" reveals its spiritual spirit.

Deepawali is a 5-day long festival, which starts from Dhanteras and

ends on Bhaiya Duj. Deepawali is mentioned in Padma Puran and Skand Puran. It is composed of two Sanskrit words "Deep" i.e. light or candle and meaning that which glows, illuminates or knowledge and "Awali" i.e. rows or series. Thus Deepawali means "Rows of Lights" or "Festival of Lights".

The first day, Dhanvantari Trayodashi or Dhanteras is celebrated to commemorate the arrival of Devi Lakshmi from Kshir Sagar (Ocean) during the Samudra Manthan (churning of the cosmic ocean of milk) by the Devas and Asuras to receive the Amrit (nectar). On this day, Bhagwan Dhanvantari also came out of the ocean with Ayurved for mankind. Bhagwan Kubera, the lord of wealth is also worshipped. Shopping for new items on this day is considered auspicious.

Chhoti Diwali, also termed as Narak Chaturdashi or Roop Chaudash, is the second day of the festival. It is celebrated because Bhagwan Krishna and his wife Satyabhama had killed demon king Narkasur of Pragjyotish and released nearly 16000 girls from demon's captivity. It is also believed that Devi Kali had made Narkasur disappear.

On the third day, the main Diwali is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over the world. Devi Lakshmi and Bhagwan Ganesh are worshipped together to achieve the blessing of wealth & prosperity and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. According to mythology, once Goddess Lakshmi was proud of herself that the whole world worships her and yearns to get her. Lord

Vishnu understood this feeling of his conscience and with the aim of breaking Lakshmi's pride, he said that Goddess, even though the whole universe wants to have you, you are not yet complete. Lakshmi narrated her woes to her friend Parvati and asked her to adopt Ganesh, one of her two sons. Lakshmi adopted Ganesh with the consent of Parvati and since then Ganesh was came to be called the adopted son of Devi Lakshmi. Being very pleased Devi Lakshmi gave a boon to Ganesh that I will fulfill the wishes of the devotees only when they will worship you along with me. For this reason, there is a law to worship Ganesh along with Lakshmi in Diwali. Bhagwan Kubera is also worshipped by the devotees on this auspicious day.

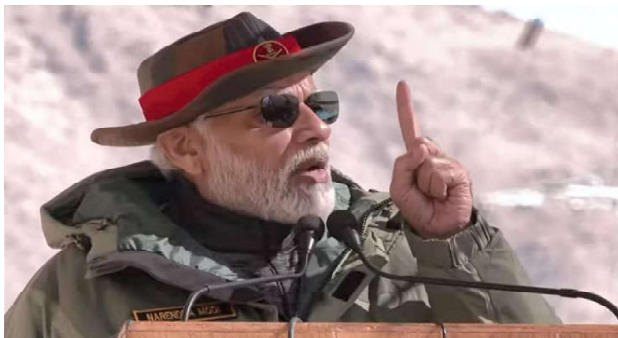
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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# India has never considered war first option but last resort; we believe in peace: PM Modi



Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 24:

India has always viewed war as the last resort, but the armed forces have the strength and strategies to give a befitting reply to anyone who casts an evil eye on the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

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Addressing the armed forces here on Diwali, the prime minister also recalled his visit to this frontier region in the aftermath of the Kargil conflict in 1999 when the Indian military had "crushed the hood of terror".

"There has not been a single war with Pakistan when Kargil has not flown the victory flag," he said adding that Diwali symbolised the "celebration of the end of terror".

"I have witnessed the Kargil war closely. It was my duty that had brought me to Kargil back then. There are many memories

of that time when the sounds of victory were reverberating all around," Modi said, continuing with the tradition set by him to celebrate Diwali at the country's frontiers.

"In Kargil, our armed forces had crushed the hood of terror and people still remember the Diwali that was celebrated back then," he said.

He said over the last eight years, the government has worked on implementing reforms in the armed forces by deploying new technologies, developing infrastructure in border areas and opening up positions for women in the forces.

"The induction of women in the armed forces will boost our strength," Modi said and added that reforms in the armed forces that were required for decades are now being implemented.

The prime minister said a nation is safe when its borders are secure, economy strong and society full of confidence.

India has been dealing with its enemies, both external and internal, with force, Modi said and recounted the steps taken to "uproot" the "terror, naxalism and extremism" from within the country.

