

## 8th Edition of Young Leaders Connect held CM appeals NE people to contribute for the country rather than thinking of what the country has given

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appealed to the people of Northeast States to think of what we, as a citizen, have contributed to our Country, rather than thinking of what the Country or the Central Government had given us. Such change in the concept of thinking will increase our contribution to the Country's development, he continued.

The Chief Minister was attending the inaugural session of the Young Leaders Connect – 8 held today at the City Convention Centre, Palace Compound under the theme "Northeast India 2030: Towards India's Innovative and Sustainable Growth" as Chief Patron of the Young Leaders Connect 2022.

Welcoming all participants visiting Imphal for the Young Leaders Connect, N. Biren Singh continued that North-East Leaders Connect (NELC) over the decade had paved the path as a facilitator for growth and development in the North-East Region. The platform provided by the NELC will continue to facilitate in designing reforms and deepening strategic ties to unlock the full potential of the Region, he added. Expressing



confidence that this year's edition will offer better insights to the trends and challenges in the North-East Region, he stressed that a richer understanding of the realities would help reshape a shared vision for the Region's progress.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the North-East Region, which is strategically located as the land gateway of India to South-East Asia, is blessed with abundant natu-

ral resources, rich cultural heritage, skilled human resources, colorful tribes and tourist attractions. Stating that the region has the potential to be another growth engine for the country in the 21st century, he spoke on the need to meaningfully realize the region's inherent potentials in different fields. For this to translate into reality, young leaders of the Region need to collectively forge a vision and lead a coordinated response, he added.

N. Biren further maintained that the Government of Manipur is committed towards inclusive and sustainable development and is continuing its efforts to harness the dynamism of youths. He continued that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has taken epochal strides toward promoting start-ups, ushering an environment for start-ups never witnessed before. In the Northeast too, the emergence of many talents has empowered locals while continuously pushing the wheel of innovation to newer destinations, he said.

The Chief Minister informed that Manipur Start-Up has transformed the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The State Government has extended various support and assistance to a total of 5,796 entrepreneurs for a total project cost of Rs. 110 crore, to provide ample room for growth of an entrepreneurship. Acknowledging that Information Technology is one of the core strengths, he also informed that the First Building of Manipur IT SEZ will be ready soon and is expected to create employment opportunities for about 1,500-2,000 persons.

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## Miscreants set ablaze 4 wheeler vehicle in Senapati district

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

Unknown miscreants set ablaze one scorpion vehicle belonging to a candidate who had contested but defeated in the last State Assembly Election in Taphou Naga village, Senapati district.

Report said that the incident happened at wee hour today at the residence of one T. Robert Maram, 52-year-old son of Tailu Maram of the same village.

The vehicle with registration number NL 07CA 3522 belongs to T. Robert Maram, who is also contesting the Manipur



Legislative Assembly election as the Independent candidate for the Tadubi assembly constituency in 2022.

Senapati Police came to the incident site and recovered some bottles which may have been used for petrol to burn the vehicle. Police register a case for investigation. Tailu Maram, father of T. Robert Maram, is also the village chief of Taphou Naga village. Villagers condemned the incident and demanded a clarification.

The source said that the Taphou Naga village is only one and a half km from the Senapati police station.

## Shija Hospital hosted ASIMANICON 2022 – a Pre Conference of Laparoscopic Surgery Workshop

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

With hopes to enhance the new technology to emerging Laparoscopic Surgeons across the state in particular and the country in general ASI (Association of Surgeons of India) Manipur Chapter, AMASI and Shija Hospital jointly organized ASIMANICON 2022 – a Pre Conference of Laparoscopic Surgery Workshop at the auditorium of Shija Hospital and Research Center Langol.

This is the 25th years that

the ASIMANICON has been organizing the workshop. The Laparoscopic Surgery Workshop will continue for three more days at RIMS Jubilee Hall.

Today's inaugural session at Shija Hospitals and Research Center's auditorium was graced by Dr. Kh. Palin, CMD – Shija Hospitals as Chief Guest, while Dr. Jugindra S. President of AMASI (Association of Minimal Access Surgeons of India) presided over it. Dr. Kalpesh Jani, Senior Vice President, AMASI, DR. Pravin Suryavanshi, Fac-

ulty, AMASI, and Dr. Nepram Sanjib Singh, Chairman, ASI, Manipur State Chapter also attended as guests of honour.

While welcoming the delegates from outside the state and students attending the workshop, Dr. Kh. Palin said that Shija Hospitals had started conducting laparoscopic surgery on May 10, 1996 with the help of Dr. Purindra Roy.

"In 1997 we installed harmonic scalpel for bloodless laparoscopic surgery for the first time in South East Asia. In 2002 we had the first workshop here for ASI, it was an

imaginary capturing and we believed that it would revolutionized the whole body", Dr. Palin said.

It is worth mentioning that Shija Hospital has conducted over 25,000 (Twenty five thousand) Laparoscopic Surgery successfully. Those surgery includes removing of Gallbladder stone, Appendix, UTI and other Gynecology related cases.

Later after the inaugural session, students and doctors attended in the workshop interacted with doctors conducting surgery through live video.

