

Security Forces apprehends two insurgents of RPF/PLA

IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

Based on credible intelligence inputs provided by Keithelmanbi Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South), joint operations were launched by Manipur Police and two active cadres of proscribed group RPF/PLA were apprehended from Sarou Bazar and Langol in Kakching and Imphal West districts yesterday.

The apprehended insurgents were actively involved in extortion and carrying out other subversive activities in the valley on behalf of the proscribed group.

The apprehended insurgents were handed over to Sugnu Police Station for further investigation.

Assam Rifles foils narcotics smuggling

IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

Based on intelligence input from Keithelmanbi Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South), joint operation was launched with Thoubal Police foiling brown sugar smuggling and two drug dealers were apprehended from YairipokSinga in Thoubal district, Manipur on September 09-10, 2022.

In the search operation, 22 soap cases of brown sugar weighing in total 516.2 gms were seized from the drug dealer in YairipokSinga, Thoubal district. The seized narcotics were assessed to be worth over Rs1 Crore.

The recovered items along with the drug dealers were handed over to Yairipok Police Station for further investigation.

AMSU advisor arrested for alleged nexus with a militant group

IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

One advisor and Convenor of the Advisory Committee of student organization, All Manipur Students Union (AMSU) alleged to be an active cadre of an Underground organization, was arrested by the police yesterday. A press meet was held at the Conference Hall of the Imphal West SP regarding this, and ADGP (Law and order) Clay Khongsai briefed the media about the arrest.

Speaking to the media at the press meet, Clay Khongsai said, "On getting specific information of few people suspected to be active cadres of underground organization present at Khurai Konggal area, a search operation was conducted by a team of Imphal West commando at around 4:54 pm yesterday. In the operation, one individual from Khurai Konggal Sajor Leikai identified as Thokchom Suresh alias Tombi alias



Parihanba aged 39 years old, s/o Thokchom Kumar was arrested.

Suresh, whose MPA no is 607 and batch no 13, was apprehended along with one .38 pistol with a magazine, laptop, and other incriminating documents. In his statement, Suresh joined a militant outfit in 1997 and received military training in Eastern Nagaland. The recovered pistol was handed over to him by an unknown person near JN Dance Academy in November 2021. He worked under self-styled Major Umakanta of a militant group

from Singjamei. The ADGP further added that Suresh is also an advisor of AMSU and also the convenor of the advisory council and is working under the supervision of a militant leader based in Myanmar.

ADGP Clay Khongsai further expressed that a student organisation should work as a student organisation only and appealed to those who are not students not to join the student organisation.

Meanwhile, further investigation into the case is underway.

Lions Club of Imphal honours 4 teachers; Eye OPD resumes

IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

The Lions Club of Imphal today honoured 4 teachers for their selfless and exemplary service. In a function held at Lions Service Centre, Sangaiaprou Sanasam Meghachandra Singh, Retd. Principal Manipur College, Thounaojam Manglemba Singh, Retd. Headmaster, Yumnam Khunou High School, Kongsam Loidang, Retd. Head Mistress (i/c) Khonghampat Primary School and Wangkhem Basanti Devi, Retd. Faculty Staff in the Regional Health & Family Welfare Training Centre were honoured with simple gifts, and citations were handed over by the President of the Club, Lion Dr. P. Brajamani Singh. On the occasion, the honouree teachers expressed that the quality of a teacher is to gain the confidence and trust of the students.

From today, the fortnightly Eye OPD resumed service at the Lions Eye Hospital,



Sangaiaprou. Altogether, 26 patients had their eye check-ups done by Lion Dr. L. Chaoba Singh. Free medicines were also distributed.

In connection with the Eye OPD, the President of the Club, Lion Dr. Brajamani Singh said that Vision is one of the service projects of Lions Clubs International, and globally various Clubs are taking up projects under the theme of "Sight for All" to eradicate

blindness and other eye diseases. He continued that Helen Keller had appealed to the Lions to be the "Knights of the Blind" in the crusade against darkness. Lion Brajamani appealed to the public to avail the service of the Eye OPD of Lions Club of Imphal, which will be opened every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 10 AM to 12 noon at the Lions Eye Hospital, Sangaiaprou.

3rd Edition of Kakching World War II Memorial Run held with 2000 plus participants

IT News
Kakching, Sept 11:

The 3rd edition of the Kakching World War II Memorial run was held successfully today with 2000 plus runners participating in the event. The event was organised by Kakching Runners at Khunjamptat Ground Kakching Wairi in Kakching District Manipur.

2000 plus runners from different parts of India came and participated in this memorable run in supporting the zeal and efforts of Kakching Runners for bringing a healthy society and the environment free from pollution. Kakching MLA, Mayanglanbam Rameshwar and Former Boxing World Champion Laishram Sarita lifted the starting flag for the run.

Winners of 21 km run are Lr Luther (male) and Tayenjam



Russia (female) for 18 to 35 years, Ranjana (female) and NP Singh (male) for 36 to 45 years competition.

In the 21 km run for competition, for the category 18 to 35 years female Tayenjam Russia

BIB no.2105, Makakmayum Minarashi from Yairipok Tulihal Mayai Leikai BIN no.2103 and Lily BIB no. 2102 stood first, second and third positions respectively. In the 36 to 45 years category female Ranjana BIB

no.2106 and Sumita BIB no. 2220 stood first and second positions respectively.