He said India has never viewed war as the first option. "We have always seen war as the final resort. We are in favour of global peace. But peace cannot be achieved without strength," Modi said.

"Our armed forces have the strategies as well as the strength. If anyone dares cast an evil eye on us, our three armed forces know very well how to give a befitting reply," the prime minister said.

Prime Minister Modi also said that "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" most important to the nation's security and the country's dependence should be minimal on foreign weapons and systems.

Since coming to power in 2014, Modi has been visiting different military facilities to celebrate Diwali.

# 1,334 new Covid cases as India celebrates Diwali without curbs after 2 years

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 24:

India recorded a slight decline in the Coronavirus infection with 1,334 fresh cases reported in the last 24 hours on Monday as compared to the 1,994 cases a day earlier.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed that the country has observed 1,557 recoveries from the Covid-19 infection in the last 24 hours, which stand at a current recovery rate of 98.76 per cent, taking the total recoveries of this viral disease to 4,40,91,906.

The country's current active caseload stands at 23,193 with active cases now

constituting 0.05 per cent of the country's total Positive Cases.

The country is currently observing a daily positivity rate of 1.52 per cent and a weekly positivity rate of 0.95 per cent.

The Ministry conducted 90.01 crore total tests since the onset of the pandemic and 87,905 tests were carried out in the last 24 hours.

As per the Health Ministry, a total of 219.56 crore vaccine doses—95 crore second doses and 22.03 crore precaution doses—have been administered under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive, of which 42,864 were jabbed in the last 24 hours alone.

India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 219.56 Cr (2,19,56,41,807) as per provisional reports till 7 am today.

COVID-19 vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on March 16, 2022. So far, more than 4.12 Cr (4,12,35,971) adolescents have been administered with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, the COVID-19 precaution dose administration for age group 18-59 years also started from 10th April, 2022 onwards, the official statement read.

It is pertinent to note that health concerns have risen in the country as World Health Organization Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan on Fri-

day said that there were over 300 sub-variants and XBB being a recombinant virus is a matter of concern as it is immune evasive.

XBB, a recombinant lineage between two Omicron sublineages BJ.1 and BA.2.75, is a fast-spreading variant, which was seen to have caused a spike across Singapore recently.

Last week, a high-level meeting of Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya with the senior health officials regarding the emergence of Omicron's new sub-variants concluded with the decision to continue masks and COVID-appropriate behaviour across the country.

# Nagaland to host first 'Miss Northeast' beauty pageant on November 3

Agency  
Kohima, Oct 24:

Nagaland will be hosting the first edition of Miss North East, initiated by the North East Beauty Pageant Organisation (NEBPO), here on November 3.

Beauty and Aesthetic Society of Nagaland (BASN) president, Melekhotu Pucho, told a press conference on Saturday that 15 contestants from eight Northeastern states will participate in the contest.

All the states of the region will have two contestants each, while Tripura will be represented by one participant.

Contestants are expected to arrive at Kohima on October 26 and would undergo a series of grooming sessions



ahead of the pageant.

BASN president, Mele Pucho, informed that intense preparations are underway as the prepares to host the event.

The Nagaland government will be sponsoring the event with BASN as the host, he said.

The NEBPO has decided that the NE Beauty Pageant will be hosted by every state on a rotation basis with Sikkim to be the next host state, Pucho said.

The event will showcase the best of Nagaland during the event including food, attire, traditions and through other activities.

Contestants will be introduced to various cultural practices and traditions of the State and will also pay a visit to Pütsero where they would get the chance to taste Naga

traditional cuisines and also witness Chakhesang Women Organisation manufacturing sanitary pads, weaving and so on.

On the third day the contestants along with the organisers would hold a charity event in the form of a jumble sale where clothes, furniture and other essentials would be put up for sale proceeds of which would be donated to orphanages and people with disabilities (PwD).

Pucho disclosed that since all the contestants were already winners of their respective states, there will not be as much grooming like other times.

He added that even in the main event, there will be only four rounds including the Ethnic Round, two Designers Rounds and Evening Gown

Round. The official choreographer for the event is Theja Sekhose.

There will be a total of five judges including a guest judge and four local judges.

Dr Sagar J. Abichandani, a Celebrity Dentist & a well-known Pageant Smile Expert including Femina Miss India will be the guest judge.

