

HM Amit Shah chairs 70th Plenary Session of North Eastern Council in Guwahati to review various development projects

Guwahati, Oct 9:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is chairing the 70th Plenary Session of North Eastern Council in Guwahati today in presence of G.K. Reddy, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Governors and Chief Ministers of eight North-Eastern states.

The Plenary Session is expected to review the status of different projects in North Eastern Region (NER), deliberate and fast-track the progress of ongoing projects, confirmation of the proceedings of the 69th Plenary meeting, outlays by Central Ministries in this region and plans for the period of the financial year 2022-23 & beyond. There will be presentations from the Ministry of DoNER, NEC, the State Governments as well as selected Central Ministries on various developmental initiatives and future plans for the North East region.

State Chief Secretaries from all



over NER made their presentation on 'Priorities & Success Stories' of their respective states and deliberated upon important themes such as 'Regional Planning for Telecom, Broadband & Internet Connectivity, Primary Sector Development and Tourism.

Secretary, MDDoNER, Lok Ranjan welcomed all the dignitaries to the Plenary Session and made his presentation on 'Vision and Strategy

for NER as Growth Engine of our Country' highlighting the recent reforms undertaken and the focus sector for sustainable and accelerated development of the region. MoS for DoNER & Co-operation, B.L. Verma was also present in the Session.

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh also attended the said 70th Plenary of the North Eastern Council held at Guwahati.

ATSUM submits memorandum to President; urges to intervene the passing of three Bills skipping the interest of Tribal people

IT News
Imphal Oct 9:

The All Tribal Students' Union of Manipur (ATSUM) had urged the President of India, Droupadi Murmuji urging to intervene the passing of three Bills namely - Bill No. 14, the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Seven Amendment) Bill 2022; Bill No.15, The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council's (Sixth Amendment) Bill 2022 and Bill No. 16, The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council's (Seventh Amendment) Bill 2022, stating that it violated the provisions of constitutions of India particularly Article 371 C by the Government of Manipur.

Fourteen Tribal Ex-Parliamentarians comprising Ex - MPs, Ex - Ministers and Ex - MLAs (Ex - Members of the HAC) sought the intervention of the President of India, Droupadi Murmuji for violating the provisions of constitutions of India particularly Article 371 C by the Government of Manipur.

dia particularly Article 371 C by the Government of Manipur.

In a memorandum submitted to the President on 10th August 2022, the tribal ex-parliamentarians (Fourteen Tribal Ex-Parliamentarians comprising Ex - MPs, Ex - Ministers and Ex - MLAs (Ex - Members of the HAC) had raised serious concerns regarding the unconstitutional procedures and violation of constitutional provisions during 2nd session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly. The three bills namely (1) Bill No. 14, the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Seven Amendment) Bill 2022 (2) Bill No.15, The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council's (Sixth Amendment) Bill 2022 and (3) Bill No. 16, The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council's (Seventh Amendment) Bill 2022 had bypassed the interest of the hill people and shifted the authority of the district council to the state government and undermined its mandate. The sixth Amendment was unconstitutional.

tionally passed in the guise of Money Bill and instead of tabling the already recommended bill, the government had referred a new bill to the HAC.

The ATSUM statement said that such attempts of forcefully overlooking the constitutional rights of HAC stated in the scheduled matters and directly shifting the mandate of the autonomous district council to the State Government can only be done through constitutional amendment and not by a mere State Assembly since this provision is given through Article 371 C.

It added, the erstwhile "The Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Councils Bill 2021" was unanimously recommended by the HAC following the rules of procedure. Yet, the State Government had without any stated mandate kept the recommended bill in abeyance and introduced another bill that was not recommended by the HAC.

contd. on page 4

PREPAK observed 45th Foundation Day; releases its journal 'Kangla Sempung'

IT News
Imphal, Oct 9:

Armed rebel group People's Revolutionary Party (PREPAK) celebrates its 45th Foundation Day along with different communities of the region.

A statement by Mangal Khuman, Publicity Officer, Department of Publicity & Propaganda, PREPAK said that the foundation day was held at its CHQ with the Chairman, Interim council as its chief Guest. The 45th Foundation Day was also held at its GHQ, Tactical

Head Quarter, 701, 707 and at other base area both at hill and plain region along with the people of the region. The PREPAK statement extended its gratitude to all print and electronic media for publishing and broadcasting the message of the Chairman, Interim Council.

At the foundation day celebration held at the CHQ (Central head Quarter), with the Chairman Interim Council, CAs Romi Meitei as chief guest and Charge-de-Affair's, Publicity & Propaganda, PREPAK, Leibaak Ngaakpa Luwang as president, annual publication of the outfit "Kangla Sempung, Volume 8, Issue 8, published by the party's Department of Publicity and Propaganda was released.

While speaking on the occasion the Chairman Interim Council elaborated on the complaint about the divide and rule policies.

contd. on page 3

Kangleichas are impoverished by the Loktak Project – PREPAK (Pro)

Loktak Project subjugates Manipur socio-economically, Ithai Dam Causes Food Insufficiency - Paliba

IT News
Imphal, Oct 9:

Armed rebel group PREPAK (Progressive) today celebrates the


46th Raising Day of its Red Army. On the occasion, Longjam Paliba M, Chairman of the PREPAK (Progressive) paid tribute to salute all the martyrs who had sacrificed

their lives in the course of liberation movements and also extended greetings and good wishes to all Kangleichas and the fraternal revolutionary organizations.

