

Imphal-Aizawl-Imphal flight operation launched today

IT News
Imphal, Oct 30:

Imphal-Aizawl-Imphal flight operation was launched today by Alliance Air, a division of Air India Limited. The flight was launched from the Bir Tikendrajit International Airport in Imphal by Union Civil Aviation Minister in the presence of Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, Manipur Chief Minister CM N Biren Singh and other officials of Northeast states today morning.

"Happy to attend the inaugural of Imphal-Aizawl-Imphal flight operations of Alliance Air flight at Imphal International Airport in the presence of Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju ji, Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia ji and many other esteemed dignitaries from Northeastern states," Chief Minister N Biren Singh said in a social media post.

The chief minister also mentioned, "This was another significant milestone achieved in terms of air con-



nectivity as the NE states witness the growth of aircraft movements under the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji's UDAN scheme, which has made air travel affordable by upgrading airports, increasing air routes, and subsidizing air travel.

"With a total of Rs 5,500

crore allotted for the upgradation of airports, gone are the days of marginalization, backwardness, and underdevelopment as Manipur and the rest of the NE states are now a high-priority area for development, progress, and integration".

According to Alliance

Air, the Imphal-Aizawl-Imphal flight will operate five days a week - on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The Imphal to Aizawl flight departure timing is 10:05 am and arrival time is 10:45 am, while the Aizawl to Imphal flight departure is 11:15 and arrival time is 11:55.

Large number of Logao dice seized by the Imphal West Police disposed today

IT News
Imphal, Oct 30:

Large number of Logao dice seized by the Imphal West district police during the Diwali and Ningol Chakouba Festival were display today at Imphal West district police station and later disposed at Lamdeng waste management site today.

Police stations of Imphal West district which seized the highest number Logao Dice were awarded by Imphal West SP Ksh Sivakanta. Speaking to media SP Sivakanta said that the police conducted the drive against the gambling of logao dice to prevent any unwanted crises during the festival. He said that the police have information about people throwing huge amount of money on Logao gambling and its impact to the family. In order to



prevent any unwanted crisis arisen out of the logao gambling the police conducted the drive and seized the logao Dice.

Imphal Police station received a sum of Rs. 20,000/- for seizing the highest number of Logao Dice while Mayang Imphal Police Station Received

a sum of Rs. 15,000/- for seizing 2nd highest number of Logao Dice. On the other hand the Sekmai Police station was declared as the third best police station in Imphal West district and awarded a sum of Rs. 10,000/-.

Special Best prize were also awarded with a sum of Rs

20000/- to CDO Imphal West for recovery of 238 sets of Logao Dices (1428 pieces)

S.L.L. Shitaljit Singh of CDO IW was awarded as highest individual recovery with cash prize of Rs 10000/-.

All the Logao Dices were disposed at Lamdeng today evening.

Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi recounts India's achievements from space sector to Nation Games, pays tribute to Birsa Munda

New Delhi, Oct 30:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the 94th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. PM Modi extended his greeting to the nation on the occasion of Chhath Puja, called it a 'great' example of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

"In Chhath Puja, the Sun worship is proof of the deep connection of our culture with nature... We see such grand pictures of Chhath puja being celebrated in foreign countries which means that Indian culture and its faith is making a mark in all corners of the world," he said.

PM Modi further noted that India is harnessing solar energy in a big way. "In solar energy, India has become one of the leading countries in the world. The way solar energy is transforming the lives of the poor and middle classes is a matter of study," he said.

He noted that most of the houses in Gujarat's Modhara have started generating electricity from solar power, and called it a great achievement.

Prime Minister also talked about India's achievement in the space sector and said, the country is emerging as a strong player in the global commercial market with the latest launches by ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation). Last week, ISRO's heaviest rocket- LVM-3 - launched 36 communication satellites into



space. With this, ISRO's launcher has entered the global commercial market.

"While talking to you people, I am reminded of the time when India was denied Cyogenic Rocket Technology. After this the Indian scientists not just developed the space tech in India, but has been sending dozens of satellites to space," PM Modi said.

He noted that after the space sector was opened for India's youth, revolutionary changes have started coming into it. "Start-ups are bringing new innovations and technologies in this field," PM Modi said.

Student power is the basis of making India powerful, PM Modi said, adding that it is the youth of today, who will take India to new heights in the coming years. "This decade is India's 'techade'. The youth is working at an unprecedented pace through hackathons to solve challenges that the nation is facing," he said.

He further informed that

this month, 23 IITs came together to showcase their research projects. "IIT Bhubaneswar team has made a portable ventilator for infants. This ventilator can be used on battery and can be used in remote areas to save the lives of premature infants," he said talking about one of the projects.

He also recounted India's achievements in the field of sports and said, "You will be happy to know that the National Games this time was the biggest ever organised in India. 36 sports were included in this, in which, 7 new and two indigenous competitions, Yoga and Mallakhamb were also included."

The Prime Minister then urged countrymen to be sensitive towards the environment and urged it to make it a way of life. He also mentioned environment-friendly initiatives from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Tripura which could inspire everyone.

contd. on page 4

Minor girl allegedly raped; 2 arrested

IT News
Imphal, Oct 30:

October 29.

As per report, the mother of the victim minor girl lodged a complaint to the Officer in Charge of the Imphal East District Women police station about the kidnapping and raped of her daughter by two persons on October 24. As per her complaint her daughter was taken by the two persons at around 1 pm of October 24.