The winner of the pageant would walk away with a cash prize of Rs 1.5 while the first and second runners-up would receive Rs 1 lakh and 70,000, respectively.

The subtitles include: Miss Photogenic, Miss Perfect Ten, Miss Talent, Queen of Hearts, Miss Beautiful Skin, Miss Multimedia, and the winner will receive Rs 20,000 each.

The contestants for the pageant are: Radhe Mamung and Dyna Jomo from Arunachal, Nityashree Modak and Eshante Hatimuria from Assam, H. Lalhratpui and Sylvia Lalvenpui from Mizoram, Smita Sen from Tripura, Jessica Olivet Kharlukhi and Irene Dkhar from Meghalaya, Bhaswati Roy and Subekha Pradhan from Sikkim, Kawaminingsiliu Khuvung and Lika Choppy from Nagaland, and Mannasha Devi Sapam and Pallavi Laurembam from Manipur.

## Career Guidance

# The Applicability of NEET



By: Vijay GarG

Why we need to take a critical look at the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET)

There has been much debate about the relevance of and the need to scrap the NEET.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which comes under the Ministry of Education, conducts the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test 2022 (NEET 2022) for admission to MBBS, BDS and other medical courses. The website (<https://neet.nta.nic.in/>) states that the test's main objective is to assess the competency of candidates for admission to premier higher education institutions. The terms "competency of the candidates" and "premier higher education institutions" need to be looked at critically and discussed in detail.

There has been much debate about the relevance of and the need to scrap the NEET. Educationists and activists maintain that the test promotes mediocrity in medical education

and deserving candidates do not get seats in medical colleges. Thus, the dreams of many meritorious candidates becoming doctors scattered.

It is quite unfortunate that no serious or genuine discussion has been initiated by the NTA on this topic. Now and then, politicians raise the issue but do not follow it up. A year ago, the Tamil Nadu government passed a bill to scrap the NEET and said students would be admitted to the MBBS course on the basis of the Class 12 marks. A few other governments also raised their voice against the qualifying exam and the need to review it. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education is not an autonomous body and major decisions are not taken by experts and educationists.

## Equality and social justice

Why is NEET against the principle of equality and social justice? It favours those who have money and not those who have merit. Here is an example. In the 2021 NEET exam, the 50th percentile score was 138 and the 40th percentile (qualifying score (OBC)) was 108. But, in 2022, the 50th percentile is 117 and the 40th is 93. This means that a candidate with a 93+ score qualifies for admission to a medical college. It will be difficult for a student with 500+ to get admission to a government medical college but a candidate with a two-digit score can buy a medical seat if he has the

money that is demanded by medical edupreneur. Is this what the NTAm means by "competency of candidates"? IS it not against the principle of social justice?

Almost all toppers and rank holders would have undergone years of coaching—for which they would have spent lakhs of rupees—to crack the NEET. This implies that only the rich can afford the coaching. A few months ago, in Indore, I interacted with some candidates who had taken a break after Class 12 to attend a pre-medical preparatory course for a year. Advertisements from coaching institutes indicate that it is necessary to go to coaching centres to crack the exam. Economically poor aspirants who cannot spend money on pre-medical preparatory courses are not likely to perform well in the qualifying exam. Is this not against the principle of equality?

Another factor is that the qualifying exam favours aspirants who have studied in schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as the syllabus of NEET is based on that of this board. Aspirants from various State Board schools are at a great disadvantage.

What will be the impact of this on society? The fact is that a candidate with a NEET score of 117+ who can buy a medical seat will only dream of getting that amount back after his/her

studies. PG seats too can be bought? Will these doctors be committed to their profession? We hear of doctors who have excelled in their field and treat patients with care and concern. Will we be able to expect this from doctors who bought their medical degrees from so-called 'premier higher education institutions'?

## Declining quality

Privatisation of medical education has resulted in commercialisation, which, in turn, has led to a decline in the quality of medical education. Medicine was once a noble profession but has now become a business. Is it possible to liberate medical education from medupreneurs?

Producing a large number of mediocre doctors through private medical colleges and universities is not an achievement. Producing doctors with passion to treat patients with human dignity, care and concern is the need of the hour. NEET can produce doctors who will be more money-minded than service-oriented.

