

Guv', CM and others wish people on occasion of Ningol Chakkouba

IT News
Imphal, Oct 24:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Power Minister Th. Biswajit, Education Minister Th. Basanta and 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 Ningol Chak-kouba Festival, 2022. "Ningol Chakkouba" rejuvenates family ties and strengthens the bonds of love and affection between brothers and sisters, mothers and daughters and fathers and daughters, helping in promotion of unity and integrity in the society. It is a very happy and significant occasion on which the married women come to their parental houses along with their children and enjoy sumptuous feast and receive Dakshina or gifts as a token of love and affection. Let us hope that the festival will be celebrated in its true spirit with the involvement of different communities in the State to bring peace, prosperity and peaceful co-existence amongst all.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh while wishing the people of the state said that Ningol Chakkouba is one of the biggest festivals of Manipur celebrated in the Manipuri lunar month of Hiyangei. It reinforces the most revered bond between brothers and sisters, and between parents and married daughters. The festival strengthens ties within the family. Though the festival is originally observed by the Meitei community, it is now celebrated by other communities too. Outside the State, our diaspora lead the celebrations. The festival also promotes the feeling of peaceful co-existence and harmonious living by reaffirming our faith in the traditional values of family. On this occasion, let us imbibe the ideals of this festival so as to foster the spirit of family, harmony and goodwill in our lives.

Power Minister Th. Biswajit Singh said that Ningol Chakkouba is a special day for the ningols and on this auspicious day, married women are invited by their brothers and parents to a feast and given 'Dakshina' at the parental homes. The day further strengthens the bond of love and affection among the members of the family, which ultimately helps in promoting unity and integrity in society.

Education Minister Th. Basanta Kumar Singh said that the basic essence of this festival is tightening the bond of love between married ladies (Ningol) and their paternal families. It focuses on love between brothers and sisters and signify the love between families.

Commerce and Industry Minister Nemcha Kipgen, Water Resources Minister Awangbong Newmai also wish the people on occasion of the Diwali festival.

Heavy rainfall likely to hit Chandel, Jiribam, Pherzawl districts in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, Oct 26:

The Department of Relief & Disaster Management, Manipur, on Wednesday issued an alert on "very heavy rain" which is likely to hit several parts of the state in the next 24 hours. The public are advised to be cautious while venturing out.

Isolated places in Chandel, Jiribam and Pherzawl districts are likely to receive "very heavy rainfall" in the next 24 hours, the department of Relief and Disaster Management stated.

Meanwhile, hill districts in the state reported bad weather condition for the past few days. While Ukhrul reported flood-like situation due to heavy rainfall in parts of the district, Tamenglong district was hit by rain and storm that destroyed several houses.

In Ukhrul, two women were swept away by the surging Challoo river water at Poi village under Chingai AC on Monday. The two women were identified as

RS Ngamreila, 30, wife of RS Varchung and RK Ramreila, 34, wife of RK Mathomi of Poi village.

"In a very unfortunate incident, two young girls, Ngamreila & Ramreila of Ukhrul district were drowned at the Poi-Challou river. The water level has risen quite significantly after the heavy rainfall in the last two days. Let's keep them in our prayers," Chief Minister N Biren Singh tweeted.

A team of Chingai block police personnel, family members, villagers and neighbouring villagers rushed to trace the bodies, but the rising volume of the river water made the search difficult.

"Their bodies are yet to be recovered. Incessant rain which caused massive flood-like situation has made it difficult to trace their bodies with the water current increasing... neighbouring villages and Chingai block police personnel are doing all that we could to trace their bodies," Wungnaoyo A Shimray, headman of Poi village, told.

In Tamenglong, heavy storm coupled with rain destroyed many houses and disrupted power supply across the district since Monday.

When contacted, deputy commissioner Tamenglong Pawan Yadav informed that in the preliminary report at least 20 houses were destroyed in the Tamei area and some houses in other parts of Tamenglong by the heavy storm.

The district deputy commissioner appealed to the citizens of Tamenglong to stay home and stay safe during bad weather days.

Tousem sub divisional officer Paul Nangsha also said that in the area block, many houses were damaged.

The villagers told the IFP that in Namkaoling Keikao village, at least seven houses were destroyed, while at Sempang village, at least four houses were destroyed on Monday night. The villagers appealed to the government to help those affected people to rebuild their houses.

Ntangki national park will be preserved as Naga national property: NSCN-IM

Agency
Dimapur, Oct 26:

The NSCN-IM has said the Ntangki national park in Nagaland will remain protected and preserved as Naga national property whether there is solution to the Naga political problem or not.

The outfit, on Tuesday, issued a statement in response to the recent allegations of the Senior Citizen Association of Nagaland (SCAN) that the national park is under full control of the former.

It said anything that matters "national interest" should not be allowed to escape the eyes of public scrutiny if something is suspected to be going wrong.

The NSCN-IM said it is on record that Ntangki National Park originally belongs to Old Bisumpui village and that it has well-defined boundaries.

It said the critical need to protect the Ntangki forest and wildlife was taken up during the NSCN national assembly, Gilgal Camp, 1996, where it was resolved to protect and preserve the Ntangki forest as wildlife reserved forest.

Accordingly, the NSCN said, no newly set up villages were allowed to exist inside the Ntangki National Park.

Further, it said during the course of Indo-Naga political talks the Ntangki National Park was never a topic of discussion as this has nothing to do with the Naga political settle-

ment.