In connection with the 46th Raising Day elaborated on the revolutionary struggle. Produced here is the statement of Paliba -

"We did not start the liberation struggle for the lack of economic development, we as armed insurgents have nothing to say and fret about the paucity of India's developmental activities in Manipur. We neither demanded the rollback of such activities as well. However, it is important to know India's deceitful economic and subduing policies which show their intention to perpetuate the colonization of Manipur.

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मेरा हौचोंगबा, २०२२

Mera Houchongba

9th October, 2022

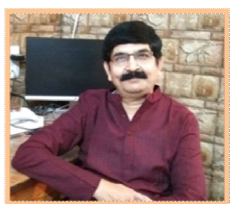
"Mera Houchongba" is a festival showcasing the unity of people of the Hills and Valley of our State

With the celebration of this auspicious day, let us make Manipur a peaceful, harmonious, developed and strong state by reaffirming the bonds of brotherhood between the people of Hills and Valley



DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

Teenagers' Addiction to Pornography



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Porn addiction is rampant today. Don't we think that parents should have more quality conversation with their children instead of keeping it bottled up. If they open up, then children feel easy to communicate with them without a fear of being judged. More and more disturbed parents and spouses have been seeking help, and there is even a growing concern in schools. It hurts child's spirit and infects mind with unclear thoughts.

Pornography consumption is not something that can easily be stopped.

Once the appetite for it has developed, it actually increases. Recently the Central Bureau of Investigation has smashed an international child pornography racket, being run for the past two years through a WhatsApp group that had 119 members from 18 countries. Porn or no porn should be decided by the common man and not by a bunch of bureaucrats. Pornography has existed for centuries and there has been a debate about whether pornography is socially or morally acceptable but as it involves adults, there is no law that is broken. But when children are involved in sexual exploitation, pornography is openly regarded to be a heinous crime in multiple nations. Adolescence goes downhill when there are too many restrictions. When obscenity becomes a commodity, it threatens to corrode the very bedrock of ethics on which a healthy society is founded. In such cases, sex education should be made compulsory for students before they reach puberty so that they understand sex and its functionality. Many schools focus exclusively on academics, paying little attention to effective counseling of adolescents. There has to be a policy to reduce the focus in the area of sex in general if our women and children are to be protected globally. At an individual level, pornography addiction, including 'cyber porn addiction' is one of the most notorious problems associated with pornography use today. Child pornography is a real and pressing problem that exists on local, national and international levels. Child Protection Act, 2012 provides protection to children from sexual assault, harassment and pornography. In this Act, Section 13 makes use of children for pornographic purposes a criminal offence that can lead to being jailed for up to five years. The world of internet and social media appeals the child a lot and because of this young mind does not give a second thought on the dark side of that world. With the internet making its way into phones, people now don't even care about who is sitting next to them. The government has already told the Supreme Court that there cannot be a complete ban on Internet pornography in the country and legal actions are also not possible in a large number of cases.

The only way out is for parents to spend their free time interacting with their children instead of watching boring television soaps. The influence of cinema and television on our impressionable youth cannot be under estimated. There are so many other movies that have explicit scenes bordering on soft porn. At times, there are even advertisements for safe sex or use of condoms which depict young girls and boys. We all know of scientifically proven bad effects of porn films. They tear families apart, objectify women and pollute children's mind. Today the children addicted to pornography brings about various changes in values, attitudes, development and also gives rise to unwanted health issues. There are children who use to take money from their parents saying that need to download some study material from Internet to complete their homework, but instead spend them watching porn clippings at the cafes. It is a part of socialization seems to be a difficult proposition to accept as it is a by-product of child sexual abuse. It has become very important that people talk about child pornography so as to raise awareness of the implications of such crimes in our society. Peer pressure is also a cause of child pornography. It is high time that child pornography is dealt with separately.

Children being weak, gentle and meek should be protected from the world of criminals, shady people, and negative people and so on. These vulnerable kids fall prey to the predators of child abuse, child trafficking, child pornography etc. Sex Education today is both timely and apt as the importance of sex education cannot be overemphasized. Unfortunately, we do not take sex education seriously because there exists a huge communication gap between the political leadership and the scientific community. Schools are ideal places where students can get answers to basic questions on sex. With teenage pregnancies and abortions on the rise, and an increase in the number of those affected by AIDS, sex education for children is a must. Because of the conservative culture that exists in our society, children find it difficult to discuss sex with their parents or teachers. Due to lack of information and the cultural barrier, many of them become easy prey of pedophiles. It is necessary to prevent children from learning from bad peers and obscene books about sex. A holistic approach should be adapted to sex education by making available standard textbooks on the Internet for the middleclass children also. Banning pornography is not a solution. Sex education would help students develop personal values and understand interpersonal relationships as they explore their own sexuality. When sexual abuse comes from all quarter's viz. relatives, colleagues and strangers, it is mandatory to teach the children how to overcome and protect themselves from such contingencies than about sex.

