

Bishnupur police seized 648 IMFL boxes; Heroin seized by Kakching Police



**IT News
Kakching, Oct 6:**

A team of Bishnupur Police under the overall supervision of N. Herojit Meetei, Superintendent of Police Bishnupur, led by Additional SP (Ops) Roni Mayengbam and MPS ASP (Ops) along with Bishnupur CDO and District police seized 648 IMFL boxes on a Tata Truck bearing registration number HR 55AE0251. The joint team of police was conducting frisking and checking at the Bishnupur Forest Office Gate when the Tata Truck came from Jiribam towards Churachandpur.

The seized Indian made foreign liquor are McDowell 375 ml 93 boxes, McDowell 180 ml

99 boxes, Royal stag 180ml 12 boxes, Kingfisher Beer bottles 750ml 64 boxes, Old monk Rum bottle 750ml 180 boxes, Kingfisher Can beer and Tuborg Can beer 500ml 200 boxes. The seized items are estimated to be around 30 lakhs.

The owner of the seized items has been identified as Rupesh Kumar (22), son of Anandi Mahato, Mantripukhri, and the driver of the Tata Truck as Md Ajj Khan (28), son of Md Alimuddin from Lilong Ushoipokpi Bazar. The seized items have been handed over to Excise Department for further legal action.

As part of War on Drugs 2.0, a team of Kakching police seized 809 grams of suspected Heroin no.4 powder today at

around 12:10 pm.

The said seizure was made through the joint efforts of teams of Commando Unit, Kakching led by Inspector Md. Abash Khan, OC, CDO Unit, Kakching, along with another team of commando led by Ksh. Prakash Singh, under the supervision of Binoy Chongtham, MPS Addl. SP (Ops) Kakching, and under the overall supervision of Shrey Vats, IPS, Superintendent of Police Kakching. One Vitara Brezza (red in colour) vehicle bearing registration No. MN06L-8880 coming from Pallel side was given a signal to stop for checking at the gate of Pallel Police Station but the vehicle tried to escape the checkpoint by speeding the

vehicle. However, the CDO teams together managed to stop the vehicle at a short distance.

The driver and the occupant of the vehicle were detained for verification and were identified as Naoba Takhellambam, aged 36 years S/o. Takhellambam Iboyai Meitei, of Haotak Tampak Khunao Makha Leikai, Wangoo Keirap, Bishnupur District, Manipur, A/P Chikim Village, Moreh and Lhingchin Kipgen, aged 46 years W/o. Nehkolam Kipgen, of Zalenphai Part-2, Moreh, Tengnoupal District, Manipur.

The two persons and the said vehicle were searched, from which 65 (sixty-five) soap cases containing suspected (Heroin No.4) powder were detected. The driver of the vehicle and its occupants were arrested. On weighing, the suspected Heroin (No.4) powder was found to weigh approximately 809 grams (in total).

The arrested persons, along with the seized articles, were handed over to OC, Kakching Police Station, for taking up further necessary legal action.

Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) of Rs. 7,183.42 crore released to 14 States

**PIB
New Delhi, Oct 6:**

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has on Thursday released the 7th monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 7,183.42 crore to 14 States. The grant has been released as per the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 86,201 crore to 14 States for the financial year 2022-23. The recommended grant is released by the Department of Expenditure to the recommended States in 12 equated monthly instalments. With the release of 7th instalment for the month of October, 2022, the total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants released to the States in 2022-23 has gone up to Rs. 50,282.92 crore.

The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants are provided to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution. The grants are released to the States as per the recommendations of the successive

State-wise Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant (PDRD) Released (Rs in crore)

S. No.	Name of State	7th instalment released for the month of October, 2022.	Total PDRD released to States during 2022-23.
1	Andhra Pradesh	879.08	6153.58
2	Assam	407.50	2852.50
3	Himachal Pradesh	781.42	5469.92
4	Kerala	1097.83	7684.83
5	Manipur	192.50	1347.50
6	Meghalaya	86.08	602.58
7	Mizoram	134.58	942.08
8	Nagaland	377.50	2642.50
9	Punjab	689.50	4826.50
10	Rajasthan	405.17	2836.17
11	Sikkim	36.67	256.67
12	Tripura	368.58	2580.08
13	Uttarakhand	594.75	4163.25
14	West Bengal	1132.25	7925.75

Finance Commissions to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post devolution.

The eligibility of States to receive this grant and the quantum of grant for the period from 2020-21 to 2025-26 was decided by the Fifteenth Finance Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State after taking into account the

assessed devolution during this period.

The States who have been recommended Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant by the Fifteenth Finance Commission during 2022-23 are : Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

World No Tobacco Day observation held in Thoubal

**IT News
Imphal, Oct 6:**

District Health Society Thoubal today organised World No Tobacco Day at the Counting Hall of D.C. Complex, Thoubal.

Speaking at the function Deputy Commissioner Thoubal who is also Chairperson of District Health Society Thoubal A. Subhash Singh IAS said tobacco is one of the leading causes of health problems. To prevent such health hazardous food products, giving awareness and strict enforcement of fines and penalties will be more effective in tackling the issue. He appealed to the concerned departments and law enforcing authority to take up concrete measures to prevent the sale of tobacco products



in close proximity of schools', college campus as well as in offices.

