

## Nupi Samaj warns serious agitation if Govt. fails to revoke resolution for legalization of liquor



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

Advisor of Nupi Samaj Manipur, K. Indu today warned the government of serious and intensified agitation if the government fails to

revoke its stand to legalize liquor by October 10.

Speaking during a sit-in protest demonstration against the lifting of ban on liquor from the state staged at Mayanglanging Community Hall today, Advisor of

Nupi Samaj K. Indu said that if the government fails to listen to the demand of Meira Paibi by October 10, then the Meira Paibi across the state will launch a series of agitation like hunger strike, rally and others.

The sit-in-protest demonstration was jointly organized by Nupi Samaj and Mayang Langjing Sengat Sagatpa Nupi Lup. K. Indu further stated that the decision of the government to lift the ban on liquor in the state was an immature decision. She said that the ban was imposed following series of hardship face by the women and for years women of the state have been protesting against use of intoxicating substances.

Indu further added that the government is ignoring the protest against the decision for lifting of liquor ban from the state at various places. She said if the democratic protest is being ignored then the Meira Paibi will have to intensify the protest in another form.

## Heavy rainfall to hit Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, says weather dept

Agency  
Guwahati, Oct 3:

Fairly widespread to widespread light or moderate rainfall with isolated heavy downpours have been forecast for Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura on October 3 and 4, according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

The city experienced moderate to heavy showers in isolated places early Monday morning, bringing the temperature down to 28 degrees Celsius during the day. There is a 97 per

cent chance of heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in parts of the city. The evening is expected to cool a degree further with the night temperature expected to dip to 25 degrees.

Heavy rainfall at isolated places is likely over Gangetic West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on Monday.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning at isolated places are possible over West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland,

Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.

Gangetic West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura are likely to experience heavy rainfall at isolated places on October 4. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning at isolated places are likely over West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura on Tuesday (October 4).

Fairly widespread to widespread light or moderate rainfall with isolated heavy falls is very likely over Gangetic West Bengal from October 3-4.

## Governor La Ganesan hospitalised

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

Manipur Governor La Ganesan was admitted to a private hospital in Chennai after he complained of chest pain on the morning of October 1, Saturday. In the city to meet his brother, he was staying at his house in Thyagaraya Nagar in Chennai. After he felt ill, he was reportedly admitted to MGM Healthcare in Aminjikarai. A team consisting of cardiologists is treating him. An update about his health is expected to be announced by the hospital management.

Ganesan assumed office as the Governor of Manipur on August 27, 2021 and was given additional charge of West Bengal in July this year after Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation to compete for India's vice president post.

## Felicitation programme cum interaction session held for MEC



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

The interaction programme cum Felicitation programme of successful students in HSLC Examination 2022 was today at Mind Empowering Centre (MEC) Hall at Patsoi Part-3.

Dr. R.K. Lenin Singh, HoD of Psychiatry, Regional Insti-

tute of Medical Sciences (Imphal) attended the felicitation cum interaction session as Chief Guest while Wahengbam Tumpok Singh, Former Lecturer of Ibotombi B.Ed. College present presided the occasion.

L. Biren Singh, Retd. Principal of Mekola Gulap Higher Secondary School, Oinam Ranjit Singh, TGT- Mathemat-

ics of Oinam Govt. Higher Secondary School, Heigrujam Jagatjit Singh, Former Senior Faculty of English of Pole Star Public Star, Salam Ranjit Singh, Senior Faculty of Political Science of Parce Imom Sindam Sang and Longjam Lokendro Singh, Social Activist, Chairman of Fruit Plantation Mission (FPM) attended as Guest of Honour.

Agency  
Kolkata, Oct 3:

Outraged over the installation of a Mahishasur idol that resembled Mahatma Gandhi at a pandal in southwest Kolkata, people on social media sought immediate arrest of Hindu Mahasabha leaders who organised the Durga puja.

Organisers Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha, however, claimed that it was a "coincidence" that the Mahishasur idol, which had a bald head and was dressed in a white dhoti and round glasses, bore resemblance to Gandhi, but social media was not convinced.

"Immediately arrest the officials of Hindu Mahasabha for depicting Mahatma Gandhi as asura in a Durga Puja at Kolkata," tweeted one Atanu Chakravarty, tagging Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

As the photos of the Durga Puja pandal went viral on social media, the Kolkata Police told the Mahasabha to change the look of the idol and also asked journalist Indradeep Bhattacharyya, who shared it on Twitter, to delete the photograph as it "may create tension" amid the festival.

"The Hindu Mahasabha claimed to have changed the idol on Kolkata Police's request and 'put moustache and hair' on it. What an easy solution found by KP," tweeted Ujjaini. Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv



Sena alleged that this was a "deliberate attempt" to demonise freedom fighters.

"Nope, this isn't coincidence. This is a deliberate attempt to change the narrative to suit the current narrative of demonising our freedom movement heroes. We have truly lost our moral compass as a nation," Chaturvedi tweeted.

One Partha Pratim Bhattacharyya on Facebook urged the police to take action against the organisers of the Durga Puja as the idol "has hurt

the religious sentiments of many Hindus like me".

"I don't have an inkling as to what steps the law enforcement people are taking to curb this nuisance. It's a shame for us, Indians and Bengalis is particular," Kumar Mukherjee posted on Facebook.