There is also an urgent need to keep the young informed of the measures to protect themselves against sexual exploitation. Effective counseling as an inclusive aspect in schools will lead to the overall wellbeing and healthy development of the child. Participatory sex education will provide the impetus for discussion and discourage prejudices. Academicians and policymakers should evolve a syllabus that is relevant to the changing times. The hesitation to discuss sex in open classrooms can be overcome if women teachers teach girls and male teachers educate boys. Other schools in the city should make sex education part of the curriculum to avoid such misinformation and restrict child abuse. There must be a check on their activities by the parents while using net. They must also be made aware of the pros and cons of the high tech modern world and social media. It is important to develop an understanding of the problem so that laws are made and implemented to curb child pornography and the rights are given to children are actually practiced. The Indian cyber law needs to be amended and made more effective to curb access, use, transmission and publishing of porn. Also, cyber education and etiquette need to be inculcated in school curriculum to sensitize children about the huge porn content available and how they should protect themselves from it. People should be educated to note the behavioural changes of the children and find out the reasons for abuses to save the child from trauma which may be prolonged. Sex education as a part of curriculum will create awareness and a healthier India.

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No Common Understanding on Prohibition of Alcoholic Liquors in Manipur Yet



By: Rk Bobichand

Even though Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren and some of his cabinet colleagues boldly said in public many times that the state government remains firm on its decision to partially lift prohibition and will not step back from pressures, the pro-prohibitionist groups led by Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) and All Manipur Women's Social Reformation & Development Samaj, popularly known as Nupi Samaj continue to mount their pressure on Manipur Government to roll back the Cabinet decision by holding sit-in-protests and rallies at various places.

The cabinet of Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren on September 20 approved a proposal for partial lifting of the prohibition and regulating selling and brewing of alcoholic liquors in Manipur, besides opening of licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquors (IMFL) Foreign Made Foreign Liquors (FMFL). Manipur became a dry state with effect from April 1, 1991 after the enactment of the Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act, 1991.

Next day, September 21 condemning the state cabinet decision to lift the prohibition, the Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) demanded the government to immediately revoke the cabinet decision. Such a move of the state government to benefit some allied entrepreneurs will lower the morale and character of the youths, especially women, besides creating health issues in every family across the state, CADA Secretary General Geetchandra Mangang said while speaking to the media at CADA office in Imphal East.

He also questioned, "Will anything which is uncontrollable be legalised? Is the government also going to legalise drugs, corruption and prostitution which is uncontrollable?"

"We demand a white paper from the government so that the public may discuss the merits and demerits of lifting the prohibition on selling and brewing of alcoholic liquors. But Manipur Government failed to respond to the demands," Geetchandra said, adding that the protest will continue.

Moreover, Nupi Samaj demands that the Manipur Government must review the cabinet decision that was taken to legalise brewing and selling of liquor. Leaders of Nupi Samaj warned

of intense forms of agitations. Addressing reporters at its office in Imphal September 22, Nupi Samaj president Th Ramani cautioned that women in the state will launch various forms of intense agitations if the state government fails to review the decision. She alleged that over 40 years of campaign by women against liquor and abuse of drugs went in vain by that decision of the government.

Ramani said that the government had taken the decision by sidelining the long struggle of women against liquor to save the society. "The Chief Minister must immediately review the decision", she added. "If no positive response comes forth from the government, the Nupi Samaj is ready to launch various forms of intense agitations along with like-minded civil society organisations," she also said. The decision to lift the prohibition showed that the government sees only the revenue to be generated and not the negative impact being given to society, Ramani alleged.

As decided by Nupi Samaj and CADA, Sit in Protests and rallies by Meira Paibis in protest against the Manipur Government's decision lifting total prohibition on selling and brewing of alcoholic liquors in Manipur have been continuing from September 23 in various parts of the state till to this day.

While CADA, Nupi Samaj and other organisations are demanding to revoke the Cabinet decision to partially lift prohibition of selling and brewing of alcohol liquor, Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren remains firm. Besides sale and distillation of local brew and IMFL in selected spots, he is now talking of establishing "a beer factory based on pineapple and ginger in Manipur".

Reiterating that the Cabinet decision to lift prohibition on sale and consumption of liquor from the State was taken after holding thorough discussion and taking recommendation from committees formed earlier in this regard, Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren and some of his cabinet colleagues have said the Government has taken this step considering health issues of many people who are suffering from liver cirrhosis and other diseases due to drinking of spurious alcohols besides claiming revenue collection of Rs. 600 to 700 Crore annually from the distillation and sale of local brews.

However, amid Nupi Samaj's ultimatum to launch intensified forms of agitation instead of democratic agitations from October 11 if the state government fails to make a response on whether the cabinet decision will be withdrawn or not by October 10 and the stand of CADA that they will not meet the government until a white paper on lifting prohibition is produced by Manipur government, a "DRAFT Manipur Liquor Regulation Policy" has

gone viral on social media on October 4 evening followed by another document entitled "General Public Information". Both the documents didn't have any official authentication.

Meanwhile, the CADA on October 6 has rejected the DRAFT Manipur Liquor Regulation Policy 2022 issued by Manipur government after receiving the same in the evening on October 5 with a letter from Chief Minister's Office stating that it demanded a 'White Paper' and hence, it will not meet with the government until it produces a white paper but will instead support any form of agitation initiated by the Nupi Samaj.

Addressing the media at its office located at Pureiramba Khongnangkhang in Imphal East, Secretary General of CADA, Geetchandra Mangang said that the draft copy of 'Manipur Liquor Regulation Policy 2022' will not be considered as white paper that CADA has been demanding from the government. Geetchandra said a white paper should include pros and cons on legalisation of liquor and should elaborate the queries made by the public including how the government is going to control the situation after liquor legalisation is implemented.