The statement said it is unfortunate that the SCAN has targeted the NSCN unfairly with their misleading statement that it had occupied Ntangki National Park and put under its full control.

"Given the magnitude of the issue, the SCAN should have acted in a more responsible manner and not go for spoiled-brat-like grumble with the highly inflammatory allegations against the NSCN," it said.

The statement added that the association should have chosen the path that would reflect its wisdom and temperament on the given issue rather than cry foul against NSCN bereft of valid justification.

Mallikarjun Kharge takes over as Congress chief, says will fight BJP's 'system of lies and hatred'



Agency
New Delhi, Oct 26:

Former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday formally took charge as the Congress president.

He was handed over the certificate of election at an event at the Congress headquarters in Delhi.

The 80-year-old leader from Karnataka won the Congress presidential election against Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor on October 19. Kharge received 7,897 of the 9,385 votes polled, while Tharoor got 1,072 votes.

Kharge said that taking over the Congress chief's post was an emotional moment for him. "I want to thank Congress people for making a worker's son, an ordinary worker, the president of party," he said.

He added that the country is going through a difficult time and that efforts are being made to "change the democracy established by the Congress".

The veteran leader said that the Congress will break the "system of lies and hatred" prevailing under the current Bharatiya Janata Party government, PTI reported. "BJP-RSS want an opposition free country," Kharge said.

He added that in the BJP-ruled India, the government has turned a blind eye to citizens' suffering caused by inflation, unemployment and rising crimes against women.

"In this new India, hunger is rising, cost of education is rising, pollution is rising," Kharge said. "The government is sleeping but ED [Enforcement Directorate], CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] are working for 24 hours for suppression. In this new India, Dalits, minorities and exploited people are being insulted and opportunities taken away from them."

Free of responsibility, says Sonia Gandhi

Meanwhile, his predecessor Sonia Gandhi said that she was confident that the new party chief would inspire and strengthen the organisation.

She described Kharge as an experienced leader who is connected to the grassroots. "He started out as an ordinary worker, and has reached these heights through his hard work and dedication," she said.

Gandhi said that the Congress chief's post was a big responsibility for her, and she attempted to discharge her work to the best of her ability. "Today, I will be free from this responsibility, and so, I naturally feel a sense of relief," she added.

First non-Gandhi chief after over two decades

The former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha is the first non-Gandhi president of the party in over two decades. Kharge is also the third Dalit leader to become the Congress president in the party's 138-year-old history. In 1962, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Damodaram Sanjivayya was

the first Dalit to become Congress president. Following the split of the Congress in 1969, Jagjivan Ram became president of the faction of Congress headed by Indira Gandhi.

Earlier on Wednesday, Kharge visited the memorials of former Congress leaders Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Jagjivan Ram to pay tributes to them.

After winning the election for the Congress chief's post on October 19, Kharge had said that the party will unitedly fight against the "fascist forces" attacking the country's institutions under the garb of communalism.

"We have to fight against these destructive forces," Kharge said, referring to the Bharatiya Janata Party. "We will have to fight from the streets to Parliament and booth-level workers will have struggle more."

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Wednesday that efforts were taken till the last minute to make Rahul Gandhi the president of the party as he is the only one who can challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, according to ANI.

Gandhi had refused to contest the election, saying that he wanted a leader from outside the family to take over the post.

Gehlot, however, congratulated Kharge and promised to work to strengthen the party.

China launches a COVID-19 vaccine inhaled through the mouth Needle-free vaccines may persuade people who don't like getting a shot to get vaccinated, as well as help expand vaccination in poor countries because they are easier to administer

Agency
Beijing, Oct 26:

The Chinese city of Shanghai started administering an inhalable COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday in what appears to be a world first.

The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated individuals, according to an announcement posted on an

official city social media account.

Needle-free vaccines may persuade people who don't like getting a shot to get vaccinated, as well as help expand vaccination in poor countries because they are easier to administer.

China doesn't have vaccine mandates but wants more people to get booster shots before it relaxes strict pandemic restrictions that are holding back the economy and increasingly

out of sync with the rest of the world.

A video posted by an online Chinese state media outlet showed people at a community health centre sticking the short nozzle of a translucent white cup into their mouths. The accompanying text said that after slowly inhaling, one individual held his breath for five seconds, with the entire procedure completed in 20 seconds.

"It was like drinking a

cup of milk tea," one Shanghai resident said in the video. "When I breathed it in, it tasted a bit sweet."

A vaccine taken in the mouth could also fend off the virus before it reaches the rest of the respiratory system, though that would depend in part on the size of the droplets, one expert said.

Larger droplets would train defences in parts of the mouth and throat, while smaller ones would travel

further into the body, said Dr Vineeta Bal, an immunologist in India.

Chinese regulators approved the vaccine for use as a booster in September. It was developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical company Cansino Biologics Inc. as an aerosol version of the same company's one-shot adenovirus vaccine, which uses a relatively harmless cold virus.

Cansino has said the inhaled vaccine has completed

clinical trials in China, Hungary, Pakistan, Malaysia, Argentina and Mexico.

Regulators in India have approved a nasal vaccine, another needle-free approach, but it has yet to be rolled out. The vaccine, developed in the U.S. and licensed to Indian vaccine maker Bharat Biotech, is squirted in the nose. About a dozen nasal vaccines are being tested globally, according to the World Health Organization.