As per the complaint, the district women police of Imphal East first arrested one 18 years old person identified as Maibam Sanayaima of Yairipok Kekru Mayai Leikai on October 26. Another alleged rapist identified as Ngangam Anthony (aged 32) of Yairipok Yambem Mathak Leikai surrendered to the police station.

AIMS to organise International Seminar on "Bamboo Plantation, Hardening & Bamboo as Earthquake Proof materials for Construction"

IT News
Imphal, Oct 30:

Apunba Imagi Machasing (AIMS) is organising a two-day International Seminar on "Bamboo Plantation, Hardening & Bamboo as Earthquake Proof materials for Construction" from 7th to 8th of November 2022 at Hotel Classic Grande, Imphal East. The Seminar will be jointly organised with Manipur State Bamboo Mission, Government of Manipur, Manipur University, Canchipur, CSIR-NEIST, Lamphelpat.

The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) asserts that Northeast India is highly vulnerable to earthquakes as geomorphologically, this region falls under the Seismic Hazard Zone V, the highest in the seismic map of India. In the last 100 years, the region has experienced 18 large earthquakes (M>7). This includes the great earthquakes of Shillong (1897) and the Assam-Tibet border (1950), both with M=8.7. Besides, several small and microearthquakes have also been recorded frequently in

the region. For example, on 4th January 2016, an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale with its epicentre in Kabui Khullen in Tamenglong district of Manipur struck the state. Moreover, in 2020 an earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Northeast India, including Assam, Manipur, Tripura, and Mizoram.

While India possesses the technological know-how to build quake-proof bamboo houses, easy-to-acquire and transfer, cheaper and user-friendly technologies are mak-

ing inroads in the world bamboo scenario. What matters at the moment is acquiring such technology which is closer to the traditional architectural design and ways of life of the Northeast people in general and Manipur in particular. It is because, traditionally, Northeast people have been using bamboo as a construction material since time immemorial. In other words, Northeast civilisation is based on bamboo culture. At the same time, bamboo materials (treated, hardened and processed) should be affordable

and cost-effective as compared to other building materials.

This brings us to the understanding that bamboo varieties suitable for construction need to be available abundantly. Therefore, there is the need for mass-scale bamboo plantation in the region. Whether bamboo propagation occurs through natural seedlings or tissue culture depends on the orientation of the Government at the policy level. However, there is a need to encourage common people to undertake bamboo plantations

and also opt bamboo as a quake-proof building material.

The Seminar will broadly be divided into three technical sessions for the benefit of bamboo growers, farmers, entrepreneurs, processors, fabricators, architects and engineers:

* Earthquakes in Manipur and Northeast India

* Bamboo Hardening Processes

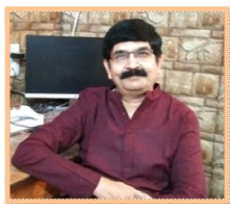
* Bamboo Plantation & Management

Resource persons from reputed institutes and various parts of India will present papers on various aspects of

Earthquake and importance of Bamboo. Dr. Jean-Luc Kouyoumji, President, Bamboo Science & Innovation and World Bamboo Ambassador, will also present his paper on Bamboo Treatment, Construction, Design, Products and Implementation.

Through this Press Release, we would like to invite farmers, entrepreneurs, Architects, Interior Designers, wooden fabricators and bamboo lovers to take part in this Seminar to gather knowledge on various technologies pertaining to Bamboo.

Success is achieved step-by-step



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

It is rightly said that "Thinking: Ideas to succeed come from within" We all know that the world has always worshipped the rising sun. Nothing can defeat a man who is prepared to struggle alone, with confidence against odds, poverty, misfortune and hardships. For him, there are no "ifs" and "buts". There are examples where people have started life as streets hawkers or sellers or penny novelties have risen to the position of multi-millionaires by dint of hard work and perseverance. Success provides confidence, security, a sense of well-being, the ability to contribute at a greater level, hope and leadership. Without success, you, the group, your company, your goals, dreams and even entire civilizations cease to survive. Some people spend their entire lives wondering how to be successful in life, but never figure it out. Without achieving any success, we might look back on our life disappointed by our lack of impact on the world. Striving to achieve a greater purpose is what keeps us fighting to survive and grow.

"Failure isn't the end of life" but would further add that "Failures are the pillars of success". The modern world is almost mad after the cult of success. Work is worship. One must take life as it comes. It is real, hard, solid work that takes a man to the peak of fame. Life is born out of pain and ends in pain. To attain glory no extraordinary merit or power is required except awareness and performance of duties. Many of character alone has vision, his perseverance alone is crowned with glory. Heaven helps those who help themselves by doing their duties. Obstacles melt before them making their path smooth. Moreover, people compare different people performance to evaluate their success. But success is not something that you can copy from others. You have to make your own path to achieving success. In modern-day, people are obsessed with success because of the glamour and lifestyle of successful people.

"Success is achieved step-by-step." Life is an uphill journey and at the top rests glory. If we want to reach the top of the mountain, we can reach it only by climbing and not by sitting down idly and looking at the sighing for it. Not in enjoyment, non in luxury, not in wealth and power, not in rank and position, but in the performance of duty alone lies success. Life is not a bed of roses but a grim field of action. We all knew that we can't achieve something without sacrificing something. Success also demands various things from you. But these sacrifices will not go in vain if you achieve your goal.