In the male category 18 to 35 years Lr Luther from Assam BIB no.2128, Rajeev BIB no.2135 and Manoubi BIB no.2129 stood first, second and third positions respectively. For 36 to 45 years male category, NP Singh BIB no.2156, Tlading BIB no. 2167 and Sahadat BIB no.2159 won first, second and third positions respectively. In the 46 to 55 years male category Rudreswar BIB no.2177, Bimol Chandra Das BIB no.2192 and Bikhyat BIB no. 2169 stood first, second and third positions respectively. For 56 to 99 years male category Paresh Chandra BIB no. 2180, Shyam BIB no. 2232 and Nimai Singh BIB no. 2196 won first, second and third positions respectively.

contd. on page 4

Tree plantation programme by SUK



IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

Students' Union of Kangleipak (SUK) launched a seven-day tree plantation programme under the theme "Shanghanlasi Kangleipak in connection with its 11th Foundation Day, which will be held on September 18.

SUK organised the tree plantation programme in ten different schools. The tree plantation programme was attended

by Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) Chairman, Secretary, Controller, and students of TG Higher Secondary, Wangoi Higher Secondary School, N. Tomchou Higher Secondary School, KP College, Kings Academy of Science, Princeton International School, Nambol Lairen High School, UNACCO school Nambol and Special Regular English school. Saplings were distributed to people passing the road.

India to be fastest growing major economy in the world in 2023 with at least 7% growth, says Jaishankar on Riyadh visit

New Delhi, Sept 11:

India has made powerful efforts to grow its economy and emerge as a higher-income country, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said, expressing hope that it will be the fastest growing major economy in the world this year with at least 7% growth despite the challenges posed by the Ukraine crisis.

Mr. Jaishankar arrived September 10 for a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia to discuss ways to further strengthen relations between the two countries. It is his first visit to Saudi Arabia as External Affairs Minister.

"Began my visit to Saudi Arabia with interaction with our community. Appreciated the contribution of our diaspora in facing national challenges. Spoke to them about our country's resilience, especially during the time of the COVID-19 and national transformation that is underway in India," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted.

Addressing the Indian community here on Saturday, Mr. Jaishankar said: "India thinks about the ways in which it can change its credit, banking, education and labour policy." He said that India has made powerful efforts to grow its economy and move to-

wards becoming a higher-income country.

"A lot of this required a vision, prudent management of our fiscal resources," he said.

"Many big reforms have taken place and we can see the result of that in two very interesting developments. In the year ending March 31, 2021 we have posted the highest export that we have ever done. Our total exports were USD 670 billion.

Trade in goods stood at USD 400 billion," he said.

He pointed out that the world is facing many challenges, like rising food, oil and shipping prices due to the Ukraine crisis.

"But we are still very confident that India will be the fastest growing major economy in the world this year. We will get at least 7% growth," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar stressed that the idea of India as a trading power has become credible today.

He said that India's economic recovery after COVID-19 is worth studying.

He also lauded India's efforts to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. He said at the onset of the pandemic, India did not make masks and ventilators.

He said people did not know about PPE kits. "We could not only make

sources wisely," Mr. Jaishankar said.

He said India instead focussed on creating a safety net.

He was there was a programme to give free ration to 80 crore people.

"No country in the world has done it," he said.

There is programme to give money to the bank account of 40 crore people.

He also lauded India's efforts to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. He said at the onset of the pandemic, India did not make masks and ventilators. He said people did not know about PPE kits.

"We could not only make

what 1.3 billion people needed, but we could also set up centres of dedicated treatment for people who came down with COVID-19," the minister said. India was able to produce COVID-19 vaccines in large numbers.

"There were made in India vaccines available for 1.3 billion people," he said.

"I go for tours and see that people of several countries have not been vaccinated as they did not have them. Countries which had everything but still people are not vaccinated," the minister said, adding that India was able to close this gap with continued efforts.

Jaishankar also lauded the

growing ties between India and Saudi Arabia.

He said during the COVID-19 crisis, "We saw our international friendships also deliver at that point of time."

"Saudi Arabia was very helpful and provided supplies of oxygen. Two years of COVID-19 are when the country was tested but we came through," said Mr. Jaishankar.

Speaking about the key role the Indian diaspora plays in the ties between the two countries, Mr. Jaishankar said, "In many ways, all of you shaped the image of India and what Saudis think about India and what we are about."

An Open Letter to Myself



By: Bishwanath Salam

Even Though I am just 15 years old, I know I might not have much to share but I will today. I have always walked with a passion for problem solving, be it anything. Before I offer more, I want all the readers to know that marks do not define you or your intelligence. Most people were once failures as well as me, still failing most of the time. Even Albert Einstein was expelled from school and described as mentally slow but after some years he became a theoretical physicist. And from this we learned that slow doesn't mean that you are a failure but make sure that you are consistent enough to take it to an incredible ending. I face many problems and struggles day by day.

And I think I can do everything without knowing any perfect knowledge as long as I am not afraid to fail but have the hunger to learn. Problems are never too big, we just over think about them. Let's accept our past without regret, let's handle our present with confidence and let's face our future without fear. When you really pay attention everything is your teacher. Life is like an elevator with lots of ups and downs. Every situation will have something positive. Even a dead clock shows the correct time twice a day.