"It's such a disgrace to my city!" posted Dwaipayana Banerjee.

According to mythology, Goddess Durga slew Mahishasur in an epic battle to end his evil reign.

## Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers held along with the launch of 5G IT Ministers from 12 States and UTs attended the Conference

PIB  
New Delhi, Oct 3:

The Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers, along with the sixth edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC 2022), was held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Industry veterans Mukesh Ambani from Reliance Industries, Sunil Bharti Mittal from Bharti Enterprises, Kumar Mangalam Birla from Aditya Birla Group, and several other dignitaries graced the inauguration. It saw the national launch of 5G, exhibitions, and unveiling of several 5G use cases in education, health, worker safety, smart agriculture, etc.

of IMC 2022, the "Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers" was held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw in the august presence of Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship,

Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Minister of state for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan and IT Ministers from 12 States and UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Puducherry. It was also attended by State IT Secretaries

and State officers from all States and UTs and senior officers from MeitY and DoT.

In the welcome address and initial remarks, Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary of MeitY shared - how Digital India proved its resilience during pandemic. He shared latest initiatives such as My Scheme, Meri Pehchaan, Digital Bhashini, and PLIs, which can be leveraged by the States and UTs for uplifting ease of living and ease of doing business. He emphasized on making all efforts for making this decade as India's TechAde.

Devusinh Chauhan, in his address, stated that the introduction of 5G services in India today is a historic day. He shared that time taken to obtain

a RoW permission has been reduced from 3 months to 6 days.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that there is an unprecedented opportunity for growth and the world is looking to India as a trusted supply chain partner especially in electronics sector. He mentioned about digital device, digital data, deep technologies, and massive diversification in supply chain. He emphasized that all States and UTs, as Team India, should leverage PLI schemes to attract companies, make policies to take startup culture to tier 2/3 cities, leverage India Stack solutions and digital platforms built around it to standardize the citizen centric and business centric services.

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## Online Essay Competition

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

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

1st prize Rs 5000, 2nd prize Rs 3000, and 3rd prize Rs 2000 with certificates. The competition is opened to all individuals and every submission must be accompanied by a photo/image of the candidate. The last date of submission will be 6 pm on October 30. All participants should enclose details of their identity. Father's or Mother's name, Address, Qualification, Contact No. (Cell Phone or Landline) should be enclosed at the of submitting the write up. Language medium : English.

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

Team Imphal Times

# Let's take stringent steps to curb Smoking



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Everyone is aware that "Smoking" has been criticized as the most lethal weapon of self murder. According to the Tobacco Products Act, 2004, direct and indirect advertising of all tobacco products and its sale to minors is banned. Addiction to nicotine makes it hard to quit. The increasing incidence of heart attack in India, fast spreading among younger generation has been largely on account of smoking habits. The problem of Smoking in India is widespread but no studies have been done to estimate what percentage of

the population are smokers.

Roadside paan shops bountifully stocked with cigarettes feed smokers continuing to exhale smoke from cigarettes. It is a fact that smoking is a hard habit to break because tobacco contains nicotine, which is highly addictive. Smoking harms not just the smoker, but also family members, coworkers, and others who breathe the smoker's cigarette smoke, called secondhand smoke or passive smoke. In fact, statistics tell us that approximately 70 out of 100 people who smoke want to stop but go on puffing, day in and day out, seemingly powerless to quit. Research has shown that non-smokers who reside with a smoker have a 24% increase in risk for developing lung cancer when compared with other non-smokers.

Owners of sales outlets must display boards with the warnings like "tobacco causes cancer", "tobacco kills" & "sale to minors is a punishable offence". Sometimes it happens that notification prohibiting selling tobacco products to minors has no effect as the teenagers continue to buy tobacco/cigarettes on the pretext that they are buying it on behalf of their elders. Smoking also provides other side benefits which are real. Let us remember that staying smoke free helps more of everything — more energy, better performance, better looks, more money in your pocket, and, in the long run, more life to live.

In India there is little campaigning save the statutory warnings printed in small print on cigarette cartons and advertisements. Graphic health warnings using a mixture of pictures and words are part and parcel of every country's policy on cigarette marketing. The 40 per cent warning on one side proved ineffective as vendors displayed the packaging on the other side, so that consumers would not see the warnings. Cigarette manufacturers share the kitty with vested interest, hence their interest is well protected with simple modifications to fool the general public. It is agreed that the bigger warning can create an impact when a smoker buys a cigarette pack. But how do we resolve the issue when smokers buy one or two cigarettes and the packet is being opened by the shop owner who sells cigarettes for business. It is the youth who are the most vulnerable group as far as the consumption of tobacco is concerned. Most of them begin smoking as a fad and even as a rite of passage. According to The Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2014 India has slipped to 136th position in the list of 198 countries that warn smokers about the hazards of smoking through graphic pictures on cigarette packages.

Can't we implement the ban on the companies manufacturing these tobacco products of intoxication. One would find (particularly smokers) like all laws in India, nothing will be implemented. Indians just do not have the psyche to obey laws. They believe that rules are meant to be broken. Smokers are unmindful of the consequences of passive smoking. Over time, the habit of smoking weaves its way through all of the activities in our lives, and we come to think we can't be happy or productive without cigarettes.

Various provisions that we implement time and again clearly states that People can smoke on roads or in their homes but not in any other place. More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from AIDS, illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.