## HM Amit Shah to chair high-level meeting of NE states on narcotics and national security tomorrow

Guwahati, Oct 7:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on a visit to the Northeast and he will preside over a regional meeting on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' in Guwahati, Assam on Saturday. The agenda of the meeting is to examine the drug scenario in the northeastern region and ways to mitigate it.

The high-level meeting will also see the participation of Chief Ministers and DGPs of all the northeastern states.

Coinciding with the Home Minister's visit as well as the high-level meeting on narcotics, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will tomorrow destroy nearly 11,000 kg of narcotic substances in Guwahati

under the guidance of Amit Shah.

Further, around 13,675 kg of confiscated narcotics (Heroin, Ganja, Codeine Cough Syrup, Narcotic Pills etc) will also be destroyed by the northeastern states of Assam (2,531 kg) and Tripura (11,144 kgs).

A release stated that a total of approximately 25,000 kg of drugs will be destroyed tomorrow.

The NCB has been running a special campaign starting June 1 to destroy confiscated drugs as part of its commitment to make the society drugs free.

As India marked the 75th anniversary of Independence, the NCB embarked on a spe-

cial campaign for 75 days to destroy 75 thousand kg of drugs by all of its regional units.

The central anti-narcotics agency achieved the target in just 60 days. By July 30, the NCB managed to destroy 82,000 kg of confiscated drugs.

A national conference was organised on July 30 this year at Chandigarh where Home Minister Shah had started the process of destroying 31,000 kg of narcotics by various field units of the NCB through virtual medium.

The NCB has seized and destroyed some 1,09,000 kg of narcotics under a special drive from June 1 to October 7 this year.

## Bronchoscopy cum EBUS Suite inaugurated by Director, RIMS

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal inaugurated Bronchoscopy cum EBUS suite, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal today in presence of Prof. N. Sanjib Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS Hospital, Imphal and Prof. Sunanda Haorongbam, Head of Respiratory Medicine, RIMS, Imphal.

During the inauguration, Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director said that **Bronchoscopy cum EBUS Suite** is long awaited machine by department and it's also world class machine. This machine will even help to post COVID patients when they face complication in respiratory sys-



tem. He further mentioned that earlier PG number was only 2 but now it has been increased to 6. The increase in PG's number will lead to increase the strength of department and automatically benefited to public. The machine will also help students

at their training period and without this machine, intake of PG students will also not be possible.

The inauguration program was attended by all H.O.Ds, faculty, Chief Nursing Officer (i/c), staff, official and students.

### GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DEPARTMENT OF TEXTILES, COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES OR DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES

#### NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

No. P-410/TC&I/2022: It is hereby notified to the general public that **Manipur Sangai Festival, 2022** shall be organised from 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The application for the allocation of stalls for Manipur Sangai Festival, 2022 may be done online at [www.sangaistall.in](http://www.sangaistall.in) from 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022 to 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022. There will be an online lottery (to be notified) for allocation of stalls MSF 2022 for different venues and the result will be available on the same day at the above portal.

2. For further details, update and changes please visit the above web portal regularly or the office of the Director, Trade, Commerce & Industry, Manipur, Lamphelat.

Sd/-  
Director  
Trade, Commerce & Industries  
Manipur

# Groundwater depletes at an alarming rate

Some states areas facing groundwater scarcity due to the indiscriminate use of groundwater for agricultural purposes and most of the areas have come under danger zone. The condition is that the groundwater level is going down by one meter every year. Water is a precious resource to sustain life on this planet. Therefore, the situation demands attention.

## Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



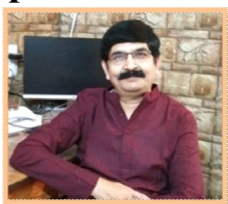
Groundwater is depleting at an alarming rate in India, which is expected to overtake China as the world's most populous country in less than a decade. More than a

third of India's population lives in water-stressed areas and this number is set to increase due to depleting groundwater and increasing urbanization. According to a report by the World Resources Institute, India is one of the 17 countries in the world facing an extreme water crisis. India's water crisis has worsened over the past few decades as bore wells were dug to extract more and more groundwater for water-consuming crops such as paddy and sugarcane. Ideally, surface water should be collected in ponds and other water bodies during the monsoon season and this stored water should be used throughout the year for irrigation instead of groundwater. Over 60 percent of the wells in the country checked by the Central Groundwater Board have recorded a decline in the water level in the past decade.

Punjab is facing groundwater scarcity due to the indiscriminate use of groundwater for agricultural purposes and 80 percent of the state's area has come under the red zone. In a workshop organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Punjab Energy Development Agency, an expert informed that 16 lakh electric tube wells in Punjab continuously draw water from below ground, due to which the groundwater level has reached a worrying point. The condition is that the groundwater level is going down by one meter every year. The Punjab State Assembly Committee, set up to study the depletion of water tables, had said in its report that the state would turn into a desert in the next 25 years if the current trend of drawing groundwater continues. In simple words, we are drawing more water for our use than we are filling back into the ground. As a result, the water level is going down. This has created a threat of desertification in Punjab.