Even with all the failures, my life was great. I'm glad that everything was great for me. All of the things that I'm currently experiencing are taking me to the next level of my life. I'm growing. I'm getting better than before. I choose to believe in sudden miracles and unexpected blessings. I was worse before but now I've regretted it. Every now and then, I keep thinking that I am a kid but when I realized I wasn't a kid anymore. I feel ashamed that it makes me feel like I'm no one. I then realized that in the long journey of life we may meet many failures but we should not be weakened because success awaits us. It is not disgraceful or shameful to try again till we achieve our goal.

Age doesn't mean that we are a kid but when we have the ability to think we are not a kid anymore, it's all in the mindset. So I'm ready to change. I welcome my new energy. It's time for me to touch it up. I'm investing in myself today. It's time to touch up everything. I put my energy and time into what makes me happy. There's nothing more important than prioritizing my mind, body and spirit. When I learn to live by myself, I start to leave behind things that are unhealthy for me. That means people, beliefs and habits. There are people who notice you only when you shine, or when you fall into the darkness. Not the average and not the mediocre you. But the great you, or not-so-great you. The people who are worthy of your care are not those who only notice you at your best and worst but those who see you at all times. They don't need an excuse to love you. They don't need an excuse to talk to you, or to ask you how you're doing. They don't need an excuse to share their happiness with you. They don't need an explanation. They give you one without you asking for it. They assume the good in the bad. So keep your eyes open just so you don't miss those people.

Once you find them, never let them go because those are not just friends but family members. They're life companions. They are the people who will tell you when you are wrong simply because they've allowed themselves to tie their well-being to yours. Memories are always special. Sometimes we laugh by remembering the day we cried, and we cry by remembering the day we laugh. Smiles and silence are two powerful tools. Smile is the way to solve any problems whereas silence is the way to avoid many problems. I stop explaining myself when I understand people only from their level of perception. I used to dislike being sensitive. I thought it made me weak. But take away that single trait, and you take away the very essence of who I am.

You take away my conscience, my ability to empathize, my intuition, my creativity, my deep appreciation of the little things, my vivid inner life, my keen awareness of others' pain and my passion for it all. I'm exhausted from being strong, helping people, pretending to be happy, everything hurts. I constantly feel sick, and I don't know how I'll get out of it. I guess it takes time, but how long do I have?

(The writer is a Class 9 Student of Emmanuel English Academy, Yaingangkopki, Imphal East)

Swami Vivekananda's speech that changed the global perspective

(September 11, 2022 marks the 129th anniversary of his Chicago Address)



By: M.R. Lahu

What is September 11 known for? The sudden emotion pumps into the mind of an average person would be grief that the memories of a horrendous terror attack that the American state was traumatized by. Thousands of people being thrown under the debris of the twin towers, America's hegemony propelled by its material success got shattered for a while in 2001. Destruction to a humongous magnitude takes time to evaporate from the sphere of memory. Tangential is its impact if lessons are not learned. But what about an initiative that appears to be minimal but enormous and consistent in its effect for decades and sure to stay for centuries? The visit paid by a saint to the land of affluence the U.S. should be remembered for all positive reasons as India was known as the land of snake charmers and black magic among the western world, an epithet that it was sarcastically adorned with. The superstar saint Swami Vivekananda lived in India when the world was away from conceiving the idea of social media and visual media inventions. Still he became famous in America, the country that he chose to appraise his great thoughts of amity, compassion and intellectual veracity. Could a saint of his stature have planned such a journey with a purpose to emancipate a country that reeled under colonial rule with a spiritual churning as the task in hand? Vivekananda could do it with complete temerity.

Vivekananda's visit to America and his historic speech in the World Parliament of Religions at Chicago on 11 September 1893 became a turning point in India's course of spiritual journey. His mission was to revive

the ancient glory of India to a western audience in the language that they understood. Philosophy can be presented at its best when words are aligned in tune with the impulse of the listener and spiritual values with metaphorical expositions hold the essence and presence of life in union. The speeches that Vivekananda delivered on a foreign soil had an electrifying impact on an audience that often had the habit of underrating thoughts that the eastern world held supreme. Vivekananda accentuated the idea of Universal Brotherhood that India propagated from the ages of sages and the confidence and exuberance with which he managed the stage was brilliant. To a rapturous audience who initially sat in contempt with a visible belittling intent stood up cheering the guest from the east in saffron robes as he presented his views in the first speech. The real game began there. He enjoyed the largest audience ever since the first speech he made in the parliament. Curious listeners thronged in large numbers to capture a glimpse of the young yogi and drink from his beaker of wisdom and he left no stone unturned to make his points count.