It smells something else totally against enforcing the rule strongly across the country as law enacted smoking is banned only for outside propaganda. Here, the Govt. is happy that it has a law, police is happy that it can earn more money, the cigarette companies are happy that they don't have to bother, the finance ministry is happy as there is no affect on taxes and the health minister is happy that he could do atleast one thing in his tenure - so what matters if it is not implemented.

It is reported that a cigarette smoker shortens his life by about 5.5 minutes for each cigarette smoked, almost the time he spends for smoking it. The increasing incidence of heart attack in India, fast spreading among younger generation has been largely on account of smoking habits. Nearly 30 million people in the country are estimated to be victims of heart diseases. No doubt, the Government has come out with good points to deal with the matter but at the same time taxes on tobacco products should go up to help smokers give up. Such methods will be long lasting.

Under such circumstances, it clearly shows that the anti-smoking Act will go up in smoke. But I feel that People must wake up to the danger of smoke to themselves and passive smokers before it is too late.

# Digital University is the Future



By: Vijay GarG

Dr. M. Jagdish Kumar, Chairman of the University Grants Commission. He is also an administrator and author. Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. He was the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University from January 2016 to February 2022. Born in Telangana's Nalgonda district, Kumar holds a master's degree in electrical engineering and a PhD from IIT Madras. At present, also takes over as the President of All India Council for Technical Education.

The new education policy will create an educational environment where university campuses will not be dependent on the government. If you come out of the grant and reach the system of debt, then you will also be able to create your own resources. With a system like CUET, students from all over the country will take school education up to class XII seriously. He described 'One Nation, One Examination' as the great need of today's youth. Executive editor Mukesh Bhardwaj conducted the conversation of Jansatta Baradari on the new education policy of our higher education system. There are currently four crore students in this structure. This structure is like a pyramid, whose students can be placed in two squares.

The first category is of those students who can go to any university in the country and abroad according to their choice for higher education. But, the percentage of such students is very less. At the bottom of this pyramid are the abundance of such students, who have no dearth of talent, but are denied admission in universities due to various reasons of digital university. The aim is to provide high quality education at affordable cost to all the students. Digital University will prepare the students for the challenges of the future. For this the education system needs to be flexible. Right now there is a lot of inertia, like if you left a course in the second year, then you cannot pursue a degree in it. If you want to do multidisciplinary courses in different subjects, the university will not allow it. There is a course of three years and your ability is that you can complete it in two and a half years. But university rules won't let you do that. We will make education flexible by removing

such restrictions.

Digital university will play an important role in this. We can become Vishva Guru by digitizing education. Students who cannot reach the city and university will have an increased access to skills and knowledge. We are hoping that these students will be able to become a strong wheel of our economic development vehicle in the future. We are talking about digital education. Even before this, distance education centers and many other. There is a system of e-courses. But, their role was seen only to confer degrees. Somewhere the digital university should not become a platform only for awarding degrees and through this we could not fulfill the objective of skill development. This is an important question. We will give priority to skill based courses in Digital University.

If someone is currently pursuing his graduation in economics and wants to take admission in any science subject then Digital University will give him a chance. The main goal of Digital University is to develop the skills of the youth. You are saying that the degree of distance education centers is not effective then what will happen to digital. There is a lot of difference between these two. Send instructional materials to the Open University by post or via PDF. Digital University will provide complete course material online so that students will be able to connect directly. Artificial intelligence will play an important role in this. Its examination system will also be different, which will be able to assess the students properly.

In some cities, we will open computer centers where students can go for exams. Will be able I hope that when we open a digital university, you will also be its student as a media person. Media will always be equipped with new technology, so you will also have to be updated accordingly. It will not only involve young students but also working professionals. With the rapid growth of technology, people have to keep on learning. Only a digital university can give us a chance to remain a lifelong student. You talked about higher education at low fees.

Despite being a welfare state, India has a high Education is not cheap. Higher education is expensive in many states. There is a flood of private universities in many states whose fee structure is not controlled by anyone. Will there be a regulatory mechanism for this? Regulatory machinery like AICTE has clearly stated what the fee structure should be. There is also a Fee Monitoring Committee in all the states. Now a third are private universities, but the fees of most of them are controlled. But, those who have money, who can go to study by paying fees, why stop them from

going to private university go? It is also part of democracy that we can go to the institution of our choice. We keep talking to vice-chancellors of private universities.

There are many universities which help the students of weaker section as a social responsibility. We conducted CUET so students accepted it happily. He was happy that there were questions in the exam which were easy to attempt. We wish that the entrance exam should not become a burden for the students. I have always thought about board exam marks in terms of admission. He has supported a system like CUET. There are many types of boards in our country and everyone has different level. The combined examination will protect the interests of seventy percent students of the country. Out of four crore students, BA, BSc, BCom do more. Five percent do engineering. We got the idea that we should conduct a test and let go of whoever wants to go to the field. There will be an advantage that we can bring it twice a year. Those who did not do well once can take the exam a second time our education. There is a lot of diversity in the system.

In consultation with universities and other institutions, we will prepare the structure of one nation, one examination. There is a slowdown in the recruitment of vacancies in central universities. How will it be fixed? M Jagadesh Kumar: Last week I held a meeting with the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities and gave instructions regarding the recruitment of all kinds of vacancies. One problem with the recruitment of non-academic posts is that every university has a different system. Will work on this very fast in the next few months. It is a policy work to fill the posts of the Faculties of Education. It is not that we are hiring computer operators that if we want four hundred, it is done immediately. When recruiting intellectuals the selection committee has to evaluate very carefully.