Arousals Galore in Manipur: Needed Robust Inspiration to Save Future

By: Amar Yumnam

I listen to songs very infrequently. But I have more than hit a century listening to the song sung by our daughter-like Linthoi Shagolsem, Chaodaba Leite Loina Chaoee; I listened to this in every mood of mine. I even make the babies to listen to it. Now why this has happened? First, the lyrics are absolutely more powerful than the various socio-economic commentaries I have been writing for more than three decades. But if someone like me were the one singing, all the lyrics would go haywire and the charm would go to the winds. Here comes the second reason; Linthoi sings it with an attractive voice and in an absolutely casual-a-la normal manner. I have fallen in love with this song. There is an absolute convergence between the voice and mannerism of Linthoi and the lyrics of the song; it is this convergence which makes the difference even to a person who has never had a craze for songs.

It is the principle of convergence which is paramount in public policy-making as well. It is the absence or rather the non-caring for this and announcing whimsical statements as public policies that has led to the current Public Policy Disaster in Manipur. To begin with, there came a wonderful lyric from the government as Go to Hills, but there was no further effort to supply the accompanying Convergent Elements to convert the lyrics to a successful exercise. Thus, the hegemonic mind-set of the governance of the day got manifested to the public. Further the War on Drugs displayed in fuller view the hegemonic approach of the government on issues close to the heart and minds of the public; the public are fully informed of the powerful agents involved and their modus operandi. In other words, there was very little convergence between the pronounced lyrics and the field presentations of the lyrics. Thus, the general public were naturally swarmed by feelings of doubt on the level of credibility to be attached to government pronouncements. It is in this background that the liquor decision came. This has completed the circle of non-convergence with the contextual needs of the land and the people at this critical juncture. Now the non-convergence between the government and the public has reached a stage where the gamblers have no qualms in snatching weapons from the state-law enforcing (police) agency and returning them again; the gamblers are not to be blamed as in this we find a manifestation of the convergence between the lack of credibility of the government and the general behavioural response of the public to government initiatives. We are also hearing of people coming with a bagful of money to the Editor of the Imphal Times to compromise on a news item relating to a wing of the government.

It is exactly at this point that what William Roth wrote in 2002 in his book *The Assault on Social Policy* becomes very relevant: "One's fundamental conception of politics is a critical divide that separate shaves from have-nots and that helps make the former the more influential group. Add to that have's greater power and money, as well as their control of the media, public relations, and bureaucracies, and clearly the imbalance in power falls decisively in favour of haves. The temptation to believe we can do nothing, to become sceptics or cynics, or, even worse, to use our power against other have-nots may be alluring. Though an easy out, this temptation is just another myth. Because we may know love, friendship, justice, and freedom in our personal lives while not finding them in our social lives does not mean we should readily assume that such virtues are infantile and uncivilized—in short, that they must be changed given the demands of the real world. In a decent world, such virtues should be possible. Have-nots should seek power by reasserting the traditional meaning of politics." (p. 22)

Manipur today is in such a scenario with the people realising that, in Roth's words, "Democracy is not restricted to the vote." The converging strength to this has been provided by the government with her whimsical pronouncements of public policies. The government has just attempted to arouse sentiments by such non-coherent announcements, but arousals can never be sustained for long for the internal inconsistencies would eat themselves out. Instigating a few mobilised youths for incoherent short-run objective would not go far. Instigating a few for short-term support would not go far. Instigating self to only go for immediate returns would not take a political leader far. Instigation can never be a political and governance weapon to cover distance.

It is only inspiration which would be lasting and sustain the convergence between governance and the public. Only development would occur in such an atmosphere. This is where the present government of Manipur should be applying its mind on how to go for generating an atmosphere of inspiration among the public. Cohesiveness is the guiding principle here. A sportsperson can be a competitive sportsperson for only a limited period of years. The state cannot say that, once the active period is over, it has nothing to do. It's the state's bounden duty that the few years of activity sustain the life of the sportsperson with dignity. But the responsibility of this caring is not only of a policy on Sports and the relevant cell of the government; it is a shared commitment of all. Caring the sportsperson has to link to a policy for housing, policy for educating his/her off-springs, policy for health. These would again be linked to a policy for infrastructure for education, health, etc. All these would again need to subject to an environment policy.

Manipur needs today a Public Policy enunciating the avowed social objectives of the land and the people. While the details of each sector cannot be incorporated in this, we can see to it that every action by the government complies with the enunciated principles of social policy. "Whether we believe that in the long run democracy, justice, and decency will prevail or that they are doomed does not discount that have-nots can participate in politics and in the formation of policy. What is needed for an intelligent politics of have-nots are work, dedicated thinking, action, and rationality...."

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Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

For almost two years and half now, the world has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. But how much worse could the situation have been without the progress and the results produced by decades, even centuries, by curiosity-driven scientific research? We deplore the many deaths due to COVID-19, and the future is still very uncertain, especially with the detection of new variants, some of which are spreading more quickly. But how could we have known that the infection was caused by a virus, what this virus looks like and what its genetic sequence and variations are without basic research? Viruses were discovered in the beginning of the 20th century, thanks to the work of Frederick Twort, Felix d'Herelle and many others. The first electron microscope was built in the 1930s by Ernst Ruska and Max Knoll; and DNA sequencing began in the mid-1970s, notably by research by the groups of Frederick Sanger and Walter Gilbert. Such a list could of course go on and on, with basic research at the root of countless tests, treatments, vaccines and epidemiological modelling exercises. We even owe high-speed, long-distance communications, which allow us to coordinate the fight against the pandemic and reduce interruption education, economic activities and even the practice of science to the discovery and study of electromagnetic waves and optic fibers during the 19th century and development of algorithms and computers codes during the 20th century. The COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder (so harsh and brutal that we would have preferred to have been spared) of how much we rely on the continuous development of basic sciences for a balanced, sustainable and inclusive development of the planet.