Addressing the gathering as "Sisters and Brothers of America", Vivekananda was giving a valuable insight on Universal Brotherhood to the hypocrisy that the colonial mindset of the west was enmeshed in. If the parliament of religions was held to superimpose the hegemony of the western semitic thoughts over other spiritual beliefs, Swami Vivekananda had unequivocally unseated the notion of western dominance in philosophy and spirituality. The speech that he began his intellectual firework with had a message to the world about a land and its religion that taught humanity tolerance and universal acceptance. Of course, wonderful was his intellectual eloquence and his sparkling eyes reflected the penance that he strengthened his spiritual personality through. The element of surprise that India offered in the field of spirituality was this; an ordinary saint with no academic credentials to showcase his

scholastic brilliance could mould an ordinary boy to a spiritual giant. The story of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda (teacher and student) would astonish every genuine seeker of the truth. A patriot to the core, Vivekananda had influenced everybody who jumped into the pyre of freedom movement. For him, spirituality supported by a patriotic fervour was the key to open the path to independence; an elevation of the country into its potential self was its outcome.

India, under colonial rule could not have heard words more powerful than those uttered by Vivekananda in a foreign soil. The brave monk said, "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations on earth." Neither India nor its ancient religious beliefs could have been represented in words better than this. These statements in his opening speech could very well blow the lid of western hypocrisy. This was a goal half achieved for Vivekananda and the oratory he continued until the culmination of the Parliament of Religions gained tremendous admiration from students, intellectuals, philosophers and the western media. The storm that he created on a world stage got transmuted into a spiritual mission. Foreseeing the precariousness that the world religions are pushing humanity through, Vivekananda impressed upon the multiplicity that nature offered and the underlying unity of oneness that India, the ultimate spiritual destination, discovered and propagated. His critical examination on the semitic exclusive propaganda warned the world of severe consequences and alarm bells were rung against the fight and bloodshed that religions with rigid spiritual ethos were bound to bring.

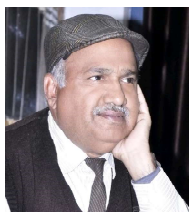
Juxtaposing religious ideals of varying colours and trends and practices, Vivekananda could success-



fully prove the meaning of spiritual liberation. His direct attack on the Christian missionaries on their wayward and deceiving ways of proselytizing innocent Indians was the sign of a strong spiritual personality turning tables on a myopic yet belligerent western symbolism. Great was his effort and greater was its effect. The western mindset on India's spiritual existence had changed tremendously since Vivekananda interacted with it. While invoking Vivekananda's speech last year, Prime Minister Modi recalled the essence of his speech and its capacity to create a more just, prosperous and inclusive planet. When the world is reeling under religious fanaticism with bloodshed in the name of a single masculine almighty, throwing social coherence into perils, Vivekananda's views stand out seamlessly focused on compassion and ethics. His comprehensive spiritual representation on the multitude that the world is, and the cohesion that it is capable of, is visible in his metaphorical narration. Vivekananda's prayerful mind thus envisages, "As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea. The different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear crooked or straight, all lead to the same reality." September 11 should evoke feelings of religious solidarity in a world of intolerance and acrimony.

(The author is a Freelance Journalist/Social Worker)

Career in Medicine beyond MBBS



By: Vijay GarG

MBBS is one of the top career choices in India. Students from different economic backgrounds aim to become doctors, and take science as their subject in the 12th class. Preparing for MBBS itself is a rigorous process. Getting into medical college in India is not easy for any of the students preparing for it. In India, the NEET exam is undertaken by the aspirants for securing admission in medical colleges. The students are required to have studied science with Physics, Chemistry and Biology in the 12th class. NEET is considered one of the toughest exams to crack in India. But students willingly take the exam, and also prepare rigorously for the exam. The main issue, however, has been the admission in the medical colleges. Even with the NEET qualification, one may not get into their preferred medi-

cal college and this really creates difficulty for the students. Similarly, the high cost of pursuing MBBS, which spans over 5 years, and costs lakhs of rupees, cannot be afforded by everyone. Therefore, the students in search of quality education opt for MBBS abroad. For these students, Russia becomes one of the top destinations for pursuing MBBS abroad.

However, there are students who often join MBBS due to peer pressure and there is obviously high risk of failures in the MBBS study as well as profession. A lot of people pursue preparation for a medical career after taking biology due to the lack of career options. However, that is not the reality at all. Apart from MBBS there are a plethora of courses related to medicine which are not MBBS, yet they are highly economic and also have good job options.

The issue with MBBS aspirants is that they never tend to look beyond being doctors, therefore there is always confusion and a lot of misconceptions, that really hinders the progress of the biology students.

1. Alternative Medicine:

Apart from MBBS, there are a plethora of courses related to medicine that one may explore. One may have heard about a lot of various types of medical studies like homeopathy, Unani, Ayurveda and more recently

gaining popularity, fields like Naturopathy. The courses for these are as follows:

BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery)

BUMS (Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery)

BHMS (Bachelor of Homeopathy and Surgery)

BNYS (Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yoga Sciences)

There are different durations for all of these courses and these options are available in India and abroad. In India, the course duration of BAMS is of 4.5 years whereas for BUMS, BHMS, BNYS is of 5.5 years each and NEET qualification is required. NEET qualification is mandatory if one wants to pursue a career in these fields. These courses have been in existence for a long time now and gaining popularity over the years. These are all interesting fields of study and practice in the domain of alternative medicine. There are government as well as private institutions for that with decent affordable fees and a good work environment. One should not worry about employment because this field is open for all. Similarly, for research and other related studies, there are good grants and funding for that.

2. Pharmacaceuticals:

Pharmaceuticals are an underrated field related to medicine. The pandemic has made us realize the importance of these studies. Students interested in this field can pursue Bachelor of Pharmacy and other related courses like B.