The rate of pumping up the groundwater in Punjab is 1.66 times higher than the rate of replenishment. It is worth mentioning that paddy cultivation got a boost in Punjab during the Green Revolution in 1966-67, which consumes a lot of water. The trend continues nowadays also. In such a situation, it becomes necessary that the farmers, urban bodies, and industrial units are made aware of the measures to save water and electricity and they should be warned about the dangers caused by the depleting level of groundwater. The United Nations has also issued a warning on the water crisis looming on the earth in its new report. The UN report says that due to climate change, droughts, floods, and drinking water-related crises are increasing. According to this report titled 'The State of Climate Service 2021', in the year 2018, about 3.5 billion people had access to water for 11 months in a year. It is feared that if precautionary measures are not taken, by 2050, the number of people facing a water crisis could be 5 billion. Experts recommend native plants for the garden. They look great and don't need much water or fertilizer. Also choosing grass varieties for lawns that are adapted to the local climate, reduces the need for extensive watering.

# How can we tackle the problem of underage driving?



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

It seems over the years, our society has unfortunately become more complacent about underage driving than before, and more kids are growing up learning that it is 'cool' to drive young, to drive fast, and to risk it with the law. Underage driving has not only added to the city's chaotic traffic but is resulting in a large number of accidents. Children, by nature, are more reckless. They are not mature enough to understand the consequences of their actions or mistakes. For them, driving is all about thrill and looking cool. Children are not to be blamed for reckless driving but it is the parents' job to teach children how to go by the rule book. Public awareness campaigns by traffic control authorities and others are vitally important to make such youth realise their errors and the possibilities of their rash driving. Children of this age are restless, impatient and have a shorter attention span. It is observed that a few school authorities who tried to discourage underage driving had to face parents' ire. Speeding around seems cool to teenagers but it can lead to havoc and that's where adults have to step in. Children are more likely than older drivers to speed, run red lights, make illegal turns, ride with an intoxicated driver, and drive after using alcohol or drugs. They have a sense that they can get away with transgressions – a feeling of bravado whereby "I can get away with anything". The fight against underage drinking in our country is a tough battle, and frighteningly, alcohol is involved in about 20-25% of fatal teenage car wrecks.

Underage driving seems to increase with each passing day as children become smarter and more informed and parents fail to understand the consequences. It is observed that minors can get a license with fake proof of age. In such cases, the police impose a nominal fine and these dangerous drivers are back on the road. Teenage drivers are a threat not only to themselves but also to others. They are not sensitive to traffic rules and don't even follow the basics of safe driving. They either injure or kill themselves or others.

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# PM Narendra Modi celebrates his 72nd Birthday: A look at some of the flagship schemes rolled out by his Govt.



By: R.K. Pramodini Devi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated his 72nd Birthday on Sept 17, 2022 and since coming to power in 2014, he has launched a number of social welfare programs and initiatives aimed at benefiting the people living in the society. From 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' to the 'Make In India' campaign, the PM Modi-led government has introduced a number of flagship schemes and initiatives to support the common man. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the prime minister called for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' or a self-reliant India. On the occasion of his 72nd Birthday, here are some of the

most important initiatives and schemes that has benefited the common man since the past 8 years.

**\* Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** The program was announced by PM Modi in his first Independence Day address in 2014. The objective of "Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)" was to ensure access to various financial services like availability of basic savings bank accounts, access to need-based credit, remittances facility, insurance and pension to the unbanked weaker sections and low-income groups through effective usage of technology.

**\* Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is the cleanliness campaign by the Government of India launched in 2014. With this project, open defecation will be eliminated, and the solid waste management system will be improved.

**\* PM-KISAN scheme:** PM-KISAN scheme or Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi provides financial support to farmers. Under this scheme, the government sends 3 installments of Rs 2,000 rupees annually to the farmers' accounts to increase their income of the farm-

ers and help them financially.

**\* Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna:** Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna (PMMY) provides loan to small and micro-enterprises up to Rs 10 lakh. The programme was started in order to develop an important entrepreneurial environment in India.

**\* Standup India scheme:** In order to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level with an emphasis on economic empowerment and job creation, the Stand-up India scheme was introduced in April 2016.

More recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced PM CARES for Children scheme on May 29th, 2021 to support children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme provides a monthly stipend of 3,000 from 18 years to 23 years and a lump sum of 10 lakh to children when they turn 23 years old. Free education and uniforms are also provided to children in government schools. Private schools are also allowed to provide fee reimbursement under the

Right to Education Act 2005.

Lastly, but not the least, another good schemes government investment scheme to come out of the Modi-led Govt. is **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY)** – '**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**'. This is a saving plan crafted especially for girl child in India, the scheme target parents of girls and support them to financially secure the future of their daughter's by opening an account in either a commercial bank or a post office. The SSY scheme was initiated by the Indian Government under the campaign named; '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' and is available at 7.6% current interest rate.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday was celebrated with a lot of fanfare by all party workers and leaders for a period of 16 days as Seva Pakhwara (service fortnight) led by BJP national president JP Nadda. India is a country fast progressing today because of the relentless efforts, vision, and able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(The author is a Spokesperson, BJP Manipur Pradesh)

# War between dreams

was - I want to be out there on the big screen.