Global change is creating enormous challenges for humanity. The world's population is expected to grow from nearly 6 billion today to 8.5 billion by the year 2025. Global energy requirements will continue to increase. The newly industrialized countries of Asia and Latin America are experiencing very rapid economic growth that is bringing modern society's environmental problems, including air and water pollution and waste problems, to wider areas of the globe. The ecological problems caused by human economic activity are worsening and taking on global dimensions. Climate change, ozone-layer depletion, and

loss of forest cover are important examples. At the same time, social conditions continue to worsen in many developing countries. It is estimated that more than 1 billion people now live in poverty without sufficient food, adequate educational opportunities, or any possibility of political participation. Although financial and economic markets are becoming more and more interconnected and we like to think in terms of a "global village," our efforts to enshrine environmental protection and development as the common task and responsibility of all countries have just begun to make headway. The key aim for the 21st century is "sustainable development," which the international community embraced at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Sustainable development seeks to reconcile environmental protection and development; it means nothing more than using resources no faster than they can regenerate themselves, and releasing pollutants to no greater extent than natural resources can assimilate them.

If we are to move toward sustainable development, the industrialized countries will have to accept special responsibility—not only because of their past ecological sins, but also because of their present technological know-how and financial resources. Yet, one must keep in mind that sustainable production and consumption involve not merely technical progress, but also cultural patterns of individual behavior and values. There are several possible ways to achieve environmental compatibility in lifestyles and economies. Technical and scientific innovations provide excellent prospects for environmental protection. As we approach the end of the 20th century, industrial society is becoming a knowledge-based society. It is vital that we use our growing knowledge and capabilities responsibly, and that we use them in the interest of environmentally appropriate development. Science must play an important role in the pursuit of sustainable development, especially in the following categories:

Energy use: The key technologies of sustainable development include new energy and propulsion technologies that will help reduce emissions of climate-damaging greenhouse gases. Simply to stabilize atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at twice their preindustrial levels, we will have to reduce current global green-

house emissions by over 50%. Germany has set a goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 25% by the year 2025, with respect to the 1990 level. Achieving this goal involves focusing on improved thermal insulation in buildings, on the use of heat/power cogeneration, and on efficient support for the use of renewable energies. Currently the most progress is found in the area of wind energy; in the medium term, the use of solar energy, with photovoltaic technology, will continue to grow in significance. An honest consideration of our options indicates that we cannot afford to discontinue peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Closure of substance cycles: Modern Microsystems and control technologies are also providing new opportunities to design environmentally friendly production processes. While filter and wastewater-treatment technologies have considerably enhanced air and water quality in recent years, they are never more than the second-best solution, and have been surpassed by integrated environmental technology, that is, technology that optimizes the use of materials and energy. This involves material-efficient, energy-efficient production processes as well as the manufacture of environmentally compatible products, especially those that generate little waste. We have created the necessary framework for this with the Closed Substance Cycle and Waste Management Act, which came into force in 1996. Instruments such as eco-audits, which help identify the saving potentials from environmental protection investments, also promote development of such "clean" technologies.

Environmentally compatible mobility: Environmentally compatible traffic concepts are a particularly important category for innovation. In Germany, the automobile industry now accounts for about 20% of all industrial investments in research and development. "Three-liter cars" (that is, cars consuming less than 3 liters of gasoline per 100 km), natural-gas engines, electric cars, hydrogen engines, and fuel-cell engines can all play a role in eliminating motor-vehicle emissions. Telematics can enable traffic to move more efficiently. Information and communication technologies can eliminate the need for physical transports in some areas, and computerized logistics in goods transports can reduce total transport distances.

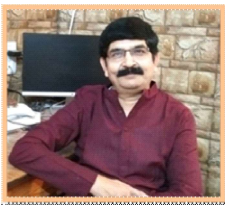
Bio-technology: Biotechnology is expected to bring important advances in medical diagnosis and therapy, in solving food problems, in energy saving, in environmentally compatible industrial and agricultural production, and in specially targeted environmental protection projects. Genetically altered microorganisms can break down a wide range of pollutants by being used, for example, in bio-filters and waste-water-treatment facilities, and in the clean-up of polluted sites. Genetically modified organisms can also alleviate environmental burdens by reducing the need for pesticides, fertilizers, and medications.

Sustainability, as a strategic aim, involves optimizing the interactions between nature, society, and the economy, in accordance with ecological criteria. Political leaders and scientists alike face the challenge of recognizing interrelationships and interactions between ecological, economic, and social factors and taking account of these factors when seeking solution strategies. To meet this challenge, decision-makers require interdisciplinary approaches and strategies that cut across political lines. Environmental discussions must become more objective, and this includes, especially, debates about the risks of new technologies, which are often ideologically charged. In light of the complex issues involved in sustainable development, we need clearer standards for orienting and assessing our environmental policies. In this context I consider the current work on indicator models as a means to assess and monitor the success of sustainability strategies, to be of great significance.

Sustainable development can succeed only if all areas of the political sector, of society, and of science accept the concept and work together to implement it. A common basic understanding of environmental ethics is needed to ensure that protection of the natural foundation of life becomes a major consideration in all political and individual action. A dialogue among representatives of all sectors of society is needed if appropriate environmental policies are to be devised and implemented. In the long term, "progress" works against us if it continues to be detrimental to nature. This realization will find increasing acceptance. Environmental protection will play a central role in the 21st century and will be a major challenge for politicians and scientists alike.