CADA demanded that before issuing even a draft policy, the government should make a declaration that the government has failed to ban liquor in the state under Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act, 1991 as background of the white paper. Research data should be included in the white paper highlighting health problems as said by the government, social problems, cultural norms, crime, economy and others in order to convince the public, he added.

Moreover, the present issue on liquor legalisation has been a major issue in the state whereas the draft copy has only two pages without elaborating any of the points, he said and alleged that the draft copy was issued by the government in order to distract the people from the movement carried against liquor legalisation.

The two-page 'DRAFT Manipur Liquor Prohibition Policy' mentioned that the aims and objectives of the Manipur Liquor Regulation Policy are to work towards: (a) Eradication of distillation, transportation, possession, consumption and sale of illicit liquor; (b) Restricting the availability of local liquor as well as IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor)/FMFL (Foreign Made Foreign Liquor); (c) Reducing the impact of illicit and adulterated liquor on health; (d) Reducing the demand of intoxicating drinks; (e) Address the menace of illegal drugs; (f) Generating employment; and (g) Generating revenue of the state; (h) Address the problem of the black market in liquor on account of 'prohibition'.

For each of the aims and objectives of the "Manipur Liquor Regulation Policy", some action plans are stated

in the two-page "policy".

The government also issued a draft copy of "General Public Information" consisting of 10 points which included that every retail outlet should invariably display in bold letters that "CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH AND DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE".

It stated that sale of liquor to person below 25 years is strictly prohibited and liable to be prosecuted and punishable under Rule 351 (C) of the Draft Manipur Excise Rules, 2022; production of Government issued identity card is mandatory when demanded; no retail vendor can be located within 100 meters of educational institutions, religious places, hospitals etc., under Rule 289 of the Draft Manipur Excise Rules, 2022.

The draft copy further stated that employment of any person below the age of 25 years in liquor vendor is a punishable offence under Rule 351 (C) of the Draft Manipur Excise Rules, 2022; drinking liquor in public places attract a fine of Rs. 5000/- with minimum of 24 hours imprisonment along with relevant punishable offences under Section 501 of IPC r/w Rule 351 (B) of the Draft Manipur Excise Rules, 2022.

Drinking and driving under the influence of alcohol is a criminal offence and punishable under Section 279 of IPC r/w Section 510 of IPC, the draft warned, adding that driving a motor vehicle in a drunken state if found with Blood Alcohol Level (BAL) exceeding 30 mg of intake per 100 ml of blood detected with the help of a Breath analyser is punishable under Sec. 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

However, Geetchandra on October 6 told to the media that the CADA is not against the government but it is ready to meet with the government only after the government produce a white paper in order to convince the people on liquor legalisation, adding that the draft copy was made without the context and CADA will not comment on the draft copy until a white paper is produced.

As pointed out by the CADA, Manipur Government fails to give the background or context of prohibition of alcoholic liquor in Manipur from which a positive and clear aim and object of the policy should emerge, and other issues relating to brew, sale or use alcoholic liquors by whom, where and how etc are derivative matters.

Now, what it can be drawn from the different positions and actions shown by Manipur Government and pro-prohibitionist groups led by CADA and Nupi Samaj is that there is no common understanding of the situation yet before considering to resolve the conflict between Manipur Government and pro-prohibitionist groups on prohibition of alcoholic liquors.

(The author is a Senior Journalist)

Need Value-Based Education



By: Vijay GarG

A values-based education system will help prepare the youth to face a complex and constantly evolving world

Teaching of values should form the backdrop of all academic and non-academic pursuits.

While conversations on education have included new-age pedagogies and integration of technology, the pandemic brought forth

another aspect critical to student development and growth: Value-based education. It made us realise the need to enable students to navigate challenges, cope with rejections, move forward in the face of adversity, care for their communities and the planet. The National Education Policy (NEP) also emphasises the need to integrate value-based education into a student-centric curriculum.

Prepare the youth

In a complex and constantly evolving world, values such as resilience, integrity, and humility are now more important in professionals and leaders across organisations. The aim of education must be more than just preparing the youth for the work ecosystem. It needs to equip them with the values to become responsible, compassionate citizens. We must enable students to want to work towards and contribute to a sustainable community, environment and

planet. Portugal, for example, has a national strategy for citizenship education to put in place from lower secondary classes a set of activities that develop knowledge, values and attitude around good citizenship.

Scientific research has proven that value-based education creates a conducive environment that enhances academic learning and achievement, while developing social skills and relationship-building capabilities. Children who adopt values at an early age are more confident, competent and intelligent along with being effective learners and good citizens.

However, integrating values in the curriculum must not be restricted to specific classes. Teaching of values should form the backdrop of all academic and non-academic pursuits. Integrating learning modules that derive from real-life situations are important to instill values such as

loyalty, kindness, integrity, compassion and selflessness in students. When they are able to link their learning experiences to the real-world, they get clearer sense of purpose and the teachings remain with them.

Whether one is teaching Maths, Science, or History, values can be inculcated while talking about themes within each subject. History can help students learn about equality, liberty, patriotism, secularism. The sciences can be a medium to instill compassion towards nature and a scientific temper. Geography, for instance, can teach how to respect other cultures and ethnicities.