No doubt, "Everybody may face defeating situation sometimes in life. It may require a little mental training to overcome them." If Mahatma Gandhi & Jawahar Lal, Netaji and Bhagat Singh could shake the foundations of the British empire, it is because they were men of courage. If a person is very sincere in his work, he is bound to win the admiration as well as help of others. Man's energies limited. If he goes on drifting from one aim to another, he is likely to achieve nothing. A rolling stone, they say, gathers no moss, in the same way man cannot have unity of purpose without clarity of vision. We should remember that fortune smiles only on those who strive hard.

In the Midst of Gift Wars

By: Chingtamnganbi Loitongbam

I know I might be a little late for this but, I would like to wish to all the women folk of Manipur, "Belated Happy Ningol Chakouba". Ningol Chakouba is a festival of Manipur from the time immemorial where it shows the bond between the brothers and sisters. In this festival, the brothers and sisters have a happy feast together at the brother's house. And the brother wishes their sister to lead a happy life and enjoy a prosperous life. As the sister has been married to another clan, she has been away from her brothers for years so, taking Ningol Chakouba as the auspicious opportunity - they invite their sisters back home and offer them gifts within their own capacity.

If my opinions are to be put across, I would like to bring some dark shadows to the bright light. In the midst of this wonderful culture, there rises an unwanted race in the path of offering and receiving gifts during this occasion. To some families who have no financial struggles, this is nothing but a piece of cake. But to some struggling hand to mouth, this is yet another issue in the family. I won't exaggerate an inch here, this is a happening reality even in my surroundings as well.

I know buying gifts for sisters you grew up with is a heavenly service. But many seem to forget what brings those material gifts; it's nothing but money itself. I won't lie, it's tempting. Even if I am writing so much about why taking material gifts is bad, I couldn't deny that when my maternal uncles gave me a lot of money, I kept putting it in my pocket. Funny but this is the beginning of the gift war.

Now - this might be catching a lot of your attention. And frankly speaking, it might be happening in your own family as well. The war of COMPETING GIFTS. "Eikhoi ebung na d washing machine pirak a, noi d batin ama khak pirak a bo," the most common lines of this happening truth.

Instead of all this massacre, it would be so much better if all the NINGOLS would come back home to have a wonderful time with their brothers and stop this gift wars and just accept blessings instead of getting drowned in the GIFT world. Even if I write a thousand articles, some of you might think "Keino Chingtamnganbi sey dokhana fangdabro," but I am just being honest. I have seen so many families break down because of these gift wars.

So, the best way to stop this is to start from our family itself. Let's all try to understand that life is simple and it's all about just having a good time. And now, let me end by saying this, "Mei laktradi washing machine dei batin na henna kanabani."

(The writer is a class 9 student in Ajad English School, Meitram.)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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By: Dr. Ingudam Bhupenchandra

➤ Vermicomposting is a simple process of composting, in which certain species of earthworms are used to enhance the process of waste conversion and produce a better end product.

➤ Vermicompost can define as the useful, granular castings excreted by the earthworm as a result of the complete digestion of agro-waste, farm waste etc. Therefore, it also refers to as "Vermicasting"

➤ It is a mesophilic process, utilizing microorganisms and earthworms that are active at 10-32°C (not ambient temperature but temperature within the pile of moist organic material)

Steps In Vermicomposting
✓ Collection of input substrate for vermicomposting

Any organic wastes which are readily degradable like crop residues, weed biomass, vegetable trash, leaf litter, kitchen trash, agro-based-industries waste and urban and rural wastes can be used as an essential raw material for vermicomposting.

✓ Collection of compatible earthworm species

Only the surface feeders selected should be used for vermicomposting. Earthworms such as *Epigeic* are suitable and popular for vermicomposting. Commonly

used *Epigeic* used for vermicomposting are *Eisenia foetida*, *Eudrilus eugeniae* (both are exotic worms) and *Perionyx excavatus* (native to India).

✓ Starter material

Cow dung, biogas slurry, or urine of cattle (having low C:N ratio) In the first phase of the vermicomposting process, these starters are resorted as are used as feeding material to breed and augment a satisfactory population of earthworms. Once the worm population has been attained, consequently other sources of organic wastes are added to sustain the population of earthworms.

✓ Selection of a suitable location for vermicomposting can be done

Preferably any place with shades, high humidity and a cool area is generally adopted for vermicompost production. Mostly, unused cattle shed, or poultry shed or unused buildings can also be used. It also can be executed in an open area with sufficient shading. During the vermicompost production waste generated is heaped and covered with moist gunny bags to avoid moisture loss.

✓ Structures for vermicomposting

The compost can be prepared either in a concrete tank (size depends on the availability of raw materials) or any suitable type of structure that can be used.

Process of vermicomposting

• Collect and heap the input substrate under the sun or separate tank for about 7-10 days or until well decomposed

• Chop and shred the hard materials if required

• Sprinkle cow dung slurry on the heap to hasten the decomposition

Vermicomposting

• Place the chopped bio-waste and partially decomposed cow dung layer-wise in the tank up to a depth of 0.5-1.0 ft

• If possible, fresh cow dung about 2-4 inches thick is covered each layer repeatedly in 2-3 layers

• The uppermost layer should be covered by cow dung uniformly

• Release about 1000-2000 worms/m² of any of the above earthworm species over the mixture.

• Cover the compost mixture with dry straw or thatch or gunny bag

• Sprinkle water as and when necessary to maintain 70-80% moisture content.