The 'One-nation, one-exam' system does not work in a vast country like India with numerous diversities. Centralisation of the selection process for colleges run by state governments will have a negative impact. It is high time educationists and activists across the country realised the need to review the relevance of NEET and raised their voice to reform the system.

## Contd. from Page 2

# Deepawali : The Festival....

There are several beliefs behind this festival. In Treta Yug, Raja Ramchandra along with Sita, Lakshman & Hanuman returned to Ayodhya from Lanka on this day after victory over Ravana and people celebrated the occasion by lighting Deeyas and decorating Rangolis. On this auspicious day the Nirvan Diwas of Bhagwan Mahavir, 24th Tirthankar of Jain, is observed by the followers of Jainism. The Sikh community celebrates this day to mark the release of Guru Hargovindji Maharaj from Mugal prison and his arrival at the Holy Swarnmandir, Amritsar.

The fourth day is the Govardhan Puja or Padwa. Bhagwan Krishna had lifted the Govardhanparvat and held it up to protect the people and cattle from the rain & thunder produced by the angry Indra. When Indra conceded defeat, on the request of Krishna, the

people of Brajbhoomi started performing the Govardhan Puja.

Bhaiya Duj or Bhai Teeka is the fifth and last day of Diwali. This day is dedicated to sisters. Yamraj (the lord of death) had visited his sister Yamuna on this day and gave her a vardhan (boon) that whoever visits his sister on this day will be liberated from all sins and will achieve Moksha or final emancipation. As per another belief, Krishna had visited his sister Subhadra after defeating Narakasura, who welcomed him with a tilak on his forehead.

The festival of Deepawali not only has religious or spiritual significance, but it also has scientific importance. The clay Deeyas with oil and cotton wick are eco-friendly and do not leave any harmful residue. During monsoon, the air is moist and full of bacteria & fungus. The heat generated from the Deeya destroys the

bacteria, insects, fungus and thus cleans the air. The magnesium present in the Deeya's oil reacts with harmful Sulphur and Carbon Dio-oxide present in the air to form Sulphate and Carbonates and purify the environment.

The Panch Tatwa (five elements of the universe)-Kshiti (Earth), Jal (Water), Pawak (Fire), Gagan (Sky) & Sameer (Air)- is represented by the Deeya. The Earth element is represented by the clay Deeya, oil & cotton wick. Water is produced during the combustion of oil, Fire by the light generated, Sky by the light around the flame, and Air is the oxygen diffused to the wick.

Deepawali is the season of celebration and there is joy, light and happiness everywhere around us. It illuminates the houses and hearts and spread the message of friendship and togetherness.

(Author is a technocrat and academician.)

# Vice Chancellors of 9 Kerala universities challenge Governor's order in High Court

Agency

Kochi, Oct 24:

Vice Chancellors of nine Universities of Kerala have approached the high court challenging Governor Arif Mohammad Khan's order to tender their resignations.

The Kerala High Court will hold a special session at 4 pm today to consider the petitions.

Single Bench of Justice Devan Ramachandran will consider the petitions.

As per an order issued by the Kerala Governor- Vice-Chancellors of the University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kannur University, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, Sree

Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, University of Calicut and Thunachath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University have been asked to resign from their posts.

The Governor issued the order upholding the Supreme Court order which quashed the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University.

According to the PRO, Kerala Raj Bhavan, letters have been sent directing the Vice Chancellors of 9 Universities to tender their resignation by 11:30 am on October 24. The letters have been emailed to the VCs and registrars of the universities concerned, the PRO, Kerala Raj Bhavan said.

"Upholding the verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal Nos.7634-7635

of 2022 (@ SLP(c) Nos.21108-21109 of 2021), Hon'ble Governor Shri Arif Mohammad Khan has directed Vice-Chancellors of 9 varsities in Kerala to tender resignation," Raj Bhavan said in a tweet quoting PRO of Kerala Raj Bhavan.

The Raj Bhavan said Khan also directed that the resignations reach him by 11.30 am on Monday.

Kannur University Vice-Chancellor Gopinath Ravindran on Monday said that he will not tender his resignation.

"I have received the decision of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan but I will not submit my resignation. The resignation of the VC is based either on financial irregularities or bad behaviour and neither of these has happened here.

This is a fake accusation," said Kannur University Vice-Chancellor said on Monday.