The theme of World No Tobacco day 2022 is "Tobacco : Threat to our Environment." It highlights that tobacco pollutes the environment and

damage the health of people. Deputy Commissioner also administered a pledge 'not to use or consume any of the tobacco products'. PowerPoint presentation on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption were presented to give awareness.

The program was attended by SP Thoubal Shri Jogeshchandra Haobijam, IPS, CMO Thoubal Dr. Y. Nokul Singh, Dr. S Bimolakumari and MS District Hospital, Thoubal Dr. Ch. Memcha Devi.

Cyber Jagrookta Diwas observed at Kamjong and CCpur

**IT News
Imphal, Oct 6:**

The Cyber Jagrookta (Awareness) Diwas (CJD) was observed today at DC Office, Kamjong. This diwas is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and is to be observed every month on first Wednesday in all schools/college/universities/ Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) and Municipalities by involving District Magistrates, Police Authorities, Education Department officers etc.

Held at the DC Camp Office located at 2nd MR Battalion, the observation was attended by Deputy Commissioner Rangnamei Rang Peter, IAS; ADC Ningeirang Leisan; Additional SP Semmi Ramrur, many DLOs and staff of the DC office.

Speaking at the event, Rangnamei emphasized the importance of cyber awareness on issues related to cyber crimes and cyber hygiene to prevent cyber crimes, phishing, online financial frauds, cyber impersonation, defamation cases etc. Observance of Cyber Jagrookta Diwas is such a step to create awareness in the society, which is now increasingly adopting digital mode of transactions, he added.

As a part of the program, Semmi Ramrur gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation about the various kinds of cyber crimes, the legal implications of those, and how to legally tackle such issues.



Further, the DC appealed all the officers and employees present to stay alert from any kind of cyber crimes, and if any doubtful incidents are faced, then it should be reported to the nearest police station or the SP Cyber Crime office.

With the purpose to create awareness and sensitize the internet user on safeguarding against cyber hygiene and cybercrimes, the District Administration organized District Level Observation of Cyber Jagrookta Diwas, an awareness event on Cyber Security today at DC's Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Tuibong.

Speaking on the occasion, Thienlaljoy Gangte, ADC said that with the exponential increase in the number of internet users in India, the rapidly evolving technologies have brought its own unique challenges, besides aggravating the existing problems of cybercrimes.

He added that Cyber Jagrookta Diwas is an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs, brought under the I4C scheme with the objective of raising cyber security awareness among public sector undertak-

ings (PSUs), banks, panchayat

raj institutions (PRIs), universities, schools, etc. among others.

Kh. Kishwar Singh, DIO/ NIC, Churachandpur speaking on the occasion as the resource person stated that Cybercrimes can be prevented through 'Cyber Hygiene' by inculcating habits of taking basic care of ICT devices at regular intervals such as, properly shutting down the computer, changing passwords at regular intervals, being cautious against opening of phishing websites along with other websites, etc. He also educate the participants on basic protocols of Cyber Hygiene should follow such as avoid joining unknown Wi-Fi networks and using unsecured Wi-Fi hotspots, not to share any information related to sensitive and financial aspects in social networks etc.

Khaitopani Ngaite, ADC (Development), Zosanglur Joute, Assistant Commissioner, DLOs, All staff of DC/ Cpur, DRDA, CAF&PD, NIC, DIT and Election Department attended the event.

22 children among 34 killed in attack at Daycare Centre in Thailand; gunman kills self

**Agency
Bangkok, Oct 6:**

Thirty-four people were killed in Thailand on Thursday in a gun and knife attack at a daycare centre by a former policeman who killed his wife and child before turning his weapon on himself, police said.

There were 22 children among the victims of the suspected attacker, who had been discharged from the service last year for drug-related reasons, district police official Chakkrapath Wichitvaidya

told media.

He cited witnesses as saying the gunman was also seen wielding a knife.

About 30 children were at the centre when the gunman arrived, fewer than usual, as heavy rain had kept many people away, district official Jidapa Boonsom, who was working in a nearby office at the time, told Reuters.

"The shooter came in around lunch time and shot four or five officials at the childcare centre first," said Jidapa, adding that among them was a teacher who was

eight months pregnant.

"At first people thought it was fireworks," she said.

The gunman then forced his way into a locked room where children were sleeping. Jidapa said, to kill children there with a knife.

Videos posted on social media showed sheets covering what appeared to be the bodies of children lying in pools of blood at the centre in the town of Uthai Sawan, 500 km (310 miles) northeast of Bangkok in the province of Nong Bua Lamphu.

Reuters could not immedi-

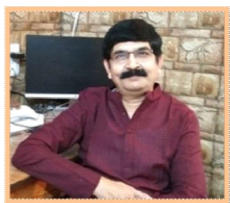
ately authenticate the footage.

Earlier, police said a manhunt was under way for the shooter, and a government spokesman said the prime minister had alerted all agencies to catch the culprit.

Mass shootings are rare in Thailand, even though the rate of gun ownership is high compared with some other countries in the region, and illegal weapons are common.

In 2020, a soldier angry over a property deal gone sour killed at least 29 people and wounded 57 in a rampage that spanned four locations.