• Provide shade over the compost mixture to protect it from rainwater and direct sunshine.

HARVESTING

• The vermicompost is ready for harvesting when the earthworm's excrement or castings are observable over the soil surface. During this stage, the worms and solid waste are separated manually.

• For the separation of the earthworm and solid waste: Stop watering for 2-3 days, due to which, they will move towards the bottom of the bed. Then, subject the compost to the light treatment, after which the earthworms will migrate towards the cooler base. At last, eliminate the worm and the solid waste through sieves or meshes.

• Collect the vermicompost by scraping layer-wise from the top of the tank and keep it under the shade

QUALITY CHECKING

• At the time of quality checking, the texture, colour, porosity, odour, moisture etc. are the parameters which are of importance.

• The vermicompost should have granular-texture, dark-black coloured, light-weight,

earth-like smell and 40% of moisture content. A musty smell from the compost indicates the presence of mould or any lousy odour indicates incomplete decomposition.

PROPHYLACTIC MEASURES TO BE TAKEN UP IN VERMIBED

• If the container is too small and the worms are overcrowded, they will stop breeding.

• Moisture the bedding and add worms-1,000 starter worms are recommended for 1 m² bed

• Use materials that are locally available and inexpensive

• All earthworms breathe through their skin. To do so, the skin must remain moist all the time. Without adequate moisture, the worms will shrivel and die very quickly

• Earthworms need darkness

• Avoid leaving the lid off of your worm bin or working with them under hot or bright lights.

SEPARATION TECHNIQUE OF EARTHWORM AND COCOON

• Heap the harvested vermicompost for 6-12 hrs. under shade for separation of the worm

• Make small balls of cow dung and kept inside the heap for 2-3 days

• Remove the balls and earthworm and separate them from the whole compost for reuse

• Sieve gently the vermicompost and pack it for further use or sale

• Dry vermicompost (if necessary) under shade to keep the moisture content below 20 per cent

[The author is a Matter Specialist (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK Tamenglong, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Research Complex for North-Eastern Hill Region, Manipur Centre, Imphal, Manipur, India]

The Quest For Social Equality



By: M.R. Lahu

them into relentless suffering and persecution and suppression. The Islamic morality police and its intervention in people's life seem to have gone beyond an acceptable limit. India did not debate this important development of Iran. There is a visible reluctance in our country to bring the topic for a sensible discussion. Everybody is conveniently silent on the impact of Islamic radicalisation and a revolution seeking progress and liberation in a country which considers women as veiled creatures. Amini is a symbol and the Iranian outrage is a message that the world should actually be cognizant of. With its reach in essence and practice across the globe, the world's second largest religion poses certain significant questions when its rigidity becomes abhorrent and dishonest. The first one is, how long any administration would fight back human aggression against the spiritual madness of religions. Will clamping down on the internet and clashing with the outrageous public cure the real malady that the society is infested with? Why are some religions unable to bring credible, viable and visible humanitarian amendments in their religious ethos? How long should the world suffer these unprincipled ways of patriarchal interventions?

India's hesitation to debate the Iranian stalemate needs to be seen as the result of its secular compulsions. The split verdict on the hijab controversy has added to the confusion. Sloganeering and unrepented gatherings in the Indian streets have disappeared temporarily since the perpetrators of the controversy, the Popular Front of India (PFI), have been under the scanner of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and a nationwide crackdown on the outfit on issues that concerned the country's

internal security. And of course, a predictable silence on Iranian uprising against the clergy is mostly because we have the same subject which is a controversy from a different angle. India witnessed a well calibrated protest in favour of the Hijab but the Iranian outrage is exactly against the hijab imposition; it is for the liberation from the suffocation of a veil that the religion made mandatory. The veil, indeed, is a reminder of the hegemony of the religious patriarchy that celebrates the suppression of the feminine considered to be preordained by the divine, therefore treated as holy and obligatory. Modesty laws enforced to the extent of persecution began to bring bubbles of repercussions in Iran. India being a democracy is yet to march in the direction of such extremist interventions. This is mainly due to the religious diversity that India managed to maintain with its significant majority and the majority in India not only advocates but also practices secularism. But we cannot deny the fact that the history of India tells us tales of intolerance in localities where religious radicalism flourished. Unrest, anger and outrage against other religions in areas where Islamic beliefs consolidated and disruptions amounting to rioting often disturb India's social fabric even today. For the sake of ornamenting a secular democratic republic with religious amity, it is unjustifiable to stay in denial of the reality.

Essentially, the aggression in Iran is a frantic pursuit of a significant chunk of its populace seeking a new secular beginning for the country; a change that the clergy would fight to quash by all possible means. India's hijab conundrum seems to be progressing in the opposite direction, compelling the secular framework of the country to snail-pace towards a 'religious'

republic. In Iran the government's retaliation on the protesters is a possible effort to establish its control over the society and retain a complete patriarchal dominance. India's hijab battle is also indicating the same spirit of a male dominance. But the difference is that the religious clergy in India managed to convince the Muslim women on a political reason that they encouraged them to stand united irrespective of the discomfort in the veil, just for the sake of challenging the administrative reforms of a party that they count as majoritarian. Unlike Iran, the clash in India is not between the patriarchy and the suppressed womenfolk. While a religious leadership with an extremely hard line approach is acting against the revolting crowd in Iran, India's secular identity with its democratic structure have so far managed to barricade such hard line ideas from being spread.