This comes after the Supreme Court set aside the appointment of MS Rajasree as Vice-Chancellor of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

A bench of justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar allowed the appeal filed by Professor Sreejith P.S. challenging the Kerala High Court order dated August 2, 2021.

The court noted that even as per Section 13(4) of the University Act, 2015, the Committee shall recommend unanimously a panel of not less than three suitable persons from amongst the eminent persons in the field of engineering sciences, which shall be placed before the Visitor/Chancellor.

As per the UGC Regulations also, the Visitor/Chancellor shall appoint the Vice Chancellor out of the panel of names recommended by the Search Committee. Therefore, when only one name was recommended and the panel of names was not recommended, the Chancellor

had no option to consider the names of the other candidates, the top court observed.

At a recent event, Governor Khan while pointing out the issue of the VC appointment to various universities in Kerala said the Supreme Court itself had

earlier made it clear that the appointment of the vice-chancellors was the responsibility of the Governor.

"Supreme Court has made it clear appointment of Vice Chancellor is the only responsibility of the Chancellor. The state government has no role in it," he said.

Contd. from Page 1

## Guv', CM and others wish people...

"On this joyous occasion, let us share joy and happiness with the less privileged sections of society. May the lights of Diwali continue to shower happiness, peace and prosperity to all", the Chief Minister said and appealed the people to avoid use of crackers and remind the need to have a clean

and environment friendly Diwali.

Education Minister Th. Basanta Kumar Singh said that Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, wisdom over ignorance and hope over despondence. May the lights of Diwali

season illuminate our lives with endless prosperity, health, wealth and goodwill.

Commerce and Industry Minister Nemcha Kipgen, IGAR (SOUTH), Water Resources minister Awangbou Newmai also wish the people on occasion of the Diwali festival.

## As NSCN-IM meets rival Naga...

It is a vital resolution contemplating that the IM and the NNPGs have been on reverse sides of the Naga peace talks, with the NNPGs having acquiesced to the Indian authorities' place of not having the ability to give sovereignty, a flag, or a separate structure, which the NSCN-IM vehemently opposes until date. The NNPG has additionally in precept agreed to an accord, with their circumstances to the Centre having been finalised, one thing has not occurred with the NSCN-IM but.

A joint assertion issued after the Kolkata assembly reads: "In response to the Naga folks' craving for reconciliation and unity in function, the Naga Nationwide Political Teams (NNPGs) and the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN), with a renewed spirit

of dedication met in Kolkata... taking ahead the September Joint Accordant's resolve to 'chart a path ahead' we now have agreed to type the Council of Naga Relationships and Co-operation..."

The IM and NNPGs have additionally mentioned that they commit to decide on a "shared future" as an alternative of the "divisions of the previous".

"The ball is now within the courtroom of the Centre to convey residence the answer right now," mentioned a senior rebel chief.

The BJP's ally, the NDPP-NPF (that now varieties the United Democratic Alliance) authorities in Nagaland, has already introduced "Election for Answer" as the principle platform on which they are going to contest the meeting elections. They've been pushing for a

swift resolution to Naga political dialogue. Final month, the chairperson of the UDA, former Nagaland chief minister T R Zeliang, accompanied seven senior IM members to Delhi as they resumed talks with the Centre.

"Whereas the UDA is a BJP ally, the actual fact is that if the Indian authorities manages to herald an answer by the point of the elections, then they could even carry out very well within the polls.

Nagaland is just not a pure BJP territory as it's solely Christian and the BJP's Hindutva politics makes Nagas cautious of the get together. But when they bring about an answer, we now have little question that they could even have the ability to type the federal government within the state," mentioned a pacesetter.

## Women celebrates birthday with aged people at Langjing

IT News

Imphal, Oct 24:

Laishram Damayanti Devi of Keishampat Leimajam Leikai along with her family today offer a grand feast with the aged people staying at Langjing Achouba Old Age Home, Day Care Center in Imphal West on occasion of her 72nd birthday celebration on October 22, 2022.

Damayanti Devi also presented gifts to the 15 aged women staying at the home. He along with her family while taking blessing from the elders also donated Rs. 20, 000/- for extension of the day care center of the aged people.



## Sports

## T20 WC: Virat Kohli surpasses Sachin Tendulkar, has most fifty-plus scores in ICC events

Agency

Melbourne, Oct 24:

Star Indian batter Virat Kohli surpassed legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar to register the most fifty-plus scores at ICC events on Sunday.