Rise in female feticide in India



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Sex determination tests on pregnant women have been illegal in India for years. Sex determination tests, and preference for sons result in the selective termination of pregnancy. The widespread use of illegal tests to determine the sex of an unborn child is fuelling a rise in female feticide cases in India. India banned sex determination tests in 1994, as the gender balance became increasingly skewed. Indian laws do not, under any circumstance, allow sex determination tests to be undertaken with the intent to terminate the life of a fetus developing in the mother's womb, unless there are other absolute indications for termination of the pregnancy as specified in the MTP Act of 1971.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP)[1] Act, which prohibits abortion, was enacted with a view towards controlling the size of the family. However, in some cases the desire for a small family may have outweighed the desire for a child of a specific gender, leading to abortions where the sex of the fetus was different from that desired by the family. In India, where aborted female foetuses have contributed to a nationwide gender imbalance, it's illegal for doctors to reveal the sex of an unborn child. But with boys still often far more valued than girls, a lucrative business thrives underground. Though, sex determination tests through techniques such as ultrasonography and amniocentesis are banned in India, female foetuses are still commonly killed in some regions where a preference for sons runs deep.

Under the Indian Penal Code, causing an abortion, even if caused by the pregnant woman herself, is a criminal offense, unless it is done to save the life of the woman. The offense is punishable by imprisonment for a period of three years, by fine, or by both. The PNDDT Act mandates that all ultrasound facilities must be registered and medical practitioners must maintain records of every scan of a pregnant woman. It states that pre-natal diagnostic techniques can be used only to detect "genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders".

There were concerns that ultrasound technologies were being used to determine the sex of the unborn child and abort the female foetus, so the 1994 law made it illegal for medical practitioners to reveal the sex of a foetus. It is clear that sex determination and female feticide continue because of insufficient monitoring of medical practitioners. It is observed that most parents celebrate the birth of a son, considered to be their family pride. The birth of a daughter can be a time of embarrassment and even mourning as parents, especially the poor, look toward the immense debts they'll need to take on to pay for marriage dowries.

The focus on feticide has been conveniently forgotten. Nothing is done to check illegal feticide & hence in ground reality, the one who is involved in feticide & sex determination moves scot free. According to experts, the problem isn't with the Act but with its implementation. There is poor monitoring of ultrasound clinics. Such clinics are required to maintain records of the scans they conduct but the violators are often let off with a fine. On going through sex ratio at birth - the number of girls born per 1,000 boys - in India fell from 945 in 1991, to 927 in 2001, to 914 in 2011, according to census data. Government had failed in enforcing the law with a huge lobby working in favour of sex selection.

In order to minimize the possibility of feticide and infanticide, it is now the need of the hour to bring a change in the PNDDT Act by making it compulsory for all pregnant women to undergo a scan at government hospitals for sex determination of foetus.

The Solution to Unemployment is Vocational Education



By: Vijay GarG

Unemployment is a huge problem. Every year lakhs of youth after completing their school/college studies with degrees/diplomas in hand look for jobs. Due to less employment opportunities in the organized and unorganized sector, unemployment is increasing. Due to automation and mechanization, jobs are decreasing in every sector and the problem of unemployment has become more complicated. The unemployment rate is not coming under control.

The unemployment rate in Punjab is around 7 percent. To eliminate unemployment in Punjab Vocational and technical education needs to be given more impetus. The Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab is playing an important role in controlling vocational education in industrial training institutes and technical education in polytechnics/engineering colleges in Punjab. Government industrial training institutes are less in Punjab, while the number of private institutes are more.

Similarly, there are only 26 government polytechnic colleges, while there are 100 private polytechnic colleges. There is a need to promote vocational and technical education in Punjab of no the number of Government Industrial Training Institutes, Government Polytechnic Colleges and Government Engineering Colleges should be increased in Punjab. More and more new institutions should be established in rural areas so that technical and vocational education is within the reach of the youth of the villages. Fees should be reduced for general category students so that students belonging to economically weaker families can acquire technical and vocational education by paying less fees.

contd. on page 3

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Choose the right combos

By: Kaustov Kashyap

Sociology offers several enticing career options due to the different specialisations that one can choose from. Research institutes, the criminal justice system, public health and welfare organisations, private businesses, law firms, international agencies, educational institutions, medical centers, advertising firms, survey and polling organizations are only some of the example where people from this background are required.

On can also find work in the community and social services sector such as counselors, mental health workers and psychiatric aides or in criminal justice/forensic psychology as correctional and police officers, parole and probation officers and interviewers for various criminal justice agencies. NGOs and International organizations are also seeking psychology students at present.

An undergraduate degree in sociology might also qualify college graduates to work as case managers, child care workers or homeless/housing workers or move into education, administration or education.

Studying economics will equip you with a strong grasp of economic principles which will help to make more informed decision and get into the government sector, banks, accountancy, insurance companies, regulatory bodies, etc.

Sociology-Political Science-Economics

This subject combination actually prepares you to become a generalist that the civil services exam requires and also for other interesting fields such as journalism and mass communication, law and management. NGOs, education, film making, etc are open for further exploration. Students also get empowered enough to set up their own start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures.

Being a sociologist asks for a lot of patience along with dedication to the work. Employers will look for people with good communication and research skills along with the capacity for detailed observation.