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Empowering Widows in India



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

There are around 55 million widows in India. It is well known that in India widows tend to face many difficulties and deprivations because of negative social attitudes towards them and social restrictions that are placed upon them and their activities. Indian family as a social institution is well known for the emotional and physical support that it provides, for its extended members, many a time but it fails to respond to the needs of women, especially for women in difficult circumstances e.g. for widows. The widows are the unacceptable face of India, many leading agencies including Central and Local Governments have failed them. Politicians with rare exceptions have ignored them and wider society continues to exploit them.

As widows move through their own experiences of grief, loss, or trauma after the death of a spouse, they may also face economic insecurity, discrimination, stigmatization, and harmful traditional practices on

the basis of their marital status. It is observed that a widow from a relatively well-up family may be subject to greater cruelty and abuse by her in-laws than a lower caste widow who free enough to work outside in the public space and to remarry.

It is well known that in India widows tend to face many difficulties and deprivations because of negative social attitudes towards them and social restrictions that are placed upon them and their activities. They are subject to patriarchal customs, religious laws and widespread discrimination in inheritance rights. Many suffer abuse and exploitation at the hands of family members, often in the context of property disputes. Many widows have flocked to the city of Vrindavan – a city that has become internationally recognised.

Many continue to hold myths and stigmas against widows. Sometimes, widows are believed to be witches who have dark su-

pernatural powers. On other occasions, they are accused of having committed a grave sin in their previous birth for which they are punished with widowhood. A widow not only deals with the loss of her husband but also faces numerous physical and socio-economical hardships that can cause psychological trauma. These women are susceptible to depression, anxiety, loneliness, helplessness, and loss of self worth and confidence.

Empowering widows to support themselves and their families also means addressing social stigmas that create exclusion, and discriminatory or harmful practices. The stigma surrounding widows endures today and ought to be addressed. It is undoubtedly good that governments, NGOs, and other entities are working to support widows – but there is a broad societal need, one no less than a moral and social imperative, to end the stigma surrounding widowhood.

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Cyclone Sitrang kills 35 in Bangladesh

Agency
Dhaka, Oct 26:

At least 35 people were killed and several homes destroyed as cyclone Sitrang ravaged Bangladesh's southern coastlines and central parts after it made a landfall overnight, according to officials and media reports.

Sitrang completed its landfall and weakened to a tropical depression over Bangladesh in the early hours of Tuesday, Prothom Alo, a Bengali daily newspaper, reported.

Newspaper tallies and unofficial counts stated that the cyclone claimed 35 lives alongside leveling homes and other infrastructures, uprooting trees and disrupting road communication and power supplies.

Around 10 million people were without power in districts along the coasts on Tuesday.

Until 6 pm this evening, reports of 35 deaths were reported from 16 (of the 64 administrative) districts, the mass circulation Prothom Alo said, but officials preferred several of the deaths as missing cases, confirming so far 16 deaths.

Another prominent news website bdnews24.com stated that the death toll from cyclone Sitrang till Tuesday evening was 22.

The cyclone made its landfall in southwestern Bangladesh coast but media reports have stated that highest deaths were reported from southwestern Chattogram coastlines where a sand-laden dredger sank in the Bay of Bengal drowning eight workers as strong wind flipped the vessel.



Over a million people were evacuated to cyclone shelters in coastlines but deaths were reported from areas in central Bangladesh as well, since strong winds collapsed houses and uprooted trees causing casualties.

A family of three the parents and their minor child perished as a tree fell on them in central Cumilla while the storm took a prison van off the road killing two policemen and a prisoner in Tangail, another central district.

One death each was reported from Narail and Barguna sub-districts. The body of a child was recovered from Chittagong district. A mother and her two-year-old son died after a boat sank during the storm in Jamuna River in Sirajganj district.

One man died after the railing of a multi-story building collapsed and fell on him in Dhaka, while two women died after a tree fell on them in Gopalganj district.

The body of a worker, who

went missing during the storm in Patuakhali, has been recovered. A mother and her minor daughter died when a tree fell on their house in Munshiganj district, the report said.

State Minister for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Enamur Rahman at a press briefing in Dhaka on Tuesday said about 10,000 houses across Bangladesh were damaged by the cyclone.

Besides, 6,000 hectares of agricultural land and 1,000 shrimp farms were also damaged, he said.

Meteorologists preferred to call Sitrang a usual tropical cyclone with high intensity instead of a super cyclone but it brought along with it heavy rains inundating roads in coastal cities and towns streets in the capital Dhaka as well.

The disaster prompted authorities to suspend flights in several domestic air routes and all internal riverine routes for over 24 hours and shut schools in several districts alongside the coastal ones.

The storm made landfall with wind speeds of 65 kilometers (40 miles) per hour and wind gusts up to 85 kph (53 mph) while it weakened this afternoon.

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India adds 830 Covid cases, lowest single-day tally in 197 days

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 26:

India's COVID-19 caseload climbed to 4,46,45,768 on Wednesday with 830 fresh infections, the lowest single-day rise in 197 days, while the number of active cases came down to 21,607, according to Union health ministry data.

The death toll due to the viral disease climbed to 5,28,981 with one new fatality, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.05 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19

recovery rate has increased to 98.77 per cent, the ministry said.

A decrease of 942 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.67 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate stood at 1.05 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from COVID-19 surged to 4,40,95,180 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent, it said.