Truth be told, Even though I am in that game of glamor and attention, I didn't have the courage to fight back the disapproval from my family as they are not at all interested in me going to that line of life. Secretly in public - IT'S NOT JUST MY MAMA AND PAPA - the whole YAINGANGPOKPI seem to not like the idea of me being in that line at times. Honestly - it's not seemed - I know that I don't like it at all. Because of all the pressures around me, I at times think that I won't be able to reach the tip which I want to touch and at best - STAY. But as a human, that to the other side of the gender where less seems to not care what she wants as long as she is good in cooking.

I am not lying but - sometimes when I look in the mirror, I really feel beautiful. I am not saying I am per-

ceptual but what I feel is under my lock-up so YES, I feel great with the way my almighty crafted me. My smile - OH!! I can WOO millions on a big screen. Again, when reality telecasts - there I am, scared to even SHOUT that - I WANT TO BE AN ACTRESS, funny but yeah - I am scared.

With all these blanketing me, I at times run out of ideas on how to convince my parents but then, in the midst of these struggles - ANYHOW strategy came into existence. It all started during lockdown, and before the continue - let me introduce some dear ones of mine to you readers. Jenibas and Urmila are two of my many cousins. Continuing, during lockdown - I went to Jenibas with my aunt and Urmila. There I overheard a conversation of Jenibas participating in a dance competition, then during the running conversation - my aunty told me to join as

well. I was afraid to admit at first thinking this would be another ignition of a war in my house but you know - with no second thought I said YES. I went into it.

Ever since then, I have participated in so many events - be it for dance or acting without the notice of my parents. But you know - how long can I hide from the old tiger and the old tigress? They caught me during some cut-throat discussion in the house, at first I thought I might be thrown out of the house but it all seemed to all work out.

I know - my words might seem simple and linear but trust me - having the courage to take decisions at times with eyes closed really does a milestone push in life. Thank you so much for reading the first article of my life.

(The writer is a class 9 student of Emmanuel English Academy, Yaingangpokpi).

# Humanity grappling with the deadly blow of climate change



By: Vijay GarG

Realizing the deadly impact of climate change, 195 countries of the world signed the climate treaty on December 12, 2015 in Paris, the capital of France, to protect the entire humanity from its future wrath. By the end of this century, it was decided to reduce the increase in temperature up to 3.5 degrees Celsius due to climate change to 1.5 degrees Celsius (meaning less than 2 degrees Celsius in all cases). The emission of gases due to the use of petroleum products, industry, agriculture and man-made pollution promised to reduce but during this irresponsible behavior was adopted by various nations.

During the time of President Donald Trump, the US withdrew from this treaty, which was a shame. The

current US President Joe Biden corrected this mistake after gaining power. People showed irresponsibility in preventing man-made pollution, the serious and deadly consequences of which have left people all over the world in awe during the summer season. The entire West was seen to be booming. July this year with the beginning of 2010, many countries of America, Europe, China, Mexico, Latin America, Africa, Australia and Asia had to suffer from heat waves. Last year, Layton town of British Columbia province in Canada was seen completely scorching with 49.6 degrees Celsius heat, but India was seen sweltering with 45 degrees Celsius heat only in March. In this month, the heat wave of 49.5 degrees centigrade was seen in the town of Nawab Shah in Pakistan.

In 28 states of America, there was a scorching heat, which is often in a hundred years once a year has been recorded. In the city of Toronto, Canada, the temperature was more than 30 degrees Celsius for more than 50 days. If climate change continues to increase at this rate, according to an estimate, in 2060, cities like Toronto will experience 38 to 40 degrees centigrade heat for more than 50 days. In London, the capital of Britain, which

is famous for dark days due to rain and clouds, the fire brigade was constantly ringing bells everywhere in these summers. Every time there was a fear that the look wall would melt on the streets. It is not known when and where there will be a fire in the heat. It may come as a surprise to know that the whole of Europe was badly affected by the warm winds this time. The runways of airports in Britain, Spain, France, Portugal, Italy, etc., were seen melting with the 54 degree Celsius heat and full of streaks of aircraft wheels. China's Shanghai city was seen to be scorching with 40.9 degree Celsius heat this time after 1873.

The hot tropical air means that during this time the temperature rises by 90 percent in the surrounding areas, affects vegetation, fauna, water and the organisms that live in it. Since the 1980s, it has been observed that the sea level temperature is increasing rapidly due to temperature change. This has been revealed in the 2019 report of the National Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). According to the same IPCC report, in the middle of the current year 2022, warm winds were seen to cause environmental damage in northern India, Afghanistan, Pakistan,

southwestern Europe, North America, especially in its state, Texas.. Their tumultuous tumult was recorded as being caused by human error. Professor Dr. Jason Smerdon, a researcher at Columbia University's Lamont Earth Observatory, says that warm tropical winds affecting different regions of the world mean that the climate is warming overall. This hot climate is affecting the entire regions of the world.