The star Indian batter accomplished his 24th fifty-plus score to surpass Sachin's total of 23 during his side's Super 12 match against Pakistan at the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup 2022 at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In his 26 matches at ICC Cricket World Cup events, Kohli has scored 1,030 runs at an average of 46.81. Two centuries and six half-centuries have come out of his bat, with the best score of 107.

In his 22 matches and 20 innings at ICC T20 World Cup, Virat has scored 927 runs at an average of 84.27. Eleven half-centuries have come out of his bat, with a best of 89\*. He is the third-highest run scorer in tournament history behind West Indies legend Chris Gayle (965) and Mahela Jayawardene of Sri Lanka (1,016).

In his 13 ICC Champions Trophy matches, 529 runs have come out of Virat's bat at an amazing average of 88.16 in 12 innings. Five half-centuries



have come out of his bat, with best score of 96\*.

Combined, in his 61 ICC event matches, Virat has scored 2,486 runs in 60 innings at an average of 60.63. Two centuries and 22 half-centuries have come out of his bat with best score of 107.

On the other hand, Sachin has scored 2,278 runs in 45 World Cup matches across 44 innings at an average of 56.95. Six tons and 15 fifties have come out of his bat, with a best

of 152. He is the leading scorer in tournament history.

Sachin has made no appearances at ICC T20 World Cup.

In Champions Trophy, Sachin has scored 441 runs in 16 matches at an average of 36.75 in 14 innings. One century and one half-century have come out of his bat in this tournament, with best score of 141.

Overall, Sachin has scored 2,719 in his 61 matches at ICC events. These runs have come

at an average of 49.43. Seven centuries and 16 half-centuries have come out of his bat, with best score of 152.

Coming to the match, with this win, India is at top of Group 2 with two points.

Put to bat first by India, Pakistan put up 159/8 in their 20 overs. Shan Masood (52) and Ifkhar Ahmed (51) scored solid half-centuries but Pakistan kept losing wickets consistently. A 76-run stand between Masood and Ahmed was crucial for Pakistan.

Hardik Pandya (3/30) and Arshdeep (3/32) shined for India with the ball. Shami and Bhuvneshwar also got a wicket each.

Chasing 160, India was reduced to 31/4 in less than seven overs. From then on, Virat and Hardik started to rebuild the game, putting a 113-run stand. Pandya was dismissed for 40 but Virat ended unbeaten to score 82 off 53 balls with six fours and four sixes to guide his team to a four-wicket win.

Virat got the 'Man of the Match' for his knock.

Brief score: Pakistan 159/8 (Shan Masood 52\*, Ifkhar Ahmed 51; Hardik Pandya 3-30) vs India: 160/6 (Virat Kohli 82\*, Hardik Pandya 40, Haris Rauf 2/36).

## India Junior Men's Hockey team go down 4-5 against South Africa in Sultan of Johor Cup

Agency

Johor [Malaysia], Oct 24:

The Indian junior men's hockey team squandered a two-goal lead at half time to lose 4-5 against South Africa in its second match at the Sultan of Johor Cup here on Sunday.

Marvin Simons (7th), Fawaaz Kahder (34th), Senzwehile Ngubane (35th) and Cameron Le Forestier (49th, 57th) scored for South Africa. Sharda Nand Tiwari (9th, 10th), captain Uttam Singh (17th) and Sudeep Chirmako (45th) found the tar-

get for India.

India had beaten hosts Malaysia 5-2 in their first round-robin match on Saturday.

Amandeep Lakra set the tone of the high press for India from the get-go, keeping South Africa in their half in the first few minutes.

However, it was South Africa who took the lead with Marvin Simons (7th) deflecting in past Ankit Malik.

India though roared back into the game within minutes as Sharda Nand Tiwari (9th and 10th) converted two penalty corners. India ended the

first quarter with a 2-1 lead and looked in control of the proceedings.

A couple of minutes into the second quarter, India struck again with captain Uttam Singh (17th) getting his first goal of the tournament. With the momentum going their way, India were 3-1 ahead at the end of first half.

South Africa made a comeback in the second half. Fawaaz Kahder (34th) made it 3-2 for South Africa, before Senzwehile Ngubane (35th) restored parity, with both goals coming from penalty corners.

## Online Essay Competition

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

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

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

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

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

Team Imphal Times