After completing bachelor's/master's program in political science, several opportunities are available in both government and private sectors. Politics, public administration, law and marketing fields are always in need of good political scientists. Political scientists can also opt for campaign management, polling and electoral politics and university and college teaching. The career prospects in political science have widened enough in the voluntary organizations and NGOs. International voluntary organizations like UNO, have huge scope for proficient political scientists across the world. Besides, they can join media houses as political journalist and political researchers or analysts.

Economics is perhaps the only arts course that requires the student to be swift in maths. While most economists have advanced degrees (PhD), there are many lucrative career opportunities for those choosing economics at the UG level. Data analysts, banking and finance, stock broking and market analysis are some of the avenues open to aspirants.

Journalism-Psychology-Elective English

The journalism course aims at molding the student for a career in both print and broadcasting and in allied fields like advertising, PR and film. This combination is beneficial to provide a firm foundation for the students to either go directly get into media or go in for higher studies.

With this combination one can work in news and media companies or take up teaching in government and private schools both on private and regular basis. HR, health associated professions, hospitals, etc. also offer an exciting and amazing career path for students of psychology.

Pertaining to journalism and English, some of the options include writing for national, regional and local newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations and online publications and companies involved in public relation, corporate communications, content writing and corporate marketing. One can also pursue post-graduation and expand it with further studies.

Politics on freebies in Indian economy need a fresh look

Narendra Modi's 'Reveri Culture' rhetoric is purely political

By: Dr. Gyan Pathak

While targeting political parties in opposition, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi had equated 'subsidies and freebies' as 'revereri culture' which he wanted to be stopped. His languages was politically charged in such a manner that gave impression to the public that only political parties in opposition are indulging in such a culture and destroying the state finances, and BJP is not doing the same. However, the fact is, BJP ruled Uttar Pradesh is among the top five states in the country with largest rise in subsidies over the last three years. State like Gujarat also spends over 10 per cent of its revenue expenditure on subsidies.

Thus, PM Modi's 'revereri culture' rhetoric is purely political, but now involving all the three pillars of democracy - executive, legislature, and judiciary, apart from economists, intelligentsia, and common men. Enthusiasts against giving anything to the poor for their well-being and survival picked it up and went to the Supreme Court of India pleading for reasonable restriction on such expenditure on the ground that it destroys state finances. Supreme Court in turn set up a panel and wanted thorough discussions on it including what constitute 'freebie'.

Everyone has one's own idea, and due to lack of and standard defined and acceptable definition available, all the diagnosis and treatments for this ailment seem to be wrong. The latest being the State Bank of India's economic report written by the groups chief advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh, who suggested that the Supreme Court-led panel cap such welfare schemes at 1% of the state's GDP or of its own tax collection. The report presumes even wrong definitions and facts about freebies.

For example, one can see the online dictionaries or other resources only to find there that even loans taken or given with the intention of not paying back is a form of 'freebie'. But the SBI report misleads us twice - first by telling us that 'loan write-offs are purely technical in nature' and secondly 'added back to bank books once recovered.' We have already proved cases of bank frauds which tells us that 'loan write-offs' and not always technical in nature, and also that large amount always remains unrecovered and hence there is no question of added back to the bank books. Therefore, the report saying 'equating the haircuts with freebies or even the loan write-offs is at best a deeply flawed argument' is wrong.

Most objectionable part of the SBI report is concerning pension to the government employees, which had been only social security for government employees in the country before the scheme was done away with in 2004 under BJP rule. In its place, new pension scheme was implemented. Even at that time the BPJ's decision shocked the nation, because people (barring the rich and BJP's rank and file and bhaktas) believed that a person who sacrifices his prime time of his life in government service must get pension as financial security in his old age. It is unethical to leave them on their own fate. Now several political parties in opposition have promised to implement the old pension scheme if they come to power.

The SBI report presumes even the 'old pension scheme' a freebie, a very sad approach, since old pension scheme had always been treated as social security coverage for the old people in return for their service and sacrifice throughout their productive life.

However, the report now cites the example of just three states, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan whose annual pension liabilities estimated at Rs 3 lakh crore. When looked in relation to these states own tax revenue, pension liabilities are quite high for Jharkhand 217 per cent, for Rajasthan 190 per cent and for Chhattisgarh 207 per cent.

The report argued that for states contemplating the change, it would be as high as 450 per cent of own tax revenue in case of Himachal Pradesh, 138 per cent of own tax revenue in Gujarat, and 242 per cent of own tax revenue for Punjab.

The report also mentions the unfunded pension liabilities of the state which have gone back to the old pension scheme or pay as you go scheme, or planning to do so as percentage of won tax revenue, it's a staggering 450 per cent for Himachal, 138 for Gujarat, 207 for Chhattisgarh, 190 for Rajasthan, 217 for Jharkhand and 242 for Punjab.

The report argued that the combined liabilities of these states which have reverted to the old pension scheme or have promised to do so stood at Rs3,45,505 crore in FY20 and the same will go up as percentage of GSDP of Chhattisgarh to 1.9 and increased burden of Rs60,000 crore from Rs6638 crore.

For Jharkhand it was Rs 6,005 crore and will be 1.7 per cent of GSDP and will increase by Rs 54,000 crore; Rajasthan Rs 20,761 crore, 6 per cent and will jump by Rs 1.87 lakh crore; Punjab - Rs 10,294 crore, 3 per cent and will rise by Rs 92,000 crore, Himachal - Rs 5,490 crore, 1.6 per cent of GSDP and will rise by Rs 49,000

crore and for Gujarat the pension burden was Rs 17,663 crore in FY20 and will jump to 5.1 per cent of GDP and will rise by 1.59 lakh crore.