A recent poll reveals that more than 60% of Iranians want a non-religious state. An unquestionable thirst for democracy and freedom began to accelerate the movement in Iran. For India, its secular values always act as a platform for its people to cherish freedom in every sphere of life. But religious fundamentalism loaded with patriarchal sensitivities has despicably managed to gain attention and sympathy of the liberals and a section of the media in India with an insidiously imposed narrative such as the right to carry out religious dressing to schools and workplaces. The message that the Iranian public outrage passes would take time to sink in a beguiled society such as ours as India's secular freak show has terribly collapsed its cognitive abilities and its outlandishness seems to be dancing in tune with its own pathological condition of secularism.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/ Social Worker)

Somalia: At least 100 killed, 300 hurt in 'heinous' Mogadishu car bombings

Agency
Mogadishu, Oct 30:

At least 100 people have been killed and 300 wounded in two car bomb explosions in the capital Mogadishu, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said.

Blaming the al-Shabab armed group for the attacks, Mohamud told reporters on Sunday that he expected the death toll from the twin blasts to rise further.

"Our people who were massacred... included mothers with their children in their arms, fathers who had medical conditions, students who were sent to study, businessmen who were struggling with the lives of their families," the Somali leader said after visiting the site of the blast.

Authorities said the attack at the busy Sobe intersection on Saturday targeted the Somali education ministry and a school.

Sadiq Doodishe, a police spokesperson, told reporters that women, children and the elderly had been killed in the attack.

State news agency SONNA said independent journalist Mohamed Isse Kona was also killed.

The first explosion hit the ministry; then the second blast occurred as ambulances arrived and people gathered to help the victims, police officer Nur Farah told the Reuters news agency.

"I was 100 meters away when the second blast occurred," wit-



ness Abdirazak Hassan told The Associated Press news agency. "I couldn't count the bodies on the ground due to the [number of] fatalities." He said the first blast hit the perimeter wall of the education ministry, where street vendors and money changers plied their trade.

A Reuters journalist near the blast site said the two explosions occurred within minutes of each other and smashed windows in the vicinity. Blood from victims of the blasts covered the tarmac just outside the building, he said.

Moments after the blasts, a large plume of smoke rose over the site.

The Aamin ambulance service said on Saturday that they had collected at least 35 wounded people. One ambu-

lance responding to the first attack was destroyed by the second blast, director Abdulkadir Adan added in a tweet.

A driver and a first aid worker were wounded, he said.

The United Nations Mission in Somalia condemned Saturday's "vicious attack" and extended its condolences to the families of the victims. Turkey condemned the "heinous" attack, while Qatar - firmly rejecting violence and "terrorism" - expressed its condolences and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

The explosions occurred in the same location as Somalia's largest bombing in October 2017, which killed more than 500 people. In that bombing, a truck bomb exploded outside a busy hotel at the K5 inter-

section, which is lined with government offices, restaurants and kiosks.

Al-Qaeda-allied al-Shabab, which has been fighting in Somalia for more than a decade, is seeking to topple the central government and establish its own rule based on a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The group uses a campaign of bombings both in Somalia and elsewhere, and targets have included military installations as well as hotels, shopping centres, and busy traffic areas.

In August, at least 20 people were killed and dozens wounded when al-Shabab fighters stormed the Hayat Hotel in Mogadishu, triggering a 30-hour standoff with security forces before the siege was finally ended.

India reports 1,604 fresh COVID-19 cases

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 30:

With 1,604 more people testing positive for the coronavirus infection in a day, India's tally of COVID-19 cases has gone up to 4,46,52,266 while that of active cases has declined to 18,317, according to Union Health Ministry data on Sunday.

The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 5,29,016 with eight fatalities being recorded, including three reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Active cases now comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has

increased to 98.77 per cent, the health ministry said.

A decrease of 485 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours, the data showed.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.02 per cent, and the weekly positivity rate at 1.08 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,41,04,933, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.18 per cent.

According to the ministry, 219.63 crore doses of vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccina-

tion drive.

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

The country crossed the grim milestones of two crore COVID-19 cases on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

Five new deaths due to the disease were reported in the country - two each from Karnataka and Maharashtra, and one from Mizoram.

Tata Group Plans to Borrow Rs 15,000 crore for Air India's Working Capital

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Oct 30:

The Tata group is planning to acquire working capital loans of approximately Rs 15,000 crore from banks, for Air India, the airline it purchased from the government last year and began operations early this year.

The funds will be used to cover daily air operations and losses, to restore the fleet, to pay for aircraft rentals, and overhaul IT systems. The loan will have a three-year term with an annual reset of between 7.5 and 8 per cent, official sources said.

Last year, State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and Bank of Baroda provided a Rs 23,000 crore, unsecured loan to Talace, a Tata Sons company that won the bid for Air India, at a rate of 4.25 per cent. The loan is due for renewal in January next year.

In October last year, the Tata Group (Tata Sons, through Talace), emerged as the winning bidder for Air India with a bid amount of Rs 18,000 crore. The group paid Rs 2,700 crore and took over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt. Around Rs

46,000 crore was transferred to a special purpose vehicle - AI Asset Holding Ltd (AIHL). The deal also included the sale of AISATS. About 69 years after the government nationalised the airline in August 1953, it took the ownership of the carrier on January 27.