According to Dr. Jane Baldwin, extreme heat waves are warming our Earth's temperature. He says that the polar latitudes are faster than the equatorial ones are heated with The heat waves that have been seen flowing across the world in recent times are directly indicating that the fury of these heat waves may continue in the future. As they have broken previous summer records, this is indeed a very alarming phenomenon. According to Dr. Baldwin, these increased temperatures and heat waves are due to human activities. Our programs are not climate friendly. Acknowledging this truth, if we do not make climate-friendly changes in them immediately, then surely we will end up on this earth. We will be digging the grave of our destruction.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# Government asks Chief Justice of India UU Lalit to name his successor

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 7:

With a month left before Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit retires, the government on Friday started the process of appointment of the next CJI with Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju asking the incumbent to recommend his successor.

"As per the MoP on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor," the Union Ministry for Law and Justice said.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) governing the appointment of members of the higher judiciary, "appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office".

Justice D Y Chandrachud is the second senior-most



judge of the Supreme Court. If appointed, he will have a tenure of over two years as CJI till November 10, 2024.

The MoP stipulates that the law minister would, at an "appropriate time," seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of the next CJI. Under this process, after

receipt of the recommendation of the CJI, the law minister puts it before the Prime Minister who advises the President on the matter of appointment. This process is conventionally done a month before the retirement of the incumbent CJI. CJI Lalit retires on November 8.

After the recommendation

process, once a new CJI is designated, as per convention, the collegium headed by the outgoing CJI also freezes. This means that till Justice Chandrachud takes over as CJI, the four names proposed by CJI Lalit on September 30 for appointment as judges of the Supreme Court are likely to be put on hold.

# FIPRESCI-India calls for entries of Competition on Film Criticism 2022

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI)-India calls for entries of the Competition of Film Criticism 2022 for the Chidananda Dasgupta Memorial Award for Best Film Criticism which carries Rs.6,000/- for the Best Award and Rs.4,000/- for the 2nd Best Award. Entries winning the Award and Certifi-

cate of Merit will be published in 'E-Cine India', the quarterly publication of the FIPRESCI-India.

One contestant can submit only one entry. There is no entry fee. The write-up must be the critical analysis of any Indian feature film written in English with a maximum of 2000 words. Image is not required. A self declaration is required confirming the article is written by the

contestant and it is an original one, free from plagiarism and never published anywhere before.

Full Name, Gender, Age, Address, E-Mail ID and Mobile/Wp No. of the Contestant should be written below the Self Declaration.

Soft Copy of the PDF file should be mailed to Fipresci-India at <indiafipresci@gmail.com> before 10th October 2022.

# RPF of Northeast Frontier Railway rescues 5 minor boys

Agency  
Guwahati, Oct 7:

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier (NF) Railway successfully rescued at least five minor boys from different stations in different drives and checks conducted during the period between September 27 and 30.

The rescued minors were later, handed over to the respective childcare for their safe custody and further course of action.

On September 27, RPF of New Jalpaiguri conducted a routine check in Train no 15903 (Dibrugarh - Chandigarh Express) at New Jalpaiguri railway station.

During the check, the RPF

personnel rescued one run away minor boy from the train.

In a drive, conducted on September 29 against human trafficking, unauthorized hawking, begging etc at Katihar railway station, RPF of Katihar (east) rescued at least 2 run-away minor boys.

On the same day, the RPF personnel at Guwahati in Assam conducted drive against human trafficking at the Guwahati railway station.

During the drive, they rescued one run away minor boy.

In another incident, September 30, RPF personnel at Silchar in Assam conducted a routine check at the Silchar railway station.

During the check, they res-

cued one run away minor boy.

Later the minor was handed over to Childline/Tarapur/Silchar for safe custody and further course of action.

RPF train escort parties and staff deployed at stations have been alerted and sensitized to be vigilant and on the lookout for suspected persons involved in human trafficking as well as the movement of children in a suspicious manner, travelling alone, without proper guardian etc.

"Meri Saheli" has been formed over NF Railway and functioning round the clock to make aware women/child passengers about the safety/security and use of Helpline No 139 in case of any exigency.

# ED conducts raids at 35 locations in Delhi-NCR, Punjab in liquor policy case

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 7:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted fresh raids at 35 locations in Delhi-NCR, Punjab and some places in Hyderabad in the Delhi excise money laundering case, as per the sources.

Reacting to the fresh raids, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday tweeted, "More than 500 raids, since 3

months, more than 300 CBI/ED officers are working 24 hours to find evidence against Manish Sisodia. Can't find anything because nothing was done. Time of so many officers is being wasted for their dirty politics. How will such a country progress?"

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted more than 103 raids in this case till now and has also arrested Sameer Mahandru, a liquor

businessman and managing director of liquor manufacturing company Indospirit last month in the case.

DELHI EXCISE POLICY The liquor scheme came under the scanner after the L-G recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22. He had also suspended 11 excise officials in the matter.

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# Humanity grappling with the deadly blow....

The entire world will have to come together to prevent rising temperatures due to our tragic anthropogenic phenomena. Are we not seeing the effects of this deadly temperature change? Europe continent has not seen such a big drought in 500 years. Water scarcity is being seen across Europe. That is why a big cut had to be made in the domestic shipping in Europe. Electricity production had to be reduced. Crop production was badly affected. According to the European Commission, 47 percent moisture deficit was

observed in Europe. 17 vegetables rotted in percent area. In the current year, the production of corn decreased by 16 percent, soybean by 15 percent and sunflower by 12 percent. The water level fell by 14 meters in the south-east of France. Drought continues to wreak havoc in Mexico. In 32 states of the country, 1546 out of a total of 2463 municipal committees i.e. 48 percent are victims of drought. Factories, houses, computers, servers, public places and various cities in Canada were seen to be affected by the heat waves.