Developing an education system with values at the core will create students who are good global citizens, who are compassionate and caring, who work collaboratively to solve problems and have the resilience to face any uncertainties life may bring.

EC freezes Shiv Sena's "Bow & Arrow" symbol ahead of Andheri by-poll

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, Oct 9:

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Saturday froze Shiv Sena's "Bow & Arrow" symbol ahead of Andheri by-poll slated to be held on November 03 to fill the vacancy caused by the demise of Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke.

The Shiv Sena has fielded Latke's spouse Rutuja, while BJP has fielded BMC's former Corporator Murji Patel, who was disqualified from corporatorship by the Bombay High Court in April 2019 for his failure to submit caste certificate in support of his claim that he belonged to the Other Backward Class. The last date for filing nominations is October 14.

The breakaway group led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has not fielded separate candidate, but has approached EC demanding that the Uddhav Thackeray faction be refrained from using "bow and arrow" symbol. Similarly, the Maharashtra Election Commission had sought clarification from the Election Commission of India about the status of both the factions.

On Saturday, the EC passed an interim order directing both the Thackeray and Shinde factions not to use the name "Shiv Sena" or the symbol "bow and arrow" in the Andheri East



The Shinde and Thackeray factions lose the "Bow and Arrow".

bypoll till the matter is finally decided.

The Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey and the Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar in their order stated: "a) Neither of the two groups led by Eknathrao Sambhaji Shinde (Petitioner) and other led by Uddhav Thackeray (Respondent) be permitted to use the name of the party "Shiv Sena". b) Neither of the two groups shall also be permitted to use the symbol "Bow & Arrow", reserved for "Shiv Sena", c) Both the groups shall be known by such names as they may choose for their respective groups, including, if they so desire, linkage with their parent party "Shiv Sena" and d) Both the groups shall also be allotted such different symbols as they may choose from the list of free symbols notified by the EC for

the purposes of the current by-election".

"Accordingly, both the groups are hereby directed to furnish, latest by 01:00 PM on October 10 : (i) The names of their groups by which they may be recognized by Commission and give three options of names in order of preference, anyone of which may be approved by the Commission and (ii) The symbols which may be allotted to the candidates set up, if any, by the respective groups. They may indicate the names of three free symbols, in the order of their preference, anyone of which may be allotted to their candidates by the Commission".

Ironically the EC continued to refer the Shiv Sena as 'a recognized Party in the State of Maharashtra' in its deliberations. Shiv Sena MP Arvind Savant said that lakhs of affidavits sup-

porting "original Shiv Sena" have been filed before the EC. It is surprising how the EC can decide the matter within four hours even without verifying the documents already filed. Deepak Kesarkar of Shinde faction said that this is a temporary order and his faction will eventually win the battle.

The Congress and the NCP have decided to support the candidate of the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena, their coalition partner in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Shinde had raised a banner of revolt against Thackeray for entering into an "unnatural alliance" with the Congress and NCP. More than 40 of the Shiv Sena's 55 MLAs had supported Shinde, forcing the resignation of Thackeray from the post of Maharashtra chief minister on June 29. The dispute is pending in the Supreme Court.

India adds 2,797 Coronavirus infections, Active cases drop below 30K after 122 days

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 9:

India added 2,756 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,46,12,013, while the active cases dipped to 28,593, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,799 with 21 fatalities which includes 16 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.06 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 658 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.15 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.28 per cent, according to the health ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,54, 621, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

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

ber 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.

According to the ministry, 218.97 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive. The five new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include two from Maharashtra and one each from Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin elected unopposed as DMK chief for second time

Agency
Chennai, Oct 9:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK stalwart MK Stalin was on Sunday elected unanimously as party president for the second time. Apart from the CM, party veterans Duraimurugan and T R Baalu were also re-elected unopposed to the post of general

secretary and treasurer respectively.

"Chief Minister MK Stalin was again elected as the president of the association! CM Stalin assumed responsibility as president of the DMK - a party that stands for rationality, self-respect, social justice, equality and women's rights and defends its rights every day," the party tweeted soon after the

general council meeting.

The DMK was founded in 1949 by Dravidian movement icon C N Annadurai. He had held the party general secretary post till his demise in 1969, following which Karunanidhi became the first president of the DMK. Stalin was elected unanimously as party president in 2018 following his father's demise.

Contd. from Page 1

PREPAK observed 45th Foundation Day; releases its journal....

"It is crystal clear that the complaint about the divide and rule among the hill people by Indian rule remain as hindrance to our unity", the Chairman said. He added that both hill and plain people have to sit down together and discuss about this matter. On

the other hand a separate state or alternative arrangement is about the identity of a community, participation in the administration, ownership of the land should be discussed in depth.

The differences among various communities of the re-

gion are the outcome of the administration by the colonial regime. Enmity among the various communities is caused by the frustration of the colonial administration. For these issues the region need academicians, leaders of the Civil Society need to have ideol-

ogy beyond the colonial administration. The question of each community will never be able to get from the administrative set up of the colonial regime. The PREPAK believe that unity will only be restored after the people started thinking beyond the colonial ad-

ministrative set up.

The Chairman also recalled the history of PREPAK and said that both the hill and plain people will fight until freedom, development and socialism is achieved. He said that there are nations which the UN and some countries

does not aware about the freedom struggle, but these will only lead to armed conflict.