How capable an applicant is of the faculty, how far the university can take it, it all remains to be seen. If three hundred posts are advertised then hardly 150 are filled. After that the posts are advertised again. With recruitment, ten to fifteen percent also retire. University. The main function of the Grants Commission is to manage the grant and educational system. Now there is a provision of 'Higher Education Funding Agency' in the new education policy which will work towards making the institutions autonomous. Then what will be the role of UGC? Have you been appointed at a time when you will be its last president? M Jagadesh Kumar: Let me elaborate on this point in your question. Under the NEP, it will have four components by bringing together all the regulators. One would have a regulatory mechanism and the other

would have recognition, in the third only funding will work.

In the fourth, we will work on the quality improvement of the educational system. As of now, usually an agricultural university does not collude with other universities. Or IIT does not interact with the common university. Today, to solve the problems of the country, one has to come out of these bounded walls. If someone wants to introduce a new course, then he has to go to different universities and get permission. Along with the delay, one also has to deal with the hassles of bureaucracy. We come to the level of a holistic thinking working for 'Higher Education Commission of India'. Its draft bill is being prepared. After the debate in the Parliament, Standing Committee, I am hopeful that it will come into shape.

Questions are being raised regarding grants in government universities. Four hundred percent fee has been increased in Allahabad University. There are also students from weaker section. Now it is being said that loan should not be given by giving grant. How long will government universities survive like this? How will university campuses become a part of the country's development? UGC's work is only grant do not give. Its main objective is to maintain the quality standard of higher education in the university. I agree with your concern. Now we have HEFA. To build infrastructure in the university, you can take a loan at low interest. You can easily repay this loan further. This allows you to fine-tune the structure of your research. After doing this in JNU, the project funding increased by four times.

The university should think of generating internal resources. Give you degree online. Resources there are many different programs you can do to raise money. Indian Institutes of Management are doing this. One should not always depend on the government. If you increase your scope, you will also be able to raise resources yourself. Talking about JNU itself, the Vice Chancellor is a political choice. Your tenure in JNU was also full of commotion. What do you have to say on Politics Vs University Campus?

Selected purely academic from a purely academic point of view. JNU is the pride of the country. If there is a question on JNU and politics, we are always there to ask questions to the students. Encourage you to always ask questions to your authority. Argue until you are satisfied with an argument. Our aim should be to develop reasoning power. Ideological clashes abound among the diversity of ideas. Now if this ideological activity is given the name of politics, then it is a different matter.

# Beyond ODF – making way towards a 'Sampoorna Swachh Bharat'

By: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) became more than just a government program, it became a people movement following our Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call for an Open Defecation Free (ODF) India from ramparts of Red Fort, on 2nd October 2014. The results are there for the world to see. 110 million toilets were built and 550 million of our rural population provided access to household sanitation facilities making India achieve ODF status and other significant social impacts, on 2nd Oct 2019. The Hon'ble Prime Minister was presented the Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation's Global Goal Keepers Award 2019, for the significantly im-

proved health outcomes and subsequence economic gains.

A healthy nation is an empowered one. Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, SBM has made a significant contribution in placing India as the fifth leading economy in the world. An independent study by UNICEF reported that on an average household living in ODF villages, accrued cumulative benefits of Rs.50,000 per year, and households with a new toilet saw a one-time increase in property value by Rs.19,000. On average, the total benefits of new household toilets were found to exceed costs by 4.7 times.

As we gear up to celebrate Swachh Bharat Diwas 2022 on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi – 2nd October, SBM is well over two years in its phase II and moving forward from achievement of ODF to now striving for ODF plus. Let us understand that better – 'ODF plus', the key objective of phase II of the SBM-G comprises elements beyond construction and use of toilets and towards holistic universal sanitation delineating the sustained usage of toilets, eco-friendly and economically viable management of solid and liquid waste, including bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable waste generated from our homes and communities and subsequent visually clean surroundings. This is in line with the Gandhian principles of 'Sampoorna swachhata' and also sup-

ports our aim to generate livelihoods as part of phase II of the cleanliness mission, through the dedicated and specific technological interventions for Solid & Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

In thousands of villages across India, solid waste is now being managed through waste segregation into wet and dry waste at the household level and through its door-to-door collection. Panchayats and women Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been and are being trained to manage the wet waste through composting and where possible producing biogas, subsequently becoming modes of income generation. Plastic waste from households and institutions is being managed through collection and segregation centres set up across villages with

arrangements for forward linkages. Plastic waste is shredded and converted into suitable forms allowing for further usage in activities like road construction and use in cement factories, generating livelihoods in the process. For example, the sale of manure and dry waste collected in the Gram Panchayat of Vandse in Karnataka fetches around 88,000 per month. Similarly, aided by its 100 KLD water treatment system, the treated wastewater used for Pisciculture in the Gram Panchayat of Kurak Jagir in Haryana has raised about Rs 1 Lakh annually from Fish farming. These are just two examples among several similar stories reported daily from across rural India.