Due to heat waves, every region of the world is suffering from hunger, disease, inflation, poverty and unemployment. The life of children, old people and poor people has become difficult. The developed countries have arranged cold conditions for the affected sections, but in the future, no one cares about the shortage of gas in the world, the bone-chilling winter, the face-to-face conflicts of different countries of the world. The famous corporate houses of the world have accepted that it is not possible

to prevent human waste due to the urgent challenges in the future.

The French Prime Minister has accepted that the hegemony of the West in the world has died. Climate change is knocking the wasteland of Europe is the rich 100 West is in decline due to ageing, insecurity, migration and the rise of new powers. Immigrants from Latin America, Africa and the Middle East are forcibly entering it. These are the very things that point to human-induced destruction. There's still time, get it folks.

# How can we tackle the problem of underage....

The high number of underage drivers transgressing the law by going for a joyride can be attributed to peer pressure and a feeling of youthful invincibility. Many lives are shattered by underage drivers going for a joyride in the vehicles of their parents or older relatives. Under Section 4 of the Motor Vehicles Act, minors driving a vehicle are liable and accordingly

they can be fined at least Rs 1,000. The owners, meanwhile, can be fined Rs 1,500 under Section 5 of the same Act. In case of negligent driving by minors, parents should be booked too.

Traffic police has been trying everything, have challenged and even impounded their vehicles but failed to curb the menace. The only solution left is the duty of the

parents to realise the danger associated with underage driving. Inexperience and immaturity are the primary causes of the increased risk of teenage driving. Untrained eyes are more likely to underestimate hazardous situations on the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggests that parents write up a contract for their teenage driver

that includes penalties for any rule that they break. Preventative measures must be taken to bring teenage auto fatalities down. The most important advice would be to teach responsibility by way of example. If parents drive with caution and obey the laws of the road - their children will also have more respect for traffic laws and for those who travel our roads.

# India reports 1,997 new Covid infections, active cases drop to 30,362

Agency  
New Delhi, Oct 7:

India logged 1,997 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,46,06,460, while the active cases declined to 30,362, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,754 with nine fatalities which includes three 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 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 1,920 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.94 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.34 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the dis-

ease surged to 4,40,47,344, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. According to the ministry, 218.88 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 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 Oc-

tober 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 six new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include two from Chhattisgarh and one each from Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

# 200 kg Heroin Seized from an Iranian Dhow off Kochi coast



By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Oct 7:

The heroin weighing 200 kg was seized and six people were arrested from an Iranian Dhow, 1200 nautical miles off the coast of Kochi in Kerala in a joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy on Thursday.

The six arrested from the dhow include 04 from Iran and identity of two was yet to be established, although they are suspected to be Pakistanis. They did not carry identity cards, the NCB officials said.

During the search, the Navy team recovered heroin from the boat. Following this,

the boat was taken to Mattancherry, Kochi. The accused are being questioned for more details. The drugs will be handed over to the Kerala coastal police. The operation was based on a tip off from international agencies.

The contraband was reportedly brought from Afghanistan to Kerala by international drug cartel and seized substances were worth crores in drug market. It may be recalled that in May, a joint team of NCB and DRI had seized 218 kg heroin off Lakshadweep coast. The Indian Navy, Coast Guard and other agencies have increased patrolling near Lakshadweep coast after intelligence reports about the car-

tels eyeing the coast for drugs smuggling.

DRI

In another operation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 16 kg heroin valued at Rs 80 crore from a passenger at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai on Tuesday. A passenger travelling from Malawi, an African country, to Mumbai via Qatar was trying to smuggle narcotic drugs into the country.

The passenger had hidden the contraband in the cavities of a trolley bag. Based on the information provided by him, the Ghanaian woman was subsequently nabbed from a hotel in Delhi who was to take

delivery of the drugs. The accused have been booked under the NDPS Act.

# PM Modi to declare Gujarat's Modhera as India's First Solar-Powered Village on October 9

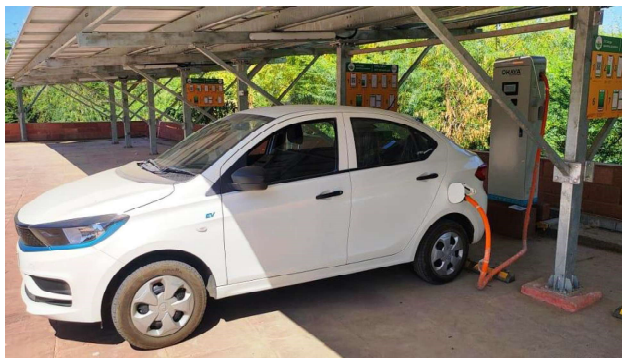
Agency  
Gandhinagar, Oct 7:

Modhera in Gujarat will soon be declared India's first solar-powered village, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to make the declaration on October 9. The village will be the first in India to be net renewable energy generator.