The President of the function called on the people of the region to jointly fight the common enemy. Establishing better relationships among the various community and

establish more Red Army to fight the Colonial master is the only way to reach the destination.

At 701 and 707 battalion of the PREPAK, respective camp commanders hoisted the 7 colour flag and read out the message of the Chairman.

Kangleichas are impoverished by the Loktak Project....

"As the adage goes "The first impression is the last impression", the events such as the Annexation in 1949, the humiliation of constitutional monarchy with demoted Part-C state, swift repeal of the Permit System, and utilization of teensy development funds of about Rs.1 Crore in the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) illustrate the premeditated India's anti-Manipuri mind-sets. But most importantly, I must say that their arrogant and expansionist policies had ignited the anti-India armed struggle.

"Over the course of 28 years from 1951 to 1974 and 1980 to 1985, India had allowed Manipur to utilise around Rs.301 crores from the plan outlay. It is ludicrous that the cumulative development fund over the period of 28 years was below the yearly monetary loss of about Rs.400 crore in terms of agricultural products due to the submergence of arable fertile lands induced by the Loktak project.

"Even during British rule, it was estimated that Manipur's yearly agricultural surplus was around 25%. However, since the Ithai barrage inundated around 80000 hectares of fertile arable land, Manipur has been surviving on food import. In the past, Moirang and its surrounding villages was a prosperous region with a rich culture; however, the project has been contributing to endless

economic hardships. The Loktak project, which began in 1971 just before Manipur was granted illusionary statehood, was designed with a false promise to give every household electrical power. In the real sense this project aimed to earn huge profits for the Centre at the expense of Manipur. It was hastily implemented while there was no responsible government to participate in the initial decision-making process which ultimately neglected the Socio-economic costs. Still, the state government could not say anything, let alone decommissioning it. In the name of development, it is certain that Delhi agents had started the dependency strategy ahead of time.

"After the end of Second World War and post British colonial period, the geopolitical and geo-economics position of Manipur was somewhat in turmoil. Exploiting the situation, the Indian government colonized Manipur in 1949. Imitating the British's policy of divisive Hills and Plain administration, India intentionally misinterpreted the hills insurgency's anger as against the Meeteis by introducing the polarising clauses in Article 371-C. This is nothing but to reverse our aged old assimilated history as to align the unrealistic 'Unity in Diversity' which is the Idea of India. Yet, there are apprehensions among the Meeteis when it comes to the search for the

Naga insurgency solution. Following the illegal dissolution of the elected people's government of 1948, Delhi inducted Manipur as their political playground and vigorously implemented their neo-colonialist policies in 1949-1971. These twenty-two years is the darkest period, during which the colonial seed of India was planted.

"North East Council (NEC) was founded in 1971 to promote the balanced development of socio-economic conditions in the North-eastern region. The council was placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) with state governors as the only members. Later, it was upgraded to M-DONOR but remained under the purview of MoHA. An eccentric system of securitization of development was implemented freely while state governments were side-lined. Since 1949, Manipur has not been a civil state, but a militarized state. In any militarized state, an armed revolution occurs naturally. It is absurd to set up a choice between development and insurgency by putting the cart before the horse.

"The art of lying is essential for becoming an elected Indian leader as one must be able to convince the common people through fudging election manifests. Plato and Socrates once said that a perfect and ideal administration requires a "Noble Lie." This

noble lie is followed illogically by the Indian leaders. Based on the rhetoric of self-reliance, the "Atmanirbhar" policy commends Khadi cloth as nationalistic item whose wearing was once seen as a symbol that compelled the British to retreat from India. However, it is irony that the almost all of the Indian "Tiranga" flags, hoisted recently at every Indian house, were mostly made from Chinese polyester clothes.

"It was almost a debacle trying to establish a Socialist Republic of India using mixed and planned economic policies for forty years between 1951 and 1991. These periods created a wealthy class of politicians and bureaucrats, while the destitute classes were expanded. As a result, Nehru's popular phrase "the trust with destiny" became "the trust with desolation". In 1991, India greeted with rousing fanfare the Western colonialist recycled Neoliberal Economic Policy. Under this neoliberal policy, several profitable and public good units were handed over to a few wealthy Indians. India has become a Crony Capitalist nation under the thumb of ruling elite politicians and wealthy people. It is now ranked at the 9th position in the index of crony-capitalism in the world.

"India follows the trickle-down economic policy which is nothing but to leave the vast majority poor Indian at the

mercy of few wealthy classes. Under this policy, the construction of roads and bridges, the exploration of natural resources and railway services are all privatized. The Constitutional Declaration of India as the Socialist Democratic Republic is undeniable proof that India ridicules the Idea of India. Despite the promises of a few deceptive socialist programs under the election agenda, India is now becoming an Oligarchy.

"During the pandemic, Indian billionaires doubled their wealth to Rs. 57.3 lakh crore. Eleven Indian billionaires amassed enough wealth amid pandemic which can cover the health budget or MGNREGA for 10 years. China has made a significant contribution to alleviating poverty around the world, while India has raised poverty levels by 57% in the last two years. Paradoxically, forty Indian billionaires were listed in World Billionaires Club during the second wave of Pandemic while the crematoriums were overcrowded with death bodies. Several allegations are coming out that Covid-19 is not a pandemic but rather a "Plandemic" designed to earn huge profits by global pharma mafias, including India.