Pharm. (Hons.), B. Pharma. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmaceutics, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacology and Ayurvedic. The duration of these courses are four years and the option of doing an integrated MBA in 5 years is also open.

3. Biotechnology:

This field is quite multidisciplinary and has been attracting students for a long time. This field includes several disciplines like Genetic Engineering, Environment Technology, Molecular & Cellular Engineering, Industrial Microbiology, Bioinformatics etc. This course is taught as B. Tech in Biotechnology in various engineering colleges in India. These courses are also profitable in terms of employment.

4. Veterinary and Animal Sciences:

The specialist doctors for animals is also an option one can explore, this field expands from genetics and breeding to gynecology, pathology, animal nutrition, microbiology, physiology, medicine, wildlife studies, etc. and requires NEET qualification. A Bachelor in Veterinary Sciences is the right course to pursue. In the era of pandemics and the expanding arena of research regarding different species, this field is best for not only animal welfare but for research as well.

5. Bio-physic:

Utilizing mathematics and computer modelling, this stream applies the principles of physics to biology. From molecular level to cell population level, biophysics has a wide reach.

Its aim is to provide an understanding of the ways in which living organisms behave. It includes research in areas such as neuroscience, pharmacology, physiology, structural biology, biochemistry, and medicine.

A B.Sc. in Biophysics has, aside from the education sector (such as professors and teachers) and research-based industries, a variety of options. As a scientist, one can specialize in nutritional biophysics, medical biophysics, chemical biophysics or applied biophysics.

6. Forensic Sciences:

Forensic sciences have been around for a long time. Used in police and criminal investigation, and a lot of other research areas require specialists for this thing and therefore it is a viable career option for the students with biology in 12th class. It provides good opportunities for research and work in police and other such departments and has a good pay as well.

7. Paramedical Science:

A paramedical course is a type of medical training that focuses on a certain employment position. These are highly specialized courses that educate students for real-world medical scenarios. The importance of paramedical courses has been recognized due to the medical field's requirement for qualified paramedics.

Compared to a traditional MBBS degree, paramedicine is one of the most cost-effective and time-efficient ways to enter the medical industry. It

is a career-oriented education with a wide range of job options. A three-to-four-year undergraduate program in paramedical sciences would provide a lot of employment opportunities in the medical field.

The different courses required for paramedical sciences include the following:

Bachelors of Radiation Technology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Dialysis Therapy, Medical Lab Technology, Optometry, X-Ray Technology, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Operation Theatre Technology, Medical Record Technology, Medical Imaging Technology, Anesthesia Technology, etc.

8. Hospital and Healthcare Management:

A master's degree in hospital management or a master's degree in healthcare management is currently one of the most in-demand degrees. The program normally lasts four years. Graduates of these programs may not directly contribute to patient treatment, but they are heavily involved in monitoring the healthcare process in large medical organizations. With their engagement, communication between various departments in hospitals is usually more coordinated and more efficient.

These are some of the options available after NEET and 12th that the students may look at for a better future while being in touch with the medical profession in different ways.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

can be sent to our e-mail : imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact : - 0385-3590330 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul Gandhi begins 19-day Kerala leg

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 11:

The Bharat Jodo Yatra undertaken by Congress commenced its 19-day long Kerala leg on Sunday morning from the Parassala area of the southernmost district of the state.

The three-hour-long first phase of the yatra for the day ended at Neyyattinkara at around 10.30 AM and the second three-hour phase is expected to resume at 4 PM.

Sharing photographs of the yatra, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that every section of society was excited about the Bharat Jodo Yatra which was evident from the participation and enthusiasm of farmers, laborers, youth, women, children and the elderly.

"The message of the people of the country is clear-inflation, unemployment, economic crisis and divisive politics should end," she said in a Facebook post.

The Indian National Congress, buoyed by the huge following the yatra has generated, tweeted, "Joining hands, connecting hearts - #BharatJodoYatra bringing India together."

Rahul Gandhi started the yatra at around 7.30 AM from Parassala after being formally welcomed by Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president and MP K Sudhakaran, Leader of Oppo-



sition (LoP) in the state Assembly V D Satheesan, and AICC general secretary Tariq Anwar and other senior Congress leaders.

The other senior party leaders who welcomed the former party chief included Congress MPs K C Venugopal and Shashi Tharoor as well as former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy and ex-LoP Ramesh Chennithala.

A huge crowd of supporters and onlookers gathered to welcome the Gandhi scion.

"Our Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala. The diversity of India is so apparent. Yesterday we entered Malayalam speaking Kerala from Tamil speaking Tamil Nadu. From Vannakam to Namakkaram. #BharatJodoYatra #TodaNahinJodo @INCIndia @Jairam_Ramesh

@RahulGandhi," senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, the national coordinator of the yatra, tweeted.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who is also accompanying Gandhi on the yatra, tweeted, "Today we begin the 4th day of the #BharatJodoYatra from Parassala Junction near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. As was only to be expected, the turnout of the crowds is huge so early on a Sunday morning!"

Visuals aired on TV channels and the Twitter page of the Bharat Jodo Yatra showed thousands taking part in the yatra and people also lining up on the roadsides for a glimpse of Gandhi, take his photograph or exchange a few words with him.