Merely on the basis of expenditure the state that used the prime time of life of a person must not desert them in their old age, which makes the state inhuman. It is wrong to presume that pension is a freebie and should not have been added to other liabilities such as loans taken by state to reach at an astronomical figure to influence decision in the Supreme Court. The report pointed out that the budget borrowings of states have reached around 4.5 per cent of GDP in 2022, because of the guarantee of the state to support its citizens.

Such guarantee amount is significant at 11.7 per cent of GDP for Telangana, 10.8 per cent for Sikkim, 9.8 per cent for Andhra, 7.1 per cent for Rajasthan, and 6.3 per cent for Uttar Pradesh. While the power sector accounts for almost 40 per cent of these guarantees, other beneficiaries include sectors like irrigation, infrastructure development, food and water supply.

The report has quoted RBI on financial assistance, utility subsidies, loan or fee waivers and interest free loans announced by the state in their budgets ranges from 0.1 to 2.7 per cent of states' GDP. The freebies have exceeded 2 per cent is some of the highly indebted states such as Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.

Let us remember that the RBI's recent bulletin of June has reminded, "While there is no precise definition of freebies, it is necessary to distinguish them from public/merit goods, expenditure on which brings economic benefits." (IPA Service)

121 kg gold seized since September by DRI in North East corridor

Agency
Guwahati, Oct 6:

The recent gold seizures in the North East by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) indicate a spurt in the smuggling of gold through the NE borders of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

While the porous borders have been used for smuggling in the past, 11 cases of gold seizures of 121 kg in September 2022 alone show that the NE corridor is still extensively being used by smugglers deploying ingenious ways of concealment.

Acting on specific intelligence and in three coordinated interceptions at Patna, Delhi

and Mumbai, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 65.46 kg of foreign-origin gold worth Rs 33.40 crore. The gold was consigned from Aizawl to Mumbai in domestic courier consignment. The gold was concealed in gunny bags declared as clothes.

In yet another case of smuggling through the same route, the DRI seized another big haul of smuggled foreign origin gold weighing approximately 23.23 kg and valued at Rs 11.65 crore (approx.) which was being smuggled from Myanmar.

Specific intelligence indicated that a substantial quantity of foreign-origin gold will be attempted to be smuggled

from Champhai-Aizawl, Mizoram to Kolkata, West Bengal by carrying/concealing them in the vehicle. To interdict the contraband, coordinated action was undertaken on 28th-29th September 2022. The DRI officers mounted surveillance on the highway connecting Siliguri-Guwahati.

Four passengers travelling in 2 suspect vehicles were identified and intercepted. After thorough rummaging of the two vehicles over a period of 2 days, 23.23 kg gold concealed in the vehicle body in the form of 21 cylindrical pieces, was recovered. The gold in this case was cast in order to fit in the specifically made cavity inside the cross-member metal

pipe connecting the right and left rails of the chassis behind the rear wheels and suspension in both vehicles. The recovered gold had been smuggled into India from Myanmar through the Zokhawthar border in Mizoram. Four persons have been arrested in the instant case so far.

In another 9 cases in the month, DRI recovered and seized 27 kg of smuggled gold from various carriers coming from the North-Eastern part of the country to the rest of the country. These series of detections have helped unearth a novel modus operandi of smuggling foreign-origin gold into India from the North-Eastern part of the country.

With 2,529 fresh Covid cases, India's tally rises to 4,46,04,463; active cases at 32,282

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 6:

India recorded 2,529 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,46,04,463, while the active cases dipped to 32,282, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,745 with 12 fatalities which includes eight deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.74 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 1,036 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.07 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.38 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,43,436, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 218.84 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally

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

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

The four fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include one each from Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

13 dead, several missing during Durga idols immersion in 3 separate incidents

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 6:

As the five-day-long Durga Puja festival came to a close on Wednesday, the distressing news of deaths during the idol immersion (visarjan) was reported from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

In West Bengal's Jalpaiguri, seven people died and several were feared missing after flash floods hit the Mal River during Goddess Durga idol visarjan. The incident occurred around 9.15pm when several devotees gathered on the banks. "We res-

cued around 60 people, and 15 of them have been hospitalised. Initially, two bodies were recovered but five more were found later," Jalpaiguri district magistrate Moumita Godara Basu told the local media at around 11pm.

The flash flood in the Mal river is being attributed to heavy rainfall that the state has been receiving this week. According to the Met department's forecast, the state will again receive heavy rain this weekend (on Oct 8 and 9).

In Uttar Pradesh's Agra, a 15-year-old boy and two youths aged 19 and 22 drowned in the Yamuna river

during Durga idol immersion. No one was found in the rescue operation carried out till late evening, news agency ANI reported citing officials.

In Rajasthan's Ajmer district, a similar tragic incident occurred on Wednesday where six people drowned in a ditch filled with rainwater during the immersion of a Goddess Durga idol. All six bodies were recovered during a rescue operation, and will be handed over to family members after autopsy, news agencies reported. "The ditch where the incident occurred is often used for idol immersion by locals often," Ajmer Superinten-

dent of Police Chuna Ram Jat told PTI. The deceased thought it was a shallow ditch and went down, but it was deep and they all drowned," he informed.