"Wealthy people are turning the education system into a commodity to earn more profits. So-called education systems dominate the teaching responsibilities of family elders regard-

ing traditional values, disciplines, and social values. The surge of drug addiction among the youths is due to the lack of coordination between the family and school education system.

"Manipur State Assembly condemned the controversial "The Merger Agreement" on 28 September 1949; we also continue to condemn it; there were public resolutions calling it an "Illegal Merger Agreement" in 1993 and 1996. On 29 October 2019, one group namely 'the Manipur State Council' also declared Manipur's independence before the international media in London. These condemnations and declarations offer profound insights into the true nature of Manipur-India relations. The so-called elected representative

must extrapolate the root causes of this seventy-three years old political conflict. Celebration of surrender drama and bragging about the disappearing number of Anti-Indian people are all the reflections of the voices of the delusional Delhi-nightmare induced leaders.

"Before it becomes too late for the legislative assembly to become a gossip mill, it must serve as a democratic temple to discourse on resolving the chronic socio-political problems created by India, the induced food dependence projects, and the erroneous education system that needs to be corrected. Lastly, my appeal to the Kangleichas is not to fall prey to the seemingly beneficial but illusory policies of the government."

**Government of Manipur
Office of the District Officer
Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Ukhrul**

NOTIFICATION
Ukhrul, the 9th October, 2022

No. 120/HSC-UKL/MIDH/2005(Pt): Applications are hereby invited from genuine Horticulture Farmers of Ukhrul & Kamjong District for availing assistance under the scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for the year 2022-23 on or before 14th October, 2022. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Kh. Manorama
District Officer
Horticulture & Soil Conservation
Ukhrul

Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas celebration at Senapati

IT News
Senapati, Oct 9:

Joining the nationwide celebration, the District Administration, Senapati also celebrated the Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas on 6th October, 2022 at Conference Hall, DC Office, Senapati.

In the celebration, L. Dhaneshwar, District Informatics Officer (NIC), Senapati said that the whole country India will be celebrating Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas through-

out this month of October. The main purpose of celebration is to create awareness on issues relating to cybercrimes and cyber hygiene to prevent cybercrimes, phishing, online financial frauds etc., he added. He also highlighted various do's and don'ts of cyber related matter, social networking sites like facebook, instagram, etc., banks related matters and other online facilities through SMS. He also said that in any cases of

cybercrime, anyone can report it to the given website-<https://cybercrime.gov.in/>. He also appeals member present to stay alert and be cautious of various scams and frauds.

It may also be mentioned that the celebration is also held in all the sub-divisional areas of the district.

The programme was attended by staffs of DRDA, CAF&PD, NIC, DIT, Election Department, Representatives from Banks & CSCs.

Naga citizens' group holds meeting to bring NSCN (IM) & NNPG under one umbrella in Nagaland

Agency
Guwahati, Oct 9:

The Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR), a citizens' group in Nagaland, has taken an initiative to bring rebel outfits NSCN (IM) and NNPG under one umbrella for early solution of the Naga political issue.

While NNPG is an umbrella body of seven militant outfits and has taken a pro-Final peace pact stance since November 2017, the NSCN-IM led by Thuingaleng Muivah had red-flagged the peace process by raising the twin bogies of a separate Naga Constitution and Flag.

At the initiative of FNR, a number of social workers and leaders from apex NGOs and civil societies met in Dimapur on Saturday, and decided to bring both the warring sides to a common platform.

"The Naga public will

render our wholehearted assistance to this reconciliation process for the NSCN and NNPGs to find common ground and mutually agree on a relationship of cooperation based on the Naga historical and political rights in order to move forward," FNR said in a statement on Saturday.

"...the Naga people must change by acting in hope and acknowledging one another as people of common belonging," the FNR further said.

Earlier on September 14, the leaders of NSCN-IM and NNPG held a meeting to jointly take forward the negotiation process with the Centre.

At the end of the September 14 meeting, a Joint Accordant statement clearly had laid down a roadmap.

"...in order to chart a path forward, we (NNPG and NSCN-IM) remain commit-

ted to peace and respect and to resolve outstanding issues amongst us," said a statement.

The two sides have over three decades of mutual rivalry. Essentially, it used to be turf wars as the NSCN(IM) led by Muivah and Late Isak Chishi Swu drew their strengths from Manipur hills where Tangkhul and other Naga tribes reside.

The NNPG is led by N. Kitovi Zhimomi, a Sema Naga from Zunheboto district in the state of Nagaland.

Kitovi was a lieutenant of the Late S.S. Khaplang, a Hemi Naga insurgent leader who originally hailed from Myanmar.

The September 14 meeting was attended among others by Muivah's trusted aide and one-time militant commander V.S. Atem while Alezo Venuh, Coordinator of NNPG, represented the umbrella body.