"Gain freedom through education, gain strength through organization, gain prosperity through industry. Today, as we enter the beautiful state of Kerala, on the auspicious occasion of Sree Narayana Guru Jayanti, his words inspire every step we take on the #BharatJodoYatra," Gandhi had tweeted as the yatra entered Kerala Saturday evening.

After entering Kerala from Parassala close to the Tamil Nadu border, Gandhi would travel 450 km to Nilambur in Malappuram over a 19-day period.

The yatra will cover 12 states and two Union territories, and a distance of 3,750 km from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir over a period of 150 days.

India records 5,076 new Covid cases in last 24 hours, active cases dip to 47,945

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 11:

India logged 5,076 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,44,95,359, while the active cases dipped to 47,945, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,150 with 11 fatalities which includes four deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.11 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.71 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 905 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate

was recorded at 1.58 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.72 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,39,19,264, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 214.95 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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

The country crossed the

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

The seven new fatalities include one each from Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim and West Bengal.

Meanwhile, India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore on January 25 this year.

Delhi LG approves CBI probe into 'irregularities' in purchase of DTC buses, AAP hits back

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 11:

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Sunday approved a request for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigation into the purchase of 1000 low floor buses by the Delhi government. The request was made by Naresh Kumar, the Chief Secretary, on the basis of a complaint received in June.

The complaint in June alleged irregularities in the appointment of the Delhi transport minister as chairman of the committee related to tendering and purchase of DTC buses. It also said the appointment of the Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) as the management consultant for the tender was done with the aim of facilitating irregularities in the purchase.

The complaint was forwarded to the Chief Secretary to elicit comments from the concerned departments of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD).

Following the complaint last year, the tender for bus purchase was cancelled.

The Lieutenant Governor



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena

received a report from the Chief Secretary in August which showed that serious discrepancies were made in the tender process. "There is gross violation of the Central Vigilance Commission's guidelines and general financial rules," the report said. It also added that the DIMTS was deliberately made a consultant so that the discrepancies in the tender process could be endorsed.

The same discrepancies were also mentioned in a report by the Commissioner of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).

The Delhi government hit back at the Lieutenant Gover-

nor and said he is making such enquiries to divert attention from the allegations of corruption against him. "After making frivolous complaints against three ministers (the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister), he has now made a complaint against a fourth minister," it said. It also asked the LG to first respond to the allegations of corruption against him.

Speaking on the allegations of irregularities in the purchase of buses, it said, "These buses were never purchased and the tenders were cancelled. Delhi needs a more educated LG"

PM Modi among 15 leaders to attend SCO summit in Uzbekistan on Sept 15, 16

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 11:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among 15 world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan's Samarkand on September 15 and 16.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among 15 world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan's Samarkand on September 15 and 16.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among 15 world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan's Samarkand on September 15 and 16.

This will be the first in-person summit after the Covid pandemic hit the world. The last summit was held in June 2019 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

According to sources, the Prime Minister will reach Samarkand on September 14 and return on September 16.

The summit is important for India as it will assume the rotational presidency of the SCO at the end of the Samarkand summit. Delhi will hold the presidency of the grouping for a year until September 2023. So, next year, India will host the SCO summit.

The Prime Minister's visit to Samarkand will be closely watched for the possibility of bilateral meetings on the side-

lines of the summit.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi are among the invited leaders.

While there has been no official word on the scheduled bilateral meetings, the leaders are expected to be in the same room for the summit as well as the leaders' lounge.

China has refused to comment on a possible meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Uzbekistan, saying the disengagement of troops in the Gogra-Hotsprings area of east-

ern Ladakh was a "positive development" to improve the strained bilateral ties.

Preparations for the SCO summit have been on for the last six months in Samarkand, 300 km from Tashkent.

The SCO is an inter-governmental organisation founded in Shanghai in June 2001. It currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia) and six Dialogue Partners (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).

Supreme Court keeps its word for protecting rights of undertrials

Large number of people languish in jails for no fault of theirs

By K Raveendran
New Delhi, Sept 11:

The Supreme Court has kept its word in terms of protecting the rights of undertrials by granting bail to journalist Siddique Kappan, who has spent over two years in UP jails without trial in connection with the Hathras conspiracy case.

The decisive action comes within weeks of the apex court having warned the UP government as well as the Allahabad High Court for not taking prompt action to release undertrial prisoners languishing in jails for more than 10 years despite an earlier order from the court.

A two-member bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh had declared that the Supreme Court was ready to 'take the burden' on itself and grant the affected people relief if the government and the courts did not do justice to them.

That these were not just hollow words and grandstanding was proved beyond any doubt when earlier this week when a bench headed by Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justice S Ravindra Bhat passed an order allowing the appeal filed by Kappan against the Allahabad High Court's order denying him bail.

Kerala-based Kappan,

who has now spent almost two years behind bars, was arrested, along with other accused by the UP police in October 2020 while proceeding to report the Hathras rape-murder crime. While initially he was arrested under the apprehension of causing a breach of peace, subsequently, he was booked under the UAPA alleging that he and his co-passengers were trying to incite communal riots and disrupt social harmony in the wake of the Hathras gangrape-murder case.