The Tata group announced the completion of the transaction for the purchase of Air India from the Government of India. The transaction covered three entities - Air India, Air India Express, and AISATS. Air India is India's flag carrier and premier full-service airline. Air India Express is a low-cost carrier. AISATS provides a comprehensive suite of ground handling and cargo handling services.

In January the government settled Rs 62,057 crore, of Air India's legacy debt and other liabilities that were left in AIHL. Of this Rs. 36,254 crore was infused as equity for repayment of past government-guaranteed borrowings of Air India and Rs 12,357 crore for repayment of borrowings for sale and leaseback rentals for aircraft. AIHL also held Air India's non-core assets such

as stake in Hotel Corp of India (HCIL), paintings and artifacts and immovable properties.

About Air India
Founded by the legendary JRD Tata, Air India has pioneered India's aviation sector and the airline's history is, in fact, synonymous with the annals of civil aviation in India.

Since its first flight on October 15, 1932, Air India has spread its wings to become a major international airline with a network across USA, Canada, UK, Europe, Far-East, South-East Asia, Australia and the Gulf. The airline also has an extensive domestic network, including far-flung areas of India's North-East, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Air India has been a member of Star Alliance, the largest global airline consortium, since July 2014.

India's first international budget carrier, Air India Express was launched in 2005 to meet the need for affordable services on short and medium-haul routes - connecting smaller towns directly to the Gulf and southeast Asia regions.

8 Bangladeshi nationals deported through Karimganj border post

Agency
Silchar, Oct 30:

Eight Bangladeshi nationals, who were lodged in different jails in Assam, were deported to Bangladesh via Sutarkandi border post in Karimganj district on Saturday, officials said.

A senior Karimganj district official said they were handed over to representatives of Bangladesh's paramilitary force, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The Bangladeshi nationals including a woman, who were arrested in the past few years on charges of entering the country illegally, were deported after completion of legal formalities.

The Bangladeshi nationals, who were deported are - Md. Lal Mia alias Mohammad Lal Mia Kazi, Lal Mia alias Lalan Mia, Mohir Uddin, Mohammad Abdul Motin, Farid Alam alias Akash, Atabur Rahman, Faima Begum alias Faima and Md. Rahim Mia alias Firdaus.

Among the deported Bangladeshi nationals, five were arrested in Karimganj district, two in Guwahati and one in Cachar district in the past, said the official.

Most of them are residents of Bangladesh's Sylhet district and they were languishing in Assam's jails for illegally entering India.

They entered Assam at different times without any valid documents crossing over the Indo-Bangla border.

45-year-old Fahima Begum and 30-year-old Mohammad Rahim Miya were arrested in 2019 in Guwahati, who were later found to be mentally challenged.

"They were rescued by an NGO at Guwahati's Bhangagarh area while collecting food from a dustbin. Later it was found that both are Bangladeshi nationals. Their country has recognised them and now we are sending them back," an official from the police said.

Career Guidance

Importance of Girl Child Education in Our Society



By: Vijay GarG

Educating the girl child leads to every perspective of education that strives at improving the skill and experience of girls. This comprises the general education at schools, colleges, professional education, vocational education, and technical education, etc. Here know the importance of girl child education in our society. Education is a vital part of a living being, whether it is a boy or a girl. Education assists an individual to be smarter, to learn

new things, and to know about the facts across the globe.

Education is regarded to be the grounds of our community because it is one of the quickest and most efficient methods of encouraging economic growth in any nation. It is perceived to be the important key to terminating poverty and crime towards females. Educating the girls of a nation from the best schools in India also promotes children's and women's endurance rates and health issues, child marriage, empowers women both at their workplace and also their home, and assist in dealing with climate change.

An educated girl can educate their entire family. For the improvement of Indian society or the complete world, girls should be well educated. On some days for the development of Indian and India society girls are working bet-

ter. In every region of development girls' education is most vital. Understanding the significance of women's education, the administration and various non-government organizations took several projects to increase women's education. So now here we will know the significance of girl education.

Child Education In Our Society: 1. Assist In Building More Stable Communities
Assist In Building More Stable Communities

Education offers strength and versatility which allows the nation to improve at a quicker rate from any dispute. The overall quality education can even assist prevent disputes in the first place by giving knowledge on social skills, problem-solving, and critical thinking at the schools. And when the main education is essential to girls and secondary education can be a transformative perspective in their life.

2. Promote Gender Equality

In today's society, gender equality continues to be a prevalent problem because of the persistent gap in terms of access to chances for women and men. Gender equality is a basic human right that every human being is entitled to regardless of race, sexuality, ethnicity, or religion. The role men and women play in society is completely determined and as a result, there is a gender gap. When girls in our community are more educated, more influence is placed on gender equality.

As women get equality, human rights become a powerful value of societies as women in governance tend to fight for underprivileged groups. Women's leadership in government also becomes more prevalent, and when women lead, women push for more impartial rules of governance.

3. Allow Girls To Make Their Own Decision
Allow Girls To Make Their Own Decision

Educated girls gave higher courage and independence to make decisions that change their lives. They are better promoted to examine the social imperative that women reside in the home, growing children and doing the regular housework. Education from the best schools in India enables young women to think beyond cultural standards and continue their desires for a better life.

4. Strengthens Economies And Advances The Fight To End Poverty

One of the clearest and obvious benefits of educating girl child from the best schools in India is the prospect for the economic development of a country. The similar even affects the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rate with an increase in

women education participation. When women of a country are learned and educated, the whole economy develops and flourishes.