Also creating more such avenues is the GOBARDHAN scheme. Our vil-

lages face a challenge in managing animal and other bio-waste including kitchen leftovers, crop residue and market waste. Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji gave the idea of making 'kachhhe se kanchan' (waste to wealth), hence Gobardhan, wherein, as many as 333 Gobardhan plants across 125 districts are not only providing clean fuel for cooking and/or lighting up numerous households, but also jobs and income source to many. This is truly a 'waste to wealth' system which supports bio-degradable waste recovery and conversion of waste into resources, reducing GHG emissions, and reducing our dependence on the import of crude oil, boosting entrepreneurship, and promoting organic farming.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# Indian Air Force inducts first indigenous Light Combat Helicopter Unit 'Dhanush'

Agency  
Jodhpur, Oct 3:

The Indian Air Force inducts its first Unit of the indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) at Jodhpur, Rajasthan on Monday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Air Force saying the role of the IAF will be more effective after this induction. "Since long the requirements of indigenous attack helicopters was felt." He said.

Rajnath Singh said, "The LCH is capable of dodging the enemy, carrying a variety of ammunition, and delivering it to the site quickly. This LCH perfectly meets the needs of our armed forces in various terrains. In such a situation, LCH is an ideal platform for both our Army and Airforce."

The recent Ukrainian Conflict, or the many conflicts that preceded it, teaches us that heavy weapon systems and platforms, which are unable to move rapidly in the battlefield, have low capability, and sometimes they are capable of attacking enemies, become easy targets for, Defense Minister pointed.

The Unit which will comprise of 10 Make-in-India multi-rotate attack helicopters based at the Jodhpur Air Force Station have been named the 143 Helicopter Unit (Dhanush). The Helicopters have been christened as Prachand. The ceremony was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of the Air Chief.

IAF Chief VR Chaudhari said the IAF's tryst with helicopters began in 1954 when Sikorsky helicopter was inducted.



And it being the first Unit of the indigenous LCH. "The personnel of the unit have been specially selected based on their professional competence" said ACM Chaudhari.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in March this year approved the procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production at the cost of Rs. 3,887 Cr along with Infrastructure sanctions worth Rs. 377 Cr. Of these 5 LCH are to be inducted into the Indian Army.

Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP) is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern combat helicopter containing approx. 45% indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55% for SP Version, says the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The Helicopter is powered by a twin Shakti Engine and has a range of 500 km and a maximum speed of 268 kmph. It is compatible for high-altitude deployment with the capability to take off and land at about 5000 metre (16,400 feet).

The weapons onboard includes Air to Air Missile Mis-

tral 2. Anti Tank Guided Missile Dhruvastra, and 70 MM Rockets.

Speaking on the occasion HAL CMD (additional charge) CB Anantkrishnan said that the machine has been tested thoroughly in various climatic conditions including the high altitude and cold climate of the Siachen and in the process the machine clocked 2034 flights and 1500 hrs of flying.

"145 number of LCH is expected from Indian users and also international opportunities are expected." Anantkrishnan said.

It should be noted that the IAF is yet in the process of finalising the number of LCHs to be procured. These choppers may replace the ageing Russian Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack choppers.

In June this year, the Indian Army inducted the first LCH squadron in Bengaluru. It was on 29 September the first helicopter was formally received by Director General Army Aviation Corps, Lt Gen A. K. Suri from the manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bangalore. It will be moved to Eastern Command along the Line of Actual Control (LCH)

next year. It has planned to induct 95 LCHs.

As per the MoD, "This helicopter is equipped with requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability to perform roles of Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Destruction of Enemy Air Defence (DEAD), Counter Insurgency (CI) operations, against slow-moving aircraft and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), high altitude bunker busting operations, Counter Insurgency operations in jungle and urban environments and support to ground forces and would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of Indian Air Force & Indian Army."

State-of-the-art technologies and systems compatible with stealth features such as reduced Visual, Aural, Radar and IR signatures and crashworthiness features for better survivability have been integrated in LCH. Several key aviation technologies like Glass Cockpit and composite airframe structures have been indigenised.

# Filmmaking Workshop - Road to Mumbai at Guwahati on October 15-16 for NE India

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3

Bharatiya Chitra Sadhna Chalachitram will conduct a film making workshop entitled ROAD TO MUMBAI on October 15-16 at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati for the candidates from North Eastern states including Sikkim. The classes will be held from 10 am to 4 pm. Fee for the two-day workshop is Rs. 500. Applicants of age group 20 to 30 can apply for the workshop. Registration is open till 5 pm on October 8, 2022. Only 30 participants shall be selected for

the workshop. Participants will have to reach the workshop at their own conveyances. Organizer shall provide only boarding and lodging facility.

Candidates must register at [H.T.T.P.S://CHITRABHARATI.ORG/Workshop](http://H.T.T.P.S://CHITRABHARATI.ORG/Workshop). Willing candidates may also contact U. Datta at 7002153964 through Whatsapp only. Certificate will be given to successful trainees.

Bharatiya Chitra Sadhna Chalachitram encourages and trains the youth interested in different aspects of film making. In this regards, the orga-

nization has been conducting film-making workshops under the title ROAD TO MUMBAI at 15 different places namely Chennai, Mysuru, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Jaipur, Rohtak, Delhi, Noida, Lucknow, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and Guwahati across the country. During the two-day workshop participants are given training by veteran filmmakers.

The two best trainees from each workshop shall get a chance to attend 15-day workshop in Mumbai fee for which is Rs. 10,000. It is mandatory to provide all information in the registration form.