So far, 219.57 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines have

been administered under the nationwide vaccination drive, according to the ministry.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

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

CCI imposes a fine of Rs. 936.44 crore on Google for Anti-Competitive Play Store Policies

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Oct 26:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty of Rs. 936.44 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies, apart from issuing a cease-and-desist order, on Tuesday.

The Commission also directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline and gave 30 days time to provide the requisite financial details. The Commission imposed a penalty @ 7% of its average relevant turnover on provisional basis, for violating Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2002. It also directed the company to desist from indulging in anti-competitive practices.

For app developers, app stores have become a necessary medium for distribution of their apps to the end users and the availability of app store(s) is directly dependent on operating system (OS) installed on a smart device. An appreciation of the market dynamics in licensable mobile operating system in India makes it evident that Google's Android OS has successfully reaped the indirect

network effects.

The Commission found Google to be dominant in the markets for licensable OS for smart mobile devices and market for app stores for Android smart mobile OS, in India. Selling of in-app digital goods constitutes an important means for app developers to monetize their creations/innovations. However, for in-app digital goods to be distributed to purchasing users, developers must configure their apps so that all purchases of the digital goods go through Google's payment system, which processes the transactions.

Google's Play Store policies require the App developers to exclusively and mandatorily use Google Play's Billing System (GPBS) not only for receiving payments for Apps (and other digital products like audio, video, games) distributed/sold through the Google Play Store, but also for certain in-app purchases (purchases made by users after they have downloaded/ purchased the App from the Play Store). Besides, app developers cannot, within an app, provide users with a direct link to a webpage containing an alternative payment

method or use language that encourages a user to purchase the digital item outside of the app, the Commission's statement read.

If the app developers do not comply with Google's policy of using GPBS, they are not permitted to list their apps on the Play Store and thus, lose out the vast pool of potential customers in the form of Android users. Making access to the Play Store dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS for paid apps and in-app purchases was unfair, the Commission observed.

The Commission noted that Google Pay has been integrated with intent flow methodology whereas other UPI apps can be used through collect flow methodology. With intent flow offering significant advantages, its success rate is higher due to lower latency.

The Commission concluded that, to make app developers dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS for paid apps and in-app purchases, constitutes an imposition of unfair condition. The mandatory imposition of GPBS, also results in denial of market access for payment aggregators as well as app developers.

Career Guidance

Digital Transformation



By: Vijay GarG

When was the last time any one of us visited a public library in India? Most likely, not in a while. We also assume that they've disappeared. Which is possible, but data seems to suggest that libraries are alive and thriving. Rare books, the rarified atmosphere of the library, it seems, can still be experienced in around 54,000 libraries across the country.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns in the last two years forced us to look at things we take for granted, like everyday pleasures like reading or going to libraries. Schools and education of children have undergone an extensive digital transformation to be able to meet the needs of the young generation and their digitalized future. The digital transformation initiated by the pandemic in the basic education of the young generation, the variety of digital divides emerging and reinforced, and the possible barriers reported along the way now has cleared the way for digital transformation. Digital transformation, i.e. "a process that aims to improve an entity by triggering significant changes to its properties through combinations of in-

formation, computing, communication, and connectivity technologies" is generally taking place in all spheres of our life and affecting everyone from babies till the elderly; for sure, it is not confined only to organizations and the workplace anymore. Existing resources and capabilities, including factors such as technology, culture, practices, people's skills and competences as well as their values, attitudes, identities and mindsets, have been considered as barriers to digital transformation.

Information management research should acknowledge children, their digitalized everyday life and their basic education as significant areas of concern. We should understand them as well as allow them to shape the education we offer in the context of

higher education, but we should also aim at influencing the basic education of the young generation - for the purpose of equipping them with important skills and competencies but also for the purpose of arousing their interest in this important field, maybe even as a career option.

When technology complements the equitable and universal access to knowledge resources through digital libraries that will definitely open up the possibility of far more flexible and coherent multimedia collections. As each generation becomes more in tune with the internet, their desire to retrieve information as quickly and easily as possible has increased. Effective knowledge creation and deployment could lead to societal transformation and wealth generation.

Contd. from Page 2

Arousals Galore in Manipur: Needed....

What we expect of a polity includes what we expect of our political economy: a high measure of efficiency. We do not wish people to work hard for nothing, or almost nothing. Nor do we wish resources to be squandered. We expect there to be a safety net so that being out of work does not mean starvation, homelessness, or other outrageous fortunes. Further, since people should not have to beg for their survival, we expect such a safety net to be a matter of right, not public largesse or private charity. We do not expect workers to be wage slaves but to be able to express a substantial measure of freedom in and through their work..... The market is a tool, subservient to conscious democratic politics. Decisions of what are and what are not to be market commodities; when, where, and how to regulate them; policies of taxation; and the various social policies....must be open to continual democratic change. Equality of opportunity is rou-

tinely expected and promised. Still, one expects thereto be substantial equality of results. The present difference between have sand have-nots is unacceptable, and that this difference may well increase in the future is monstrous. Democracy is to be expected in the organization of work, and hence so too a diminution of bureaucracy, hierarchy, and domination. Leisure, too, should be democratic, if only because the lessons of work are complexly transferred to

the conditions of leisure, and so the two are related.... Such expectations are not at odds with others equally reasonable, are not internally contradictory, and are justifiable."

If Manipur is to be saved from the current atmosphere of public policy disaster, we need a government committed to halting the assault on society and attend to what have been said. The King is Dead, Long Live the King.