5. Positive Change For Future Generations
Positive Change For Future Generations

The educated girl becomes an educated woman. Offering girls with education is a primary step in developing future generations of healthy, educated, and empowering girls. Educated women of the community can become future leaders, direct towards transformation, and build more powerful and significant societies. And therefore a nation is regarded only as wealthy because of its citizens.

6. Choice To Opt A Profession Of Her Choice

It is one of the vital importance of girl child education. The educated girls can demonstrate to be strong in their

several professions. When the girl child has the chance to be educated it offers her the better opportunity to become a successful engineer, doctor, or the choice of the profession she wishes.

7. Improved Life And Health

Improved Life And Health
Educating girl child assist in the improvement of a good life. The girl can read and learn about her rights. They won't be trodden down about her rights. There will be a general improvement in their life. Educated girls bring an awareness of the importance and health and hygiene. Through educating girls they can lead a healthy lifestyle.

Girl child education is one of the most vital concepts. Every girl in our society must have to be educated because education is the most influential and vital weapon that can be used to solve the difficulties of human lives.

At least 151 killed in Halloween crowd crush in South Korea

Agency
Seoul, Oct 30:

At least 151 people, mostly women and young people in their 20s, have been killed in a chaotic stampede in South Korea's capital, Seoul, after a huge crowd thronged a narrow street during Halloween celebrations.

A further 82 were hurt, 19 of them seriously, in the crowd crush that took place in the entertainment district of Itaewon on Saturday night, officials said.

The incident happened at about 10:00pm local time (13:00GMT) when large numbers of people flooded a narrow alley near the Hamilton Hotel, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing witnesses.

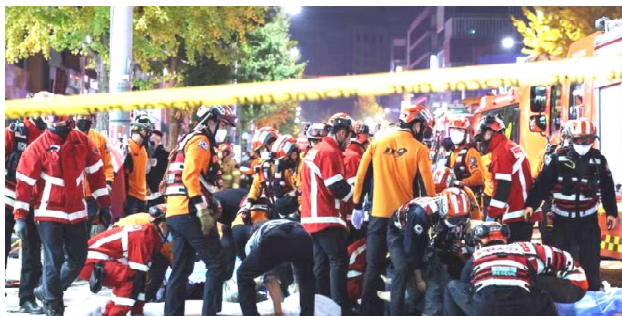
"The high number of casualties was the result of many being trampled during the Halloween event," fire official Choi Seong-beom told reporters at the scene on Sunday morning, adding that the death toll could climb.

Many of the victims were women and young people in their 20s, he said.

Nineteen foreigners were also killed, he said. They included people from Iran, Uzbekistan, China and Norway.

Witnesses described chaotic scenes moments before the stampede, with the police on hand in anticipation of the Halloween event at times having trouble maintaining control of the crowds. Some were trapped for more than an hour before being pulled from the crush of people in the alley.

Moon Ju-young, 21, told the



Reuters news agency there were clear signs of trouble in the alleys before the incident. "It was at least more than 10 times crowded than usual," he said.

"There were so many people just being pushed around and I got caught in the crowd and I couldn't get out at first too," 30-year-old Jeon Ga-eul told the AFP news agency. "I felt like an accident was bound to happen."

Police confirmed dozens of people were given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the streets, while others were taken to nearby hospitals.

Footage on social media showed multiple people, both rescue officials and private citizens, simultaneously performing CPR on people lying scattered in the street. Videos showed dozens of people covered with blue plastic sheets at the roadside.

In an interview with local broadcaster YTN, Lee Beom-suk, a doctor who administered first aid to the victims, described scenes of tragedy and chaos.

"When I first attempted CPR there were two victims lying on the pavement. But the number exploded soon after, outnumbering first responders at the scene," Lee said. "Many bystanders came to help us with CPR."

"It's hard to put in words to describe," he added. "So many victims' faces were pale. I could not catch their pulse or breath and many of them had a bloody nose. When I tried CPR, I also pumped blood out of their mouths."

Al Jazeera's Musun Kim, reporting from Seoul, said the area is usually crowded throughout the night on the weekends, but it was more packed than usual because of Halloween parties.

"[The] stampede happened in one small alley and a number of people started to fall down and got trapped, got trampled and crushed, with some losing consciousness," he said.

The Seoul metropolitan government, which had issued

emergency text messages urging those in the area to swiftly return home, said it has received reports of 355 missing people following the disaster.

Some local media reported the stampede occurred after a large group of people rushed to an Itaewon bar after hearing an unidentified celebrity visited there.

Authorities said they were investigating the exact cause of the incident. President Yoon Suk-yeol presided over an emergency meeting with senior aides and on Sunday declared a period of national mourning over the disaster.

"This is truly tragic," Yoon said in a statement. "A tragedy and disaster that should not have happened took place in the heart of Seoul last night."

US President Joe Biden and his wife sent their condolences and wrote: "We grieve with the people of the Republic of Korea and send our best wishes for a quick recovery to all those who were injured."

36 cases of XBB Subvariant of Omicron found in Maharashtra so far; Experts worry about 'Long Covid'

Agency
Mumbai, Oct 30:

The number of cases of XBB subvariant of Omicron in Maharashtra has reached 36, the health department said on Saturday, adding that in most of these cases patients recovered in home isolation.

The experts on the state government's Covid-19 Task Force, however, expressed concern about rising cases of 'long Covid' at a recent meeting, it said.