While Kappan claimed that he had gone there to report on the situation after the gangrape and the trouble over it, various UP courts,

including the Allahabad High Court, had rejected his plea saying he had 'no work' there in Hathras.

The Chief Justice-led bench, while not going into the merit of the case, declared that the denial of bail was unwarranted. The judges said they were not impressed with the evidences cited by the prosecution for denial of bail by asking whether possession of 'provocative' literature by the accused meant that he was practising whatever was contained there. As long as that cannot be proved, there is no ground to continue to hold him in prison without bail, the court ordered.

Undertrials languishing in jails has been a bane of the country's judicial system, with consecutive chief justices raising alarms over the issue. According to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, four-fifths of all prisoners in the country are undertrials, which amount to a gross violation of the fundamental rights of such a large population.

Former Chief Justice N V Ramana had raised this issue before his retirement and stressed that there was need to increase the efficiency of the country's criminal justice system. From indiscriminate arrest to difficulty in obtaining bail, the process lead-

ing to prolonged incarceration of undertrial prisoners needs urgent attention, he said, while calling for a holistic solution to the problem. The outgoing CJI listed this as the most important planks for judicial reform.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also recently spotlighted the plight of undertrials and called upon the National Legal Services Authority to provide prompt legal help to these people so that they can secure bail and be released from jails. The problem has been widely considered as a collective failure of the Indian state.

The worst part is that a large number of these undertrials may have been

wrongly confined on faulty or fabricated charges. Thousands are presumably innocent and are in jail because they are only accused of a crime that is still not proven in a court of law and there is no effort from the agencies concerned, including the courts, to either speed up trial or help the victims with legal recourse against their illegal confinement. The result is that they end up spending their best years in jail. When their cases finally come up for consideration, the courts treat those as routinely as anything else and not a thought is spared on how such large population of citizens are wronged by a faulty system. (IPA Service)

Ex-Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to announce his party's name in 10 days

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 11:

Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday said he will announce a new political party within 10 days. The statement came weeks after the 73-year-old leader made a bitter exit from the grand old party of India. "We will announce a new party in ten days," Azad said during his first public meeting in Baramulla today after quitting Congress.

The former union minister also attacked the Central rule in Jammu and Kashmir for "militancy" activities in the Union Territory, and said, "people irrespective of religion have become a target of militancy. Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs were targeted and many



had to flee. All communities suffered alike."

"When I was Chief Minister, a delegation told me three cart owners were missing. I investigated the matter with the help of the police. Investigations were carried out and it was found they were killed by police and the army in fake

encounters," he added.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister resigned from Congress on August 26, after raising issues about the internal functioning of the party multiple times.

In his resignation letter to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, Azad had tar-

geted party leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, over the way the party has been run in the past nearly nine years.

After Azad announced his decision to resign, multiple leaders and workers followed suit and quit Congress in a massive blow to the party. Azad was associated with Congress for nearly five decades.

Since his exit from Congress, Azad has been holding public meetings in Jammu to fortify his electoral base.

On Saturday, in an interview with news agency ANI, he said he had "met around 400 people from delegations of 30-35 assembly constituencies in Jammu."

"They gave their support... and they will be a part of whatever party I make," he added.

National Handloom Convention 2022 held



IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

The National Handloom Convention 2022 was organised today at the Gandhi Memorial Hall (GM Hall), Imphal with the participation of the state's weavers,

Handloom Entrepreneurs, Handloom Activists, Primary Weaver's Co-operative Societies, Handloom and Textiles concerned Apex Bodies, Academicians and well wishers.

Longjam Nilamani Singh, Retd. Assistant General Man-

ager, Urban Bank, Imphal, A. Lukhio Devi, National Warde (Handicraft), N. Leibaklotpi Devi, Social Activist, L. Bilasini Devi, Senior Weaver, Nepram Babita Devi, Ex-Adaksha, Imphal East Zilla Parishad as presidium members respectively.

AR pays tribute to Braveheart

IT News
Imphal, Sept 11:

SajikTampak Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a Wreath Laying Ceremony for

Late Nb Sub Jagat Singh of 15 AR Battalion who made the supreme sacrifice on 11 Sep 1996 in the line of duty while fighting the insurgents at Kiphire, Nagaland. The wreath laying ceremony was organised

at SajikTampak Battalion Headquarters, Chandel district today. All ranks of SajikTampak Battalion paid tributes to the supreme sacrifice of the braveheart during the wreath laying ceremony.

Contd. from Page 1

3rd Edition of Kakching World War II..

In the male category 18 to 35, Lr Luther ran 21km at 1:09:25, Rajeev at 1:09:28, Manoubi at 1:10:28. In the 36 to 45 category, NP Singh at 1:16:14, Tlending at 1:17:24 and Sahadat at 1:23:13. In the 46 to 55 years Rudreswor at 1:26:09, Bimol Chandra Das at 1:32:43 and Bikhayat at 1:36:21.

For 56 to 99 years Paresch Chandra at 1:44:10, Shyam at 2:00:43 and Nimai Singh at 2:07:40. In the female category 18 to 35, Tayenjam Russia ran 21 km at 1:35:54, Makakmayum Minarashit at 1:36:36 and Lily at 1:37:59. In the category 36 to 45 Ranjana ran 21 km at 1:52:03 and

Sunita at 1:55:24. In the 10 km fun run, male and female, young and aged, students and teachers, children and adults and all, more than 1000 runners took part and felt the happiness of running together for a cause of bringing a healthy society.