(The author is a Visiting Professor, CESS: Hyderabad)

PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

AUCTION TENDER NOTICE NO : 10

Imphal the 21st Oct. 2022

Seal rate tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No.1 PWD, Manipur, Porompat Imphal on behalf of the Governor of Manipur for disposal of the following 22 nos. of machinery/vehicles lying at this office on Rs. 26,57,000/- MRP on "As is where is Basis" in Single Lots.

The machineries can be inspected between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. on any working day from 21/10/2022 to 07/11/2022. The Tender Form can be purchased from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs. 500/- by cash up to 3 P.M. of 07/11/2022. Sealed Tenders will be received up to 2 P.M. on 08/11/2022 and will be opened at 2.30 P.M. on the same day in presence of the intending tenderers or their authorised representatives.

The list of Departmental Machine Name and Number are (1) Marshall Road Roller No. 3, (2) Jessor Road Roller No. 38, (3) Jessor Road Roller No. 90, (4) Britania Road Roller No.103, (5) Britania Road Roller No.104, (6) Jessor Road Roller No. R-07-N, (7) Atlas Copco Air Compressor No. A-10, (8) D50-A15 Dozer No. 7837, (9) D50-A15 Dozer No. 12887, (10) D50-A15 Dozer No. 12888, (11) D50-A15 Dozer No. 12891, (12) D50-A15 Dozer No. 13030, (13) Speed Craft 8-10T Road Roller No 1934, (14) L&T Vibratory 8-10T Road Roller No J0650, (15) Escorts JCB 3DX 9-814706, (16) Escorts JCB 3DX 9-814709, (17) Telco Construction Tata JD 3057, (18) Tata Tipper MN-01-5680, (19) Leyland Hippo Wooden MN1G 2779, (20) Coles Crane Model, L-1610 (16T) MNG 835, (21) Maruti Paver Finisher-01, (22) Marshall Paver Finisher.

The Tender must be accompanied with earnest money of Rs.1,00,000/- in the form of demand draft payable at Imphal drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No.1, PWD, Manipur from any schedule Commercial/Nationalised Bank at Imphal. Tender without the earnest money will be rejected. No tender shall be entertained unless submitted with proper tender documents. The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in full or part without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division No.1
PWD Manipur

Include photos of Hindu deities Ganesh, Lakshmi on new currency notes, Arvind Kejriwal urges PM Modi

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 26:

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include pictures of Hindu deities Ganesh and Lakshmi on currency notes.

In a video address, the Aam Aadmi Party convenor said that new currency notes could have a picture of Mahatma Gandhi on one side and pictures of the two deities on the other.

The chief minister said that Muslim-majority Indonesia also has pictures of Ganesh on some of its currency notes. "In Indonesia, 85% of the population is Muslim, and Hindus only constitute 2%," he said. "This is a very important step that the Centre should take."

Kejriwal said that the country's economy is going through a difficult phase and the rupee is weakening against the United States dollar.



"After 75 years [of Independence], India is still a developing country," he said. "There is a need to construct a large number of schools and hospitals to make India a wealthy country. A lot of efforts need to be taken, but efforts will only bear fruit when we have the blessings of gods and goddesses."

Kejriwal added he did not

claim that only adding the pictures would improve the condition of the economy. "But if Indonesia can do it, why not us?" he asked.

Commenting on the demand, Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Delhi's Rohini constituency Vijender Gupta alleged that Kejriwal was desperate as the AAP's "anti-Hindu character" had been exposed.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit alleged that the Delhi chief minister was the "B-team" of the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, according to ANI. "He doesn't have any understanding," Dikshit said. "It is his vote politics. If he goes to Pakistan, he can also say that I am Pakistani, so vote for me."

India, China should avoid interfering in each other's internal affairs, says Chinese envoy

Agency
Beijing, Oct 26:

Outgoing Chinese envoy to India Sun Weidong said on Tuesday that the two countries need to uphold the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The Chinese ambassador also said that the two sides

should strive to manage and resolve differences, and look for a proper solution through dialogue and consultation, instead of defining their bilateral relations by differences.

In recent years the two countries have faced number of border disputes including in Galwan standoff in eastern

Ladakh, and Doklam plateau dispute near the India-Bhutan-China tri-junction.

In his farewell address, the Chinese envoy also said that if the Western theory of geopolitics is applied to the India-China relationship, then major neighbouring countries will inevitably view each other as threats and rivals.

"If we view it as a kind of bad fate, it will make suspect and undercut each other, compete and confront with each other, or even become rivals," Sun said. "We should break out of the trap and find a new path that is different from the past." 'geopolitics.

Sitrang damages several houses in Mizoram, no casualties

Agency
Aizawl, Oct 26:

Heavy rains accompanied by storms have damaged houses in some parts of Mizoram, officials said.

However, no casualty has been reported, they said.

As per the latest information, two houses in western Mizoram's Mamit district and five, including two relief camps occupied by Myanmar nationals, in Siahla district in the southern part of the state bordering Myanmar, were damaged by rains and gusty

winds late Monday, officials said.

One of the two houses in the Mamit district owned by a family was damaged when a collapsed tree caused by gusty wind hit it, they said.

Heavy rains and gusty winds also triggered landslides and uprooted trees on highways in various parts of the state, they said.

However, there were no reports of major disasters and detailed reports are awaited from across the state, officials said.

They said that heavy rains

and storms also disrupted power supplies in some parts of the state.