# AR conducts "Drill Training and Assistance to Attend Training Camp" for NCC Cadets

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

Somsai Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR(South) conducted drill training camp for NCC Girl Cadets of St. Joseph College and Sentinal

college, Ukhrul and also assistance was provided for vehicle conveyance to Imphal from October 2 till October 9, 2022 enabling them to attend Training being conducted by 65 Manipur NCC Girl Battalion, Imphal.

The initiative is aimed to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of youths & also to promote them to join Indian Armed Forces.

The local populace applauded the efforts made by Assam Rifles for undertaking such initiatives.

# LEIKO organized book review programme



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

LEIKOL yesterday organized a Review cum Discussion Programme of the book titled "Asengba Eral" authored by Kshetrimayum Subandane at Manipur Press Club here in

Imphal. Professor Nahakpam Aruna, Dean, School of Humanities, MU presided the programme. Professor Moirangthem Priyobarta, Principal Imphal college spoke on the writing and expression of the book. Dr. Heigrujam Roybala,

Faculty Member, DMU spoke on the theme of the book while Dr Wahabang Kumari Chanu, Faculty Member, MU spoke on the character of women portrayal in the book Asengba Eral. Many writers of different literary organization attended the event.

# India records 3,011 new Covid-19 cases, 28 deaths

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 3:

India sees slight drop in infections with 3,011 Covid cases reported in the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. This drop in cases comes after the country reported 3,375 yesterday.

As per the ministry, active cases in the country has now declined to 36,126 from the earlier 37,444. A decline of 1,318 cases has been recorded in the

active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The active cases comprises 0.08 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.73 per cent, the health ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.23 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 1.31 per cent.

The country saw 4,301 recoveries in the last 24 hours, with this the total number of recoveries now stands at

440,32,671.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,701 with 28 fatalities which includes 20 deaths recorded by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

Under the nationwide vaccination drive, 218.77 crore total vaccine doses with 94.87 crore received second dose and 21.41 crore are precaution doses. A total of 1,70,034 doses have been administered in last 24 hours, the ministry said.

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-core mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. It crossed the four-core mark on January 25 this year.

# Sixteen Indian Fishermen Land in Pakistani Jail

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Oct 3:

Sixteen Indian fishermen have been taken into custody and their two boats have been impounded by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) for allegedly straying into Pakistani waters.

"On September 27, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), apprehended 02 Indian fishing boats along with 16 crew members. The apprehensions were made by a PMSA ship during routine surveillance in maritime zones of Pakistan, the PMSA stated in a tweet on Sept 30.

"The boats were apprehended for violation of Pakistani Law and UN Convention of Law at Sea. After an initial investigation, the boats were towed to Karachi and the apprehended fishermen were handed over to Docks Police

for further legal formalities" the PMSA's another tweet read.

However, the boat owner Mulji Khorawa residing at Mangrol, Junagadh district (Gujarat) claimed that the boats "Pusti Krupa" and "Matsyagandha" carrying 09 and 07 fishermen respectively, were within Indian territory and they were detained illegally.

Out of 07 fishermen, 06 hail from Aswali Village of Dahanu in Palghar district (near Mumbai) in Maharashtra. Their names were given as Navsya Mahada Bhimra, Sarit Umarsada, Vijay Nagvasi, Jairam Thakar, Umji Padvi, and Vinod Koli. The seventh fisherman Krishna Raman Bhujad is from outside Maharashtra. Similarly, the 09 fishermen on the boat "Pusti Krupa" are reportedly from Gujarat.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) MLA from

Dahanu Vinod Nikole in a letter, has urged Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to take up the matter with Union Government and seek immediate release of the Indian fishermen since this is for the first time the fishermen in large number have been arrested by the Pakistani authorities.

"They have certainly not strayed with intention of poaching. The poor fishermen do not operate well-equipped sophisticated boats and there could be an error of judgment while navigating. The fishermen from the Pakistani side also enter the Indian waters. As such there should be an agreement between both the countries to deport each other's fishermen", Nikole said in his letter dated October first.

"If the maritime authorities notice that the fishing trawlers are entering each other's exclusive economic zone, then the

authorities from both sides (PMSA and Indian Coast Guard), could forewarn them and ask them to return to their respective country instead of taking a penal action", Nikole said.

The MLA has further stated that now these fishermen will have to languish in a Pakistani jail for 1 to 1/2 years. As such, the Union External Affairs Ministry should immediately get in touch with the Indian Embassy in Pakistan and in turn the Embassy should hear the version of the arrested fishermen to resolve the dispute. The CPM demands immediate Government intervention of the authorities in the matter, Nikole added.

Nikole also pointed out that last year the fisherman Sridhar Chamre from Palghar died in the unjustified firing by the PMSA on an Indian boat. Unfortunately, the victim's family is yet to get any compensation.

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# Beyond ODF – making way.....

For managing domestic wastewater (barring water from toilets), technically termed 'grey water', the Sujlam 1.0 and Sujlam 2.0 campaigns were rolled out to ensure that this waste water does not contaminate valuable rural natural water resources such as ponds, lakes, and rivers. For managing the fecal sludge, we are encouraging states to convert all single pit toilets into twin pit toilets, where the treatment is in-situ. For other types of toilets like septic tanks, the focus is on setting up Faecal Sludge management systems comprising collection, transport, and treatment of septage and faecal waste in Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants.