While the solar rooftops installed on more than 1,300 rural houses will cut down power bills by 60-100%, solar-powered 3D projection mapping shows and heritage lighting at the world-famous Modhera sun temple will reinforce India's renewable energy commitment.

In a prime example of ecotourism, the Modhera temple area has also been equipped with solar-powered electric vehicle charging.

Talking about the solar power project, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said: "I am happy that Gujarat has once again taken the lead in fulfilling Prime Minister's vision of generating clean energy. We are committed to fulfilling his resolve of producing 50% of India's energy requirements through renewable energy by



2030."

The governments of India and Gujarat initiated the 'Solarisation of Modhera Sun Temple and Town' to provide 24x7 solar power to Modhera with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Sujapur in Mehsana, approximately 6 km from the Sun Temple.

The state government allotted 12 hectares of land to develop the project. An amount of Rs 80.66 crore has been spent on a 50:50 basis by both central and state govern-

ments in two phases - Rs 69 crore in Phase I and Rs 11.66 crore in Phase II.

While the day-time power is supplied through solar panels, in the evening, the BESS provides power supply to the houses.

The heritage lighting and 3D projection at Sun temple will operate on solar energy as well. The 3D projection will educate visitors on the history of Modhera. The projection will operate for 15-18 minutes every evening. Visitors can

enjoy the heritage lightings from 6pm to 10pm. The 3D projection, meanwhile, will be operational from 7pm to 7:30pm every evening.

"Use of solar power has increased prosperity among citizens. Power bills stood at more than Rs 1,000 and have almost reduced to zero today. Solar panels have been installed at all feasible houses, free of cost. In case of excess power, we earn extra income too," said Jatanben D Thakor, Sarpanch, Modhera.

# Curtain Raiser of Manipuri Poetry Day-2022 held at Dimapur

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

The Department of English, St. Joseph University, Nagaland, observed Manipuri Poetry Day 2019 today, with a poetry recital programme. Every year on Meragee Thanil, the Department of English, St. Joseph University, Nagaland, organised the event by Curtain Raiser of Manipuri Poetry at the Seminar Hall of St. Jo-

seph University.

There were 17 participants, including students from BA, MA as well as Dr Selvin Vedamanickam, Professor, Department of English. All the participants recited poems on various themes like appreciating the beauty of Manipur, love, memory, nature, peace, and many more.

In her introductory speech, Dr Thokchom Sunanda Devi, HOD, Department of English,

stated that Manipuri Poetry Day is being observed in honour of the life and works of notable poets of Manipuri literature and to pay homage to the rich and unique literary tradition of the Manipuri language.

It may be noted that the Department of English, St. Joseph University, Nagaland has been organising Manipuri Poetry Day every year since 2019.

# Assam Rifles conducted Special Cleanliness Campaign 2.0

IT News  
Imphal, Oct 7:

Churachandpur district, Manipur today.

The cleanliness drive was not only an effort to clean the surroundings but was also an endeavour to motivate and encourage the local populace to keep their surroundings clean and litter-free. A total

of 25 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.

Contd. from Page 2

# 8th Edition of Young Leaders.....

He further mentioned that with improved connectivity infrastructure in Manipur and improved law and order situation in the state, tourism and hospitality sector is also picking up, generating gainful employment opportunities. Highlighting that the share of exports from the Northeast Region is abysmally low when compared to total exports from India, he was hopeful that such conclave would facilitate in streamlining bottlenecks leading to exponential rise in export numbers in the coming years. This would also be a stepping stone towards strengthening partnerships and forging sustainable collaborations in the region, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu, who is also a Governing Member of NELC, expressed gratitude for being a part of the Young Leaders Connect - 8. Mentioning the theme of this year's Connect, he stated that the time has come for the Northeast Region to play an important role in our Country's resolve to achieve the 5 trillion Dollar economy. He also mentioned that the region's rich natural resources and fragile ecology must not be compromised by various growth paths taken up. Stressing that the Northeast States has 8 percent of Country's geographical area with 4 percent of its total population, he mentioned that the region contributes only a small share in National Gross

Domestic Product (GDP), India's total food grain production, domestic and foreign tourists and also India's total export.

He further stated the need to discuss how to increase our contribution to the National GDP, which sector to be focused on, measures to increase the food grain production, to attract more tourists, and industries to be prioritized. He mentioned that various development works had been taken in the Northeast Region under the initiative of the Prime Minister. Certain measures for resolving issues regarding insurgency, drugs, interstate boundary disputes had been taken up in mission mode, apart from building infrastructures for conducive business environments, he added. Continuing that our human resources quality would be the next key asset, he said that we should sincerely endeavor to nurture it.

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and NELC Governing Council Member Gaurav Gogoi stated that Northeast States have a promising future with its potential youths, talents, culture and diversity apart from violence and insurgency which are things of the past. He expressed the need to tell others about both the glorious past and the promising future.

He informed that the NELC was born out of common love and passion for Northeast which would continue to grow and create friends not only among the Northeast, but also

with the rest of India. He mentioned that for Northeast, economy means its people and as such the potentials of our people should be harnessed to achieve growth and development.