All schools from nursery to class 12 in Aizawl district, southern Mizoram's Lunglei district and Serchhip district remained shut on Tuesday in view of cyclone Sitrang and the likelihood of very heavy to extremely rainfall battering the state.

District administrations have advised people not to venture out to rivers between Monday and Wednesday as a precautionary measure to avoid calamities.

Opposition chief ministers to skip Amit Shah's two-day 'Chintan Shivir'?

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 26:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a 'Chintan Shivir' of all state home ministers on October 27-28 in Surajkund, Haryana. In the proposed camp, the states will discuss their challenges, problems and positive aspects with the Centre, according to an official release.

Now, reports are suggesting that Opposition Chief Ministers may give the contemplation camp a miss. According to a News18 report, states chief ministers are holding the home portfolio have not given confirmation of their attendance yet.

Chief Ministers from

states including West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Rajasthan among others may send their representatives to attend the camp organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Some state ministers of southern states may also skip the camp.

Citing senior officials, the report further stated that senior officials will attend the event instead of chief ministers as they are busy with prior appointments.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami held a meeting on Tuesday at the Secretariat to review the preparations for the camp. CM Dhami will participate in the event on behalf of Uttarakhand.

Apart from internal security, issues related to policing, public security, fire fighting etc. in the states will also be discussed in the camp.

Day 1 will likely open with Amit Shah's address to all state representatives and ministers followed by the address of state ministers. Issues related to women's security, police modernisation, and coordination are likely to be discussed on the first day.

On the second and final day, issues like illegal immigrants, cyber security, and drugs among others will be discussed.

With just a day left for the camp, it remains to be seen if Opposition-ruled states give Amit Shah's 'Chintan Shivir' a miss.

Sports

FIH Pro League 2022-2023: Hockey India names 22-member Men's Squad against Spain, New Zealand

Agency
Bhubaneswar, Oct 26:

Hockey India on Tuesday named the 22-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for the upcoming double header matches against Spain and New Zealand in the season opener of FIH Hockey Pro League 2022-2023 to be held in Bhubaneswar.

India is scheduled to take on New Zealand when they begin their campaign on October 28 and will take on Spain on October 29. On the following week, India will play their second tie against New Zealand on November 4 and play Spain on November 6.

All matches will be held at 1900 hours at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium, which will also host the most-awaited FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup Bhubaneswar-Rourkela in January 2023.

The Indian team will be led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh and he will be assisted by the experienced midfielder Manpreet Singh. The team will also see some fresh faces in Mohd Raheel Mousen, who was part of India's victorious outing in the FIH Hockey 5's earlier this year and S Karthi, who played his maiden tournament for India at the Asia Cup Jakarta.

The team includes goalkeepers Krishan Bahadur



Pathak and PR Sreejesh. Among defenders Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor and Nilam Sanjeev Xess have been selected.

Midfielders Sumit, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Rajkumar Pal and Mohd Raheel Mousen have been picked to represent India. In the forwardline S Karthi has been credited for his performance in the Asia Cup held in Jakarta earlier this year. He will play alongside experienced forwards Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh.

Talking about the team, Chief Coach Graham Reid said: "We have chosen an experienced squad to play the first

two rounds of Pro League starting this weekend in Bhubaneswar. Given that, we also have two new players playing in the Pro League."

"Mohammed Raheel will make his debut in the 11-a-side format after strong performances including Leading Goal Scorer and Player of the Tournament at the FIH 5's tournament in Lausanne in June and at the recent National Games in Rajkot. S. Karthi is also making a return after his impressive debut at the Asia Cup earlier this year. He is a strong bustling striker with a powerful shot at goal, who has a presence in the circle, important against the strong European and Oceania nations."

Reid also emphasized on increasing the leadership skills of the group and thus choosing Harmanpreet to lead the side

for these matches. "We are continuing to expand the leadership skills of the group with Harmanpreet Singh being selected as Captain for these first four games," Reid added.

Indian Men's Team:

Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Sreejesh Parattu Ravendran

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (Captain), Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess

Midfielders: Sumit, Manpreet Singh (Vice-Captain), Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Mohd. Raheel Mousen

Forwards: S. Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

PV Sindhu back in Top 5, HS Prannoy moves to 12th in latest BWF rankings

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 26:

Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and Thomas Cup winner HS Prannoy gained a spot each to reach the 5th and 12th positions in women's and men's singles world rankings released on Tuesday.

Sindhu, who has not played any tournament since winning gold in the Commonwealth Games in August due to an ankle injury, possesses 87218 points from 26 tournaments.

This is after three years that Sindhu, a former world no. 2, has regained her place in the top 5. The former world

champion from Hyderabad resumed her training on Monday after recovering from the injury.

In the men's singles, Prannoy continued his ascendancy after a pre-quarterfinal finish at the Denmark Open Super 750. The 30-year-old, who is ranked number one in the Race to Guangzhou ranking, has 64,330 points from 26 tournaments.

CWG champion Lakshya Sen and CWG bronze medallist Kidambi Srikanth are static at number 8 and 11.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who also claimed a maiden gold in Birmingham, too held on to their number 8 rankings in the men's doubles.

The pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila jumped two places to grab the 19th spot.

Women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand and mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto achieved a new career-high ranking of 27 and 29 respectively.

However, women's doubles combination of Ashwini Ponappa and N Sikki Reddy dropped to 24th, while two-time CWG gold medallist Saina Nehwal slipped a place to 33rd in the women's singles rankings.

Online Essay Competition

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

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

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

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

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

Team Imphal Times