Besides all the above, there are extensive behavioral change campaigns to nudge

people towards adopting safe sanitation systems and practices. There is Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign—SBMs annual cleanliness fortnight, focussing on cleaning of legacy waste and garbage vulnerable sites, ensuring segregation of waste at source, construction of waste collection and segregation sheds, purchase of waste collection vehicles, door to door collection of non-biodegradable waste, keeping water bodies clean, tree plantation, implementing Single Use Plastic (SUP) ban etc.. This year over 2 crore people participated through shramdan in SHS 2022, and over 460,000 legacy waste dumps were identified and cleared.

What have all our efforts achieved in two and a half years? I am proud to share that

more than 1.14 lakh villages have declared themselves as ODF Plus and around 3 lakh villages have initiated solid and liquid waste management works, embarking on their journey to become ODF Plus.

The target is to have six lakh ODF plus villages and while doing so provide jobs and raise income levels of rural India. As responsible and proud citizens of the country, under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, let us unite in our effort of 'Swachhata se Swablamban' and be a shining example of total sanitation and hygiene to the global community!

Jai hind!  
(The author is Minister for Jal Shakti, Government of India)

## By-polls to 7 assembly constituencies in 6 states on November 3: Election Commission

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 3:

By-elections for seven assembly constituencies in six states will be held on November 3, followed by counting of votes three days later, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said on Monday, announcing the schedule.

Of the seats for which by-polls will be held, two are in Bihar (Mokama, Gopalganj),

and one each in Maharashtra (Anandheri East), Haryana (Adampur), Telangana (Munugode), Uttar Pradesh (Gola Gokranath), and Odisha (Dhannagar).

The exercise was necessitated due to vacancy on each seat. Anant Kumar Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the-then MLA from Mokama, was disqualified in July after his conviction in a case, while BJP's Subhash

Singh, who held the Gopalganj seat, passed away in August.

The Anandheri East, Gola Gokranath and Dhannagar constituencies, too, fell vacant due to the demise of their respective legislators: the Shiv Sena's Ramesh Latke (in May) and BJP's Arvind Giri and Bishnu Sethi (both in September). In Haryana, resignation by Kuldeep Bishnoi, and by K Rajagopal Reddy in

Telangana, led to vacancy on the Adampur and Munugode segments respectively.

Meanwhile, as per the schedule announced by the poll panel, gazette notification for the by-polls will be issued on October 7, while October 14 is the last date to submit nominations. Candidates can withdraw their nomination on or before October 17, and the by-elections have to be completed before November 7.

## LEIKOL celebrates 2nd Foundation Day



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

The 22nd Foundation day of Leimarol Khorjeikol (LEIKOL) was celebrated today at Manipur Press Club today. On the occasion senior

members of LEIKOL were also felicitated.

MLA Khongbantabam Ibombcha, who is the Chairman of Manipur Handloom and Handicraft Development Co-operation LTD attended the occasion as Chief Guest while

Kshetrimayum Subadani, President of LEIKOL presided over the function. P. Binola Devi, Adakshya of Imphal East Jila Parishad and Saratchand Thiyam, Sahitya Akademi Awardee attended as guest of honour.

## Alarmed Over Bomb Threat, Iranian Plane Enroute China Seeks Landing in Delhi

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 3:

A bomb threat was reported over the Indian airspace onboard an Iranian passenger jet that was enroute China. According to sources, an alert was initially sounded and IAF Su-30 MKI fighter jets from Punjab and Jodhpur were scrambled to intercept the plane.

The Airbus A340 operated by Iranian carrier Mahan Air, with a capacity of between 320 and 475 passengers was on its way from Tehran in Iran and was enroute Guangzhou in China. The Mahan Air flight is said to have contacted the Delhi airport ATC after the airline received a bomb threat and called for an immediate landing at Delhi.

Responding to the call by Mahan Air, Delhi ATC suggested the aircraft make an emergency landing in Jaipur, but the aircraft pilot reportedly refused to divert the plane and left the Indian airspace, according to ATC sources. The plane was also reportedly given another option to land at Chandigarh as well.

According to IAF sources,



the IAF jets were scrambled after they received information about the threat and they followed the plane maintaining a safe distance as per SOPs. However, the aircraft was allowed to continue on its flight towards China after Iranian agencies asked the IAF to disregard the threat. The IAF also said that the jets continued to follow the passenger jet closely until it left the Indian airspace.

"All actions were taken by IAF as per laid down procedure, jointly with the Ministry of Civil

Aviation (MoCA) and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). The aircraft was under close radar surveillance by the Air Force throughout the Indian airspace," a statement by the IAF read.

The Mahan Airline also issued a statement about the incident and said "the pilot, as soon as he learned about the possibility of a bomb in the flight, shared the situation with the nearby control center. After communication with the operation control center of Mahan

Air, the pilot realised that the bomb threat was fake and that the flight was completely safe."

Sources say, the first call about the "bomb threat" was made around 10 am. After contacting the Delhi airport and trying to land in Indian soil, the plane was soon out of the Indian airspace and ATC operations were restored. Reports suggest that the passenger jet is now moving towards China and security agencies are monitoring the plane.

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## Digital India Conference of State...