Similar incidents were also reported during the Ganesh visarjan that took place on September 9. At least 20 lives were lost across Maharashtra, and eight people died in Haryana.

The pandemic-induced restrictions had curtailed the celebration in the last two years. Free from those restrictions, the festival was celebrated with great pomp and show this year.

In talks with EC to amend electoral laws, boost transparency on donations: Law Minister Kiren Rijiju

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 6:

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the government is considering providing legislative backing to some major electoral reforms suggested by the Election Commission of India through amendments in the Representation of the People Act adding that the change in electoral laws is the need of the hour. The minister said that the Centre is in talks with the poll body as in the wake of the coming Assembly polls, the commission recently

released the proposed criteria for all the political parties to clearly reveal the details of their electoral manifesto promises and the sources to fund those promises.

In an interview with TOI, Rijiju said that he was having elaborate discussions with the election commission to analyze some major overhauls in the RP act and other laws to bring transparency to the electoral process.

"The government will study and take necessary measures after due consultation for major reforms to suit the chang-

ing times and situations," Rijiju added when asked if the election watchdog had consulted the government before floating recent proposals.

The reform suggested by the Election Commission was majorly to avoid and curb the flow of black money in the electoral process. The poll body has recently written to the law ministry to bring changes in the RP Act to cap cash donations received by parties to 20% of their total receipts.

The poll body also proposed lowering the disclosure limit of anonymous donations

for the political parties from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2,000.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties have reacted strongly to the proposals by the election commission and said that the individual donation for the political parties is beyond the purview of the poll panel and thus, should not be amended by them.

Notably, the Bahujan Samajwadi Party, despite having received crores in political donations, has always claimed nil individual donations received above Rs 20,000, thus not having to name

Agency
Pandalavapura, Oct 6:

Sonia Gandhi today joined her son Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Karnataka, participating in a public event after a long gap compelled by health worries.

Joining Rahul Gandhi's march in Mandya, the Congress president walked a short distance, surrounded by a large crowd of slogan-shouting party workers, before getting into a car. She returned to the march later.

She is expected to address a rally in Ballary to galvanise the party in the BJP-ruled state that will vote in a few months for a new government. She had earlier visited a temple in Begur

village and offered prayers on Wednesday.

The Congress tweeted a photo of Rahul Gandhi tying his mother's shoelaces during the walk, captioning it "Ma (mother)".

The Congress's nationwide campaign, which began in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari on September 7, entered Karnataka on September 30.

Sonia Gandhi arrived in Mysuru on Monday afternoon. This is her first public outing after a Covid infection earlier this year. She had last participated in a roadshow in Varanasi in 2016.

Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar said it was a matter of pride for the party that Sonia Gandhi joined the

march.

"After Vijayadashami, there will be Vijaya (victory) in Karnataka. We are proud that Sonia Gandhi has come to walk on the streets of Karnataka. We are coming to power in the state, and BJP is on its way to shutting its shop," Mr Shivakumar said, targeting the ruling party over allegations of corruption and bribery.

Rahul Gandhi plans to walk 3,570 km through 12 states in his campaign to "unite India" and send a message against what he calls the "divisive politics" of the BJP. The campaign, for which Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders have been sleeping in containers, aims at rallying party workers after multiple defeats.

Contd. from Page 2

The Solution to Unemployment is Vocational.....

The current Chief Minister Wazifa Yojana, in which more than 60 percent in the qualifying examination Fees are discounted on the basis of marks obtained, instead of a uniform discount for all, the fee (about Rs. 5000 for polytechnic colleges and Rs. 10000 for engineering colleges) should be made annually. This will further increase the admissions in colleges. In the new buildings are constructed, some diploma courses of polytechnics may be started in existing ITIs. Courses like computer science, information technology, fashion technology should be started in girls' ITIs, which require less infrastructure. It happens Technical courses which have no demand in industries should be closed and new employment oriented courses with more placements

should be started or seats should be increased in such courses which have more job opportunities. Automobile Engineering, Mechatronics, Tool and Die Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Biotechnology, Beauty Culture, Costume Design and Dress Making, Environment Engineering, Food Technology, Fire and Safety Engineering, Marine in Government Polytechnic Colleges of Punjab Engineering, motion picture photography, medical electronics, printing technology, rubber technology, space technology, TV and film technology, textile technology, petroleum engineering, mobile technology, packaging etc. courses should be started.

To make diploma courses more employment oriented, technical courses related to

agriculture like Agricultural Machinery Technology, Seed Production Technology, Dairy and Meat Processing Technology, Animal Technology, Horticulture Technology, Agro Processing Technology etc. should be started. Skills in such courses workers, technicians and mechanics are in high demand and employment opportunities are high. At least one modern polytechnic and one modern engineering college should be established in Punjab, where artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, biomedical engineering, automation and robotics engineering, mining engineering, environmental engineering, e-vehicle technology, drone technology, solar Advanced courses in technology, nanotechnology etc. should be started.