Sports

Durand Cup 2022: Bengaluru FC reach SFs as Roy's late winner in extra time sinks ten-man Odisha FC



Agency
Kolkata, Sept 11:

A Roy Krishna strike in the final minute of added time in extra-time saw Bengaluru FC win 2-1 against Odisha FC in the quarter-final of the Durand Cup, at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan on Saturday.

Substitute Sivasakthi Narayanan gave the Blues a 1-0 lead in extra-time before Diego Mauricio pulled level with seven minutes left to play. And just as the game looked headed to penalties, Krishna pulled Bengaluru FC over the line with a fantastic strike from distance.

Earlier, Simon Grayson handed Naorem Roshan Singh his first start of the campaign, while Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

also returned to the Blues' eleven. Bengaluru FC had Roy Krishna and Sunil Chhetri in attack, while Brazilian Diego Mauricio started alongside Spanish Saul Crespo for the Juggernauts.

Odisha had the first chance of the game in the 11th minute when Nandhakumar Sekar found himself in a pocket of space but his effort was saved well by Sandhu. Bengaluru FC had a chance of their own ten minutes later when Javi Hernandez saw his corner punched away, and Krishna's effort on the rebound clipped the crossbar on its way out.

Both sides went into the break as a cagey first half came to an end with the scores level.

Into the second period, Bengaluru FC pushed further

forward and almost found the back of the net when Hernandez's free-kick found Sandesh Jhingan whose header flew off target. Grayson made changes as Danish Farooq and Leon Augustine made their way onto the pitch, replacing Rohit Kumar and Roshan.

Augustine's threat down the flank created the Blues' next chance, with the winger winning a free-kick down the flank. Hernandez's take found Aleksander Jovanovic, but the Australian's header flew inches wide of the frame. Odisha were reduced to ten men with ten minutes to play when Shubham Sarangi's foul on Augustine prompted the referee to brandish a second yellow card.

Bengaluru FC pushed forward in search of a winner, but the whistle blew to signal the end of regulation time.

Grayson rang in more changes, with Sivasakthi replacing Chhetri and Faisal Ali coming on for Parag Shrivastava. The striker made an immediate impact, finding himself at the end of Ralte's save to slot home from close range to make it 1-0.

Bengaluru FC took the lead into the short break, and almost found the net once again on the other side when Augustine closed down Ralte's attempted clearance to make the block. The 'keeper found himself wrong-footed, but the ball trickled wide of the frame. Against the run of play, Odisha FC found an equaliser through Mauricio, who nodded home a free-kick from Sahil Panwar to make it 1-1.

Bengaluru FC continued to push forward and saw chances from Hernandez and Augustine go begging before Krishna found the net in what was the final action of the game. Picking up the ball with seconds left to play, Krishna unleashed a strike from over 25 yards that flew into the top corner past a hapless Ralte in the Odisha goal.

The Blues will play the winner of the fourth quarter-final between ISL champions Hyderabad FC and Rajasthan United in the semi-final on September 15.

India thrash Maldives 9-0 to enter SAFF Women's Championships semi-final



Agency
Kathmandu, Sept 11:

Defending champions India went through to the semi-finals of the SAFF Women's Championship 2022 with a 9-0 win over the Maldives at the Dasharath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Saturday.

Striker Anju Tamang scored four goals, Dangmei Grace hit a brace while Priyanka Devi, Soumya Guguloth and Kashmina scored one each for India.

The Indian women's football team had beaten Pakistan 3-0 in its opening game. The victory over the Maldives ensured that India would finish in the top two in Group A along with Bangladesh. Five-time champions In-

dia will next face Bangladesh to determine who will finish atop Group A on Tuesday.

India were aggressive from the get-go against the Maldives. Anju Tamang was the team's most involved player as her shot was cleared off the line and Dangmei Grace was thwarted one-on-one in the opening few minutes of the football match.

The duo combined a few minutes later but Anju Tamang could not score. She got a deserved goal in the 24th minute though.

The striker hit a shot from just outside the box on the left wing and it looped its way past Maldives' goalkeeper Aminath Leeza to give India the lead.

Just before half-time, Priyanka Devi doubled

India's lead with a shot that went through the Maldives keeper and Anju Tamang scored her second right at the end of the half, showing good instincts to react first to a shot that had bounced off the bar.

Within 12 minutes of the restart, India had increased their lead to 5-0.

In the 55th minute, Ashalata Devi floated a pass forward and Dangmei Grace took it in her stride before rounding the keeper and scoring into an empty net to make it 4-0.

Two minutes later, substitute Soumya Guguloth got on the end of a cross from Ashalata Devi to score the team's fifth goal.

India created several chances from thereon but did not manage to score any before a flurry of late goals.

Substitute Kashmina scored from outside the box after the Maldives goalkeeper had vacated her line before Anju Tamang completed a fantastic hat-trick with an unstoppable hit into the roof of the net.

Dangmei Grace then tried her luck from distance and it paid off as Aminath Leeza spilled the shot and it went into the net before Anju Tamang got her fourth and India's ninth with a simple header in the final minutes.