Rotary Club of Imphal donates RO Drinking Water Unit at RIMS, Imphal



IT News
Imphal, Oct 9:

Rotary Club of Imphal (RID 3240) donated one RO Drinking Water Unit at Regional Institute

of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal today. It was inaugurated and handed over to the authority of RIMS, Imphal by Dr. Kushanava Pabi, District Governor, RID-3240 during his official club visit to Rotary Club of Imphal. The inaugural programme was attended by Dr. Sanjib Nepram, Medical Superintendent, RIMS, Imphal, Rtn. Ellendra Thoudam, Assistant

Governor, Zone XII, Rtn. Pramod Jaiswal, President, RC Imphal along with members of the Rotary Club and staff of RIMS, Imphal. Dr. Kushanava Pabi said that this RO drinking unit will surely benefit the patients attending OPD at RIMS, Imphal. He appealed to all members of Rotary clubs to continue to serve the community through various service projects.

District Governor, Dr. Kushanava Pabi, accompanied his wife by Rtn. Jaya Pabi, is officially visiting both Rotary Club of Imphal and Rotary Club of Polo City Imphal. He was earlier warmly welcome by members of both the clubs on his arrival at Imphal Airport today morning.

SSF observed Eid-Milad-un-Nabi

IT Correspondent
Jiribam, Oct 9:

The Sunni Students' Federation (SSF), Manipur State Committee observed Eid-Milad-un-Nabi or Eid-e-Milad today at Jiribam to marks the birth of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad.

In connection with the celebration, a grand rally started from Kashimpur bazaar which passed through National Highway-37 to Jiri Tipaimukh road and ended at Lalpini Eidgah ground.

The rallies carry green flags in their hands and tie ribbons on their wrists to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's teachings. The green colour represents Islam and paradise.

The celebration of Eid-e-Milad is one of the ways Muslims pay tribute, respect, honour, and shower their love towards the last prophet of Islam.

Thereafter, a grand sermon was delivered by Maulana Tamiz Uddin, Head Maulana Kashimpur Alia Madrasa in connection with the birthday celebration of



prophet Muhammad. Maulana Minaj Uddin, Vice President, SSF Manipur State Committee also delivered speech in connection with Eid-e-Milad.

The SSF, Manipur State Committee also expressed gratitude to Jiribam District

Administration for their cooperation to make the programme a grand successful.

Contd. from Page 1

ATSUM submits memorandum to....

Such blatant overriding of Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business rightly requires rectification through the intervention of the President. ATSUM highly applauds the new President of India for promptly stepping in and initiating action to safeguard the

constitutional provisions. We hope the unconstitutional hegemonic procedures inside the state Assembly would be promptly rectified and that this would remain a deterrent. We also urge the state government again to respect the constitutional rights of the hill people

and table the ADC Bill 2021 as assured through a Memorandum of Understanding dated 25th November 2021 signed between State Government and Tribal Students' Organisations represented by ATSUM, ANSAM and KSO-GHQ.

Sports

Discipline, encouragement pushes U-17 Star Thanglalsoun Gangte ahead

Thanglalsoun Gangte from Manipur, is currently the highest scorer for India in the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, having scored a third of the team's goals

Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, Oct 9:

The India U17 Men's National Team has played some of its best football at the AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia so far, amassing 12 goals in three matches. One youngster who has shone for the Blue Colts, netting a third of the team's goals is Thanglalsoun Gangte.

Right now the highest scorer for the team in the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, Gangte had also ended the SAFF U-17 Championship last month as the joint top scorer with four goals to his name. Despite being at the forefront of the goalscoring efforts of the team, Gangte is one who remains firmly grounded, something that he attributes to the discipline imparted by the staff.

"I think one of the biggest things that we have experienced in the national team is the importance of maintaining a disciplined life for a football player," Gangte said, speaking



to the-aiff.com. "Discipline brings in continuity, and with that, it becomes a habit to put in the same effort for every match. That's why we always go into every match for the win."

While discipline keeps everyone in line, the youngster also feels that the boys are given enough room to express themselves on and off the

pitch.

"The coaches give us a lot of encouragement. They want us to play good football, and they always encourage us to think about how we will play, and to make those decisions for ourselves. That's where I believe the creativity comes in," he said.

"Coach (Bibiano Fernandes) always told us dur-

ing the trials that there is no selection in the team. You just have to put your entire mind and body into the game. In order to be in the team you have to give something to the team, and I try to do that by scoring the goals," said Gangte.

The son of a former footballer social worker from Imphal, Gangte was introduced to the beautiful game at a very early age; so much so, that he can't remember when he started playing.

"I don't know really. Whenever I remember, I was always playing football. I guess it's because my father was a footballer at the local level that I was introduced to the sport so early," he said.

As he progressed down the years, Gangte's talents were soon noticed by the different football academies, and after a brief stint at the Minerva Academy, he soon joined Sudeva Delhi in 2019. It was from the Hero I-League club, that Gangte participated in the Delhi Futsal League and the Delhi Premier League.

"Playing the Delhi Premier League and the Delhi Futsal League really helped open my eyes to the senior level of competition," said the 16-year-old. "The pace and intensity was totally different, and I think that experience ultimately helped me when I went for the U-17 National Team trials in Goa, which was a dream come true."

Having won the SAFF

Championship in Sri Lanka last month, the team has now made it's way to Saudi Arabia, where their last match against the hosts is all that remains of the U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

"I think we have given a good account of ourselves so far, but one match still remains, and we need to make sure that we make it to the main tournament," he said. "We always

approach the next match as the more important one, and for sure, Saudi will be a very tough opponent in their own back yard."

"But I feel that the way our team has stuck together and fought for each other, we have shown that we can overcome difficult times and give a good account of ourselves," concluded Gangte.

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