Technical education in mother tongue other than English by All India Council of Technical Education Under the donation initiative, a diploma course in Punjabi medium in a polytechnic college belonging to rural areas and a B.Tech degree course in an engineering college should be started. In the examinations, the question papers should be printed in both English and Punjabi languages. Books should be printed in Punjabi language in all polytechnics and engineering colleges so that the students educated from village schools do not face any problem in understanding engineering subjects. Print and electronic media to spread awareness among general public and students about technical education.

Media, social media should be used more. Apart

from schools/colleges, awareness seminars, rallies should be organized in villages. Must have practical knowledge In order to provide more employment to the youth of Punjab, the practical part should be increased by reducing the theory part in the syllabus and the syllabus should be revised according to the requirement of the industries. Practical knowledge in college and then in industries is mandatory for every student. Due to lack of practical knowledge, passed out students are unable to get employment in industries. Area wise course started can be done, like textile engineering in Bathinda region, information technology in Mohali, mechanical and tool and die in Ludhiana, agro processing technology in Moga etc.

Ph.D. Degree Awarded



Keisham Lebanan, S/o. Keisham Raghunani Singh and K. (O) Madhubala Devi of Langthabal Kunja Awang Leikai, Canchipur, Imphal, has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Life Sciences (Zoology) on September 5, 2022 vide order No. MU/9-45/22/1668 by the Manipur University (MU) for his thesis "*Taxonomical Characterization of the Parasites of the Fishes of Barak Valley, Assam*".

He completed his research under the guidance of Prof. N. Mohilal Meitei, whom he has expressed his deep gratitude for invaluable direction.

During his research period, he cleared SLET, UGC, New Delhi; published research papers in Scopus/UGC Care listed journals; and also attended 12 National/International Seminars and workshops. He also completed a training programme on Molecular Biology and attended 18 webinars and a talk series.

He was also elected as President of Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU), 2018-19, and helped the varsity in bringing normally and in maintaining a proper academic calendar.

With Best Wishes From
Family, relatives, and well-wishers

India probes maiden Pharmaceuticals' 4 cough syrups linked to death of 66 children in Gambia

Agency
Mumbai, Oct 6:

The Centre is investigating the deaths of at least 66 children in The Gambia that the World Health Organization (WHO) said may be linked to a cough syrup made in India, news agency Reuters quoted two of its sources from the Union health ministry as saying on Thursday. The cough syrups have been manufactured by M/s Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited in Haryana's Sonapat, another news report stated. It further quoted its sources as saying that as per the information available at this point, it seems the firm had exported these products

only to The Gambia.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday told reporters the UN agency was investigating the deaths from acute kidney injuries with India's drug regulator and Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

The WTO on October 5 issued a medical product alert on four contaminated medicines in Gambia. The four substandard (contaminated) paediatric medicines identified by the WHO are Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup.

The agency informed the Drugs Controller General of India

of the deaths late last month after which the regulator launched an investigation with state authorities, in tandem with the WHO probe, Reuters quoted its sources as saying. Maiden manufactured and exported the syrup only to the West African nation, they added.

Reuters' calls to a listed telephone number for Maiden went unanswered as did an emailed request for comment. Calls to the Drugs Controller General of India outside of office hours also went unanswered.

The Centre has asked the WHO to share its report linking the deaths with the cough syrup and will take "all required steps

in the matter", the sources were quoted.

The WHO said in its report that the laboratory analysis of samples of each of the four products confirms that they contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants.

It added that to date, these four products have been identified in Gambia but may have been distributed, through informal markets, to other countries or regions.

Issuing an alert about the risks from using these medicines, the WHO said Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal.

AR conducted Special Cleanliness Campaign 2.0



IT News
Imphal, Oct 6:

Loktak Battalion under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised special cleanliness campaign 2.0 to promote Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in

Kumbi village of Bishnupur district, Manipur today.

The cleanliness drive was not only an effort to clean the surroundings but was also an endeavor to motivate and encourage the local populace to keep their surroundings clean

and litter-free. A total of 34 villagers including students participated in the event.

Local populace of the village voluntarily participated in the event and applauded the efforts of Assam Rifles for organising such an event.

EAM Jaishankar hold talks with New Zealand counterpart on Indo-Pacific, Ukraine conflict; raises visa issue

Agency
Auckland, Oct 6:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held "warm and productive" talks with his New Zealand counterpart Nanaia Mahuta during which the two leaders exchanged views on issues of international concerns such as the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict.

It is Jaishankar's first visit to New Zealand as External Affairs Minister.

"Warm and productive talks with New Zealand Foreign Minister @NanaiaMahuta this afternoon. Two societies, respectful of tradition and culture, are seeking to forge a more contemporary relationship," Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting.

"Appreciated the exchange of views on (issues of) interna-

tional concerns such as the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict. Value our working together in multilateral forums including the UN and Commonwealth," he said.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-rich region.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea.

India has repeatedly emphasised on the immediate

cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and the need to resolve the ongoing conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Jaishankar also took up the issue of Indian students impacted by COVID measures in New Zealand and urged expeditious visa processing of those desirous of studying in New Zealand now.

India is the second largest source of international students in New Zealand pursuing higher education in various disciplines such as information technology, hospitality, science, engineering and architecture.

He also met Associate Minister for foreign affairs Aupito William Sio during his meeting with Mahuta.

"Pleasure to meet Associate Minister for foreign affairs @AupitoWSio_MP during my

talks with FM @NanaiaMahuta

Benefitted from his insights on Pacific Islands," Jaishankar tweeted.