During the programme, N. Biren Singh and Pema Khandu launched the project NEW (Northeast-region Entrepreneurs' World). Short videos on Star Education Manipur and theme song of Young Leaders Connect were also shown.

Cabinet Ministers of Manipur, MLAs, Members of NELC Governing Council, Chief Secretary, Manipur, senior officials of the State Government, Entrepreneurs and many potential youths also attended the programme among others.

The inaugural session was followed by Panel discussion on "Unlocking the Economic Roadmap for North East India". "What will be the Key Sectors that will drive Inclusive & Sustainable Growth in North East India" and conversation with young leaders of North East India.

It may be mentioned that the 8th edition of the Young Leaders Connect will seek to converge and design reforms and strategic ties that will reshape the economies of the Northeast region. The conclave will connect economies, culture and companies, and explore ways to help business and people to excel, align with what the communities are currently building and connect with their aspirations.

## Sports

# Santosh Trophy Knock-out Stage to be Held in Saudi Arabia in February 2023

Agency  
Kolkata, Oct 7:

In an unprecedented move, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) is planning to hold the knock-out stages of the Santosh Trophy National Championships in Saudi Arabia early next year.

AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with their Saudi Arabian counterparts to "study the possibility to stage the final stages of the Santosh Trophy" in the West Asian country in February 2023.

"The idea is to host the knockout phase of Santosh Trophy in select cities of Saudi to encourage State level players to dream big and also to connect large Indian community in Saudi with Indian football and create a win-win situation for both the Federations," the AIFF said in a release.

"The agreement comes as part of the efforts of SAFF and AIFF not only to enhance cooperation among key strategic partners in Asia but also to offer the opportunity to consolidate stronger bonds through football and culture between the large Indian Communities based in Saudi Arabia and In-

dian football." Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) President Yasser Al-Mishal and General Secretary Ibrahim Al Kassim signed the agreement from the side of the West Asian country. The agreement was signed in the Saudi Arabian city of Dammam.

"The agreement will allow a wide range of activations, including the provision of technological support, the organization and hosting of youth competitions for both men and women on a regular basis, as well as exchange of football and governance experts." AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey said: "It is a remarkable development for Indian football. Our

aim is to create a new platform for Indian football and spread it among Indian fans all across the world. My sincere thank to SAFF for their active cooperation in realising our goal."

AIFF General Secretary Shaji Prabhakaran said, "It is an out-of-the-box idea that I am sure will help Indian football to create a niche for itself among its loyal fans, who eagerly follow Indian football from wherever they are."

"Our aim is to take Indian football forward and explore all possibilities. This move, we are confident, will inspire players from across the nation to showcase their performance in front of a bigger audience."

# Harmanpreet Singh Voted FIH Player of the Year

Agency  
Lausanne, Switzerland, Oct 7:

India men's hockey team defender and vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh has been voted the FIH Player of the Year for the second year running.

The 26-year-old, who has a knack for being at the right place at the right time, got the award for his goal-scoring ability, which has gone up a level this past year as multiple teams have found his penalty-corner drag flicks impossible to deal with.

His scoring record includes an incredible 18 goals from 16 games, with two hat-tricks, in the Pro League 2021/22. With those 18 goals, he ended the season as the top scorer for India and now holds the record for most goals scored by a player in a single season of the Pro League.

Harmanpreet was also in terrific form at the Asian Cham-



pions Trophy Dhaka 2021, where he scored eight goals in six games, scoring in every single game as India finished on the podium. His performances were also crucial to the Indian team as it won silver at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Harmanpreet now becomes just the fourth player to win the Player of the Year award (men's category) in consecutive years, joining an elite list that includes Teun De Nooijer (Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium).

Harmanpreet's total points

tally stood at 29.4 points, followed by Thierry Brinkmann with 23.6 points and Tom Boon with 23.4 points.

Felice Albers of the Netherlands has been named the FIH Players of the Year 2021/22 in the women's category.

At the age of 22, Felice's trophy cabinet is already filled to the brim. She has been a part of the Dutch team in their gold-winning campaigns in the Pro League (2019 and 2020/21), Euro Hockey Championship 2021, Tokyo Olympics and the Women's World Cup 2022.

Felice broke into the Dutch national team in 2019, on the back of great performances at the junior level where she switched between midfield and attack. Since making her debut for the senior team, she has primarily played as an attacking midfielder, playing at the base of the attack and being involved in much of their offensive creativity. She also poses a serious goal-scoring threat to the opponents, scor-

ing 16 goals in her 32 international appearances thus far.

The Netherlands scored 42 goals in 16 games in the Pro League 2021/22, and 17 goals in six games at the Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022, and Felice played a major role in their offensive output as the creator-in-chief of a stellar Dutch team that finished second in the Pro League and won a third consecutive gold medal at the World Cup.

With this win, she becomes the youngest winner of the FIH Player of the Year award (women's category) since Germany's Natasha Keller (1999) and the second youngest ever, since the inception of the awards in 1998. Her total points tally stood at 29.1 points, narrowly edging Maria Granatlo (26.9 points), in one of the closest races of the FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2021-22. Agustina Gorzelany finished in third place with 16.4 points.

# Online Essay Competition

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

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

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

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

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

Team Imphal Times