Ashwini Vaishnav, in his initial address stated that Team Digital India comprising Central and State Governments have to fulfil the aspirations of youths and 1.3 Bn people. He said that focus is on creating employment, achieving target of 1 Trillion Dollar Digital Economy and 1 Crore Digital Jobs by 2026. He also said that coming up with the new policies namely Telecom Bill and Digital Data Protection Bill and States are encouraged to share their constructive suggestions.

Thereafter, State / UT IT Ministers shared the progress of connectivity, electronic manufacturing efforts, e-governance initiatives taken under Digital India in their respective States. They also shared the issues concerned with connectivity, opening of more cen-

ters of NIELIT, CDAC, STPI, opening of CoE in emerging areas and the policy matters.

In his closing remarks, MEIT stated that the connectivity is vital for the Digital India and its reach to every corner of the country. He announced that Rs 36,000 crore to install new 25,000 towers in next 500 days have been approved. The list of spots for installing towers is prepared in consultation with States / Chief Secretaries. States can further review the list. He also announced that Rs 1.64 lakh crore will be used for revival of BSNL in a comprehensive manner and it will be rolled out in next 18 months. Design in India and Make-In-India will be big beneficiary. He congratulated all States and UTs for their speedy on boarding at PM Gati Shakti. He also announced that the fi-

bre network will be put on a common portal, which will help States and UTs to plan layout driven infrastructure projects, and digital transformational projects. He informed that the policy related matter are / will be determined in due consultation with States. He also shared that the special assistance to States for capital expenditure worth Rs 2000 Crore has been supported. He encouraged the States to be proactive and make business friendly policies to attract businesses in their States. Emphasizing on the motto of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas, he stated that the commitments from all States and UTs, large as well as small States, are vital in taking Digital India to higher level and in realizing the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Trillion Dollar Digital Economy.

## Sports

## Ranju shines at 36th National Games, 2022



IT News  
Imphal, Oct 3:

Chingangbam Ranju Singh, who is hailing from Kongsam Leikai, Imphal East district has created a new history by winning the first ever gold medal for Manipur State in Skateboarding category at 36th National Games, 2022.

Earlier, he had also secured second position by winning silver medal at 1st India Skate Roller Games, 2022 which was held at Mohali, Chandigarh by Roller Skating Federation of India (RSFI).

The Manipur State Team for Skateboarding was led by Irom Umananda Mangang, Secretary of Manipur Extreme

Sports and Skate Association (MESSA). The hardworking and dedicated efforts brings the long awaited fruitful result by bringing laurels for the state at the National Games, which is the highest sporting event platform of India. In life, if we need to achieve something we need to work hard with perseverance and with full dedication.

## Erling Haaland, Phil Foden hat-tricks help Manchester City thrash Manchester United 6-3

Agency  
London, Oct 3:

Erling Haaland and Phil Foden scored hat-tricks as Manchester City thrashed Manchester United 6-3 to move to within a point of Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland has scored hat-tricks in each of his last three Premier League home games to take his tally as a City player to 17 in 10 competitive games for the English champions.

"You can see the passes we give each other. We always want to go forward and to attack," Haaland told Sky Sports. "It's what I love about the team. In the end, it's amazing. There is nothing more to say."

Antony's strike and Anthony Martial's late double ensured United avoided a record defeat in the Manchester derby as they remain in sixth, nine points off the top.

Since also conceding four times inside the first 45 minutes at Brentford in August, United had bounced back with four consecutive Premier League wins to offer hope they are heading in the right direction under Erik ten Hag.

But the Red Devils were



given a rude awakening of the gulf that still exists between the Manchester giants.

City could have scored many more than the four they managed in a blistering first half performance that swept away any doubts caused by an inconsistent start to the season from Pep Guardiola's men.

Within four minutes it took two goal-line clearances and a fine save from David de Gea to deny Haaland, Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva the opening goal.

Four minutes later, City did open the floodgates when Foden swept home Silva's cross for the Manchester native's first derby goal.

mark on 34 minutes.

**Haaland's hat-trick haul**

United were left to bemoan the absence of Raphael Varane to defend a De Bruyne corner as he received treatment on an ankle injury that forced him off at half-time.

Without the Frenchman, there was no match for Haaland's presence in the penalty box as his header crossed the line before Tyrell Malacia's attempted clearance.

Moments later, City showcased their ability to counter-attack as Jack Grealish fed De Bruyne, who perfectly picked out Haaland to convert on the stretch at the back post.

Haaland then turned provider with a low cross that Foden converted to leave United trailing 4-0 at half-time for the third time in a year.

Unlike, in a 5-0 defeat at Old Trafford to Liverpool last season and at Brentford last month, there was some semblance of a United response after the break.

Antony smashed home his second goal in as many Premier League appearances since a £82 million (\$92 million) move from Ajax.

But Haaland quickly reclaimed centre stage with a thumping finish to meet Sergio Gomez's cross.

Michael Owen's record of three hat-tricks in his first 48 appearances had stood as a Premier League record for over two decades, but Haaland has needed just eight.

City were on course to match the record margin of victory in a Manchester derby when Haaland set up Foden to smash home and complete his hat-trick.

That was Foden's final involvement as he was withdrawn in a quadruple change as Guardiola could afford to also hand a rest to De Bruyne, Gundogan and Grealish.

United took advantage of City taking their foot off the accelerator in the final 10 minutes as substitute Martial scored twice to cut the arrears.