On Wednesday, Jaishankar met Indian-origin minister Priyanka Radhakrishnan, and also had an interactive session with prominent personalities of the country.

"Good to meet Minister @priyancanzlp today in Auckland. Thank her for an interactive session with prominent personalities of New Zealand. Committed to furthering our relationship," he tweeted.

Radhakrishnan is New Zealand's Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector, Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, and Youth. She is the first person of Indian origin to become a minister in New Zealand.

JioCinema to live stream FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Agency
Mumbai, Oct 6:

Viacom18 Sports, India's newest premier sports network, announced that JioCinema will live-stream all the matches and offer curated content around the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

The global marquee competition from 20th November till 18th December will be available to all viewers for free on JioCinema. The TV broadcast schedule will include Sports18 - 1 SD & HD.

The JioCinema app will be available to download for all telecom services subscribers and across devices including on iOS and Android soon with access to Viacom18 Sports' portfolio of live and non-live programming, including the quadrennial showpiece.

The multi-fold increase in

data consumption has made smartphones and connected TVs the preferred mode of content consumption in India.

Viacom18 Sports' 64-match showcase will be headlined by live streaming in 4K, a first for FIFA World Cup™ presentation in India, and multiple language feeds, including English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Bengali on JioCinema without charging any subscription fees.

"Viacom18 Sports' multi-platform presentation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ will be immersive, personalised and offer viewers exclusive experiences on JioCinema," said Viacom18 Sports CEO Anil Jayaraj.

"We want consumers to have easy access to world-class production across digital and linear platforms (on Sports 18) to match the event's stature. Our

efforts are towards reshaping fan experience and building one of the most-loved media platforms in India," he added.

Viacom18 Media Pvt. Ltd. recently announced a strategic investment from Bodhi Tree Systems. Former 21st Century Fox CEO James Murdoch, and India's media doyen Uday Shankar established Bodhi Tree Systems in 2021. Murdoch comes with more than two decades of global leadership in the media and technology industries. Uday Shankar, who served as President of Walt Disney Asia Pacific, built the biggest media and entertainment company and streaming service in India. The combine of Shankar and Murdoch brings unrivaled skill, capability, and understanding in the global media landscape and building iconic businesses.

Sports

India record 3-0 win over Kuwait, maintain clean slate in AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

Agency
Al Khobar, Oct 6:

Thanglalsoun Gantge scored a brace to guide India to a crucial 3-0 win over Kuwait in the AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers here on Thursday.

India had registered a commanding 5-0 win against the Maldives in their previous match.

Two goals from Gantge gave the Indian side three points.

Goalkeeper Sahil also shone through with a notable display, making a number of crucial saves, ensuring a hard-earned clean sheet.

The first half began with the Indian side in the ascendancy right from kick-off.

The first big chance came in the ninth minute as Gantge headed the ball into the net from a corner-kick opportunity. However, the referee had blown for a foul in the build-up.

Three minutes later, skipper Vanlalpeka Guite stung the palms of the Kuwait custodian with a low, fizzing shot that was saved. The pressure



continued to build and the reward came in the 16th minute as Bibiano Fernandes' side took the lead.

A delicious long ball from centreback Manjot Singh Dhama found Koru in space down the right flank. The winger charged and played a pinpoint cross for the onrushing Gantge, who provided a clinical first-time finish.

India custodian Sahil was called into action on a couple of occasions and produced some fine saves towards the end of the first half to ensure a

clean sheet. After the half-time interval, the game continued from where it left off as both sides continued to push for advantage.

Two minutes after the hour mark, Koru headed narrowly over the bar from a corner-kick chance. However, four minutes later, he was on hand to double India's advantage as the Blue Colts raced forward on a counter-attack.

Quite fired in an inviting low cross from the left and the winger slammed it home with aplomb.

Sahil was called into action yet again in the 69th minute, producing a flying save to deny Khaled once again.

The stop proved to be crucial as the Indian team struck another blow just two minutes later as Gantge scored his second.

India poured forward on the break again and Lalpekhlu delivered a fine cross from the left flank as Gantge slid home a clinical finish.

In the next match, the Indian side will take on Myanmar at the same venue.

Brazil consolidates top spot and Belgium second in FIFA rankings

Agency
Istanbul, Oct 6:

Fifty-three UEFA Nations League matches and 119 friendlies were played in the last international break before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which begins on November 20. As well as giving the 32 qualifiers for the upcoming world finals one last dress rehearsal, the matches also had an impact on the FIFA world

rankings.

Brazil (1st, -) will embark on its bid to win a sixth world title as the No 1 side. In beating Ghana and Tunisia in its two friendlies last week, A Selecao widened the gap between themselves and their nearest challengers, Belgium (2nd, -), which lost to Netherlands (8th, -) in the Nations League. Argentina (3rd, -) completes the podium.

Just behind lies reigning world champion France (4th, -), followed by England (5th, -). The only change in the top 10 saw Italy (6th, plus 1) leapfrog Spain (7th, minus 1), which drops down a place.

There is more movement further down the rankings. Croatia (12th, plus 3) rose three places, while Iran (20th, plus 2) moved into the top 20, followed closely by Serbia (21st, plus 4), which gained four places.

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 in MS Word or PDF format.

Team Imphal Times