Pune district has reported 21 XBB cases to date, followed by 10 in Thane, two in Nagpur, and one each in Akola, Amravati, and Raigad.

Two of the XBB patients were in the 11-20 age group, 13 in the 21-40 segment, 14 in the 41-60 category and seven were over 60. The patients comprised 22 males and 14 females.

"Nine of the 36 patients

had some symptoms, while others displayed mild symptoms or were asymptomatic. A total of 32 patients recovered in home isolation and the rest four had to be hospitalised as a precautionary measure or due to lack of necessary conditions for home isolation," the release said.

No "atypical" symptoms were found in any of these 36 patients and none of them required oxygen or ventilatory support, it added.

Barring two of the 36 patients, all had been vaccinated, and five had taken the booster dose as well. Six XBB patients had been diagnosed with Covid-19 earlier.

Against the backdrop of the XBB detections, a meeting of the State Covid-19 Task Force was held on October 24.

"After studying the XBB variant found in

Maharashtra, Singapore, and elsewhere, (it has been observed that) even if the infections increase, the new variant seems mild and most patients could be treated in home isolation. A minimal number of patients may need hospitalization," the release said.

However, experts on the task force expressed concerns about 'long Covid'.

"Incidence of conditions such as diabetes, brain fog, and heart diseases seem to be increasing. Therefore, monitoring and follow-up of Covid-recovered patients are necessary," the release said.

The experts instructed that it would be beneficial to wear masks in hospitals and clinics by health workers and others.

'Long Covid' is the term used for mid- and long-term effects that persist after a person recovers from the initial coronavirus infection.

Contd. from Page 1

PM Modi recounts India's....

"I am very happy to see the increasing enthusiasm for environmental protection in different parts of the country. A few days ago, in India, Mission Life dedicated to protecting the environment has also been launched," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi paid tribute to Birs

Bagwan Munda sacrificed his life for India's independence and to protect the rich tribal culture."

After his radio address, the Prime Minister, who is on a three-day visit to Gujarat from today, is scheduled to launch a host of projects in different parts of the state where Assembly elections are expected to

be announced soon.

PM Modi will begin his visit by laying the foundation stone of a manufacturing facility for C-295 transport aircraft in Vadodra on Sunday, according to a release issued by the Gujarat government. He will also address a gathering at Leprosy Ground in the city.

Sports

India beat Australia on penalties to clinch Sultan of Johor Cup



Agency
Johor, Malaysia, Oct 30:

The Indian junior men's hockey team put in a fine display on a nervy evening against Australia to win the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup after a tense penalty shootout. The teams were tied at 1-1 in regulation time, following which nine penalty shots were needed to decide the winner.

India won the shootout 5-4 and clinched their third Sultan of Johor Cup title.

Australia controlled proceedings in the early exchanges while captain Uttam Singh and Bobby Singh Dharmi tried to push India forward. The efforts paid off as India broke the deadlock through Sudeep Chirmako (14th minute). India went into the first break leading 1-0.

Looking to build on the lead in the second quarter, India began on the front foot, with most

of the contest being played in Australia's half.

As the quarter progressed, Australia's hunt for the equaliser intensified, and even though

India were absorbing the pressure well, Jack Holland (29th min) scored. India and Australia went into the half-time break with the score reading 1-1.

Hockey India announces cash prize for junior men's team after Sultan of Johor Cup triumph

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 30:

Hockey India on Saturday announced Rs two lakh each for the players of the junior men's Sultan of Johor Cup-winning team.

Besides, HI also announced Rs one lakh for the support staff of the team.

The Indian team emerged victorious in dramatic fashion after winning a nail-biting final via shoot out. The two teams were tied at 1-1 in regulation

time, following which nine penalty shots were needed to decide the winner. India edged the shootout 5-4 and won their third Sultan of Johor Cup title.

"Hockey India is delighted to announce Rs two lakh each for the players and Rs one lakh each for the support staff of the Indian Junior Men's Team for their winning performance at the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup," HI President Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey said in a release.

"They have made us all very proud with their fighting

Both sides came back out for the second half with a cautious approach, not keen to allow the opponent any space. Midway through the quarter, India almost edged ahead with Sudeep Chirmako, but neither side were able to outsmart the other, as the quarter ended with the score at 1-1.

In the final quarter, which was played in the presence of the Sultan of Johor, both India and Australia turned up the heat by a few notches, making it a very entertaining phase in the game. However, as the final six minutes began, the score still read 1-1.

Both sides gave it their all but weren't able to find the winner in regulation time, as the final went into a penalty shootout.

Agency
Paris, Oct 30:

Commonwealth Games champion Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty progressed to the men's doubles final of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament with a commanding straight-game win over the Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho, here on Saturday.

The world number 8 Indian pair dished out an attacking game and also controlled the net well to outwit the Korean combination, ranked 18th, 21-18 21-14 in the semifinals that lasted 45 minutes.

The Indian pair, seeded seventh, thus reached its second final of a BWF world tour



event in 2022, having won the India Open Super 500 tournament in January earlier this year.

Satwik and Chirag, who had won a bronze medal at the World Championships in August, will play the winner of the other semi-final between England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy and Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han.

Up against opponents whom they have never played before, Chirag was relentless at the front court, while Satwik unleashed his booming smashes from the back as the Indians put up a clinical show at Stade Pierre de Coubertin.

Satwik and Chirag, the 2019 edition's runner-up pair, never looked in trouble as they kept things in their grip right from the start.

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 Failure."

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