

2 active cadres of a militant group arrested; 6 IEDs and incriminating documents recovered



IT News
Imphal, Sept 12:

Imphal West Commando Additional SP Operation M. Amit and OC Commando P Achouba apprehended two cadres of a militant group from their houses in Imphal West and Imphal East on Sunday under the supervision of Imphal West SP Ksh. Shivakanta. A press conference was held at the Imphal West police station conference hall. The two arrested are believed to be the culprit behind the planting of the recently disposed bomb at Singamei on September 8.

Speaking to the media, Imphal West SP Ksh. Shivakanta said that the two militants were identified as Kshetrimayum Bhogendro, alias Yaiphaba 41, son of Ksh. Kunjakeshwar Singh of Khongman Zone III of Imphal East and Aheibam Nobin Singh, 48, son of A. Nabakumar of Thangmeiband, Yumnam Leikai of Imphal West.

The police recovered six electronic digital circuits which were similar to the devices used in the IED planted at Singamei Chingamakta on September 8 in the possession of Bhogendro. One hundred nineteen (119) demand letters

on the letter head of a militant group, to be served to various government officials, corporators, councillors, pradhans, and private persons, a pen drive containing other incriminating documents, a PAN card, and three mobile phones were also recovered from Bhogendro's possession. Also, four IEDs similar to the one recently disposed of at Singamei on September 8 were also recovered from his possession.

Imphal West Superintendent of Police Ksh. Shivakanta said Bhogendro disclosed that he is an active cadre of a militant group and started work-

ing for the organisation in 2006 under the command of a self-styled Major of the militant group.

He also disclosed that he had made numerous monetary demands and threatening phone calls to the general public and government establishments and added that he had handed over two digital electronic circuits, to Aheibam Nobin, the senior police officer, who said both Bhogendro and Nobin were arrested, he added.

A preliminary investigation reveals that Ksh. Bhogendro is the man behind the planting of an IED at Singamei Chingamakta near the basketball ground on September 8, and he is also involved in another extortion case registered at Singamei Police Station.

The arrested persons and the seized items have been handed over to Singamei Police Station and remanded in police custody for further investigation, SP Shivakanta said.

Orientation programme on Voter Enrollment and Aadhaar linking of LGBTs and PwDs held



IT News
Imphal, Sept 12:

A One-Day Orientation Programme on Voter Enrolment for Eligible Youths cum linking of Aadhaar number for already enrolled LGBT and PwDs in Electoral Roll was convened today from 11:30 AM onwards at Panchayat Bhavan Hall, DC Office Complex, Porompat. The Programme was convened as a part of Activities under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Programme in Imphal East District following the latest instructions issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding linking of Aadhaar with Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC).

In his Keynote Address, the Addl. District Election Officer, Imphal East District emphasized the importance of LGBT Community in the society. He added that the

Programme was conducted to give fair and equal chance to all sections of society especially PwDs and Transgenders (TGs). The electoral population of TGs and PwDs are surely but steadily increasing in the Electoral Rolls. They are also provided with separate facilities during Elections viz. separate queues, pick & drop vehicles. Further, he described ECI's SVEEP Programme and highlighted that 17-18 age group is most crucial for enrolment in the Electoral Rolls. He encouraged PwDs to come out and enrol as well as participate in the Electoral process. He highlighted that the LGBTs being given "Others" category by ECI in recognition of their status. In addition, he requested all to update their photographs in Electoral Rolls. He concluded by stating that ECI has launched the Aadhaar linking with EPIC Programme and that all eligible 18+ citizens/already

enrolled Electors, inclusive of LGBTs and PwDs, are encouraged to carry out the enrolment/ Aadhaar linking activity via IT platforms, namely Voter Helpline App and National Voters' Services Portal (NVSP), and further that they may also approach their concerned Booth Level Officers (BLO) for enrolment/ linking of their Aadhaar with their EPIC card.

Dignitaries from Ya-all, Welfare Assn. for the Blind, Manipur, Typewriting Institute and Rural Development Society and other important stakeholders were present and gave inspiring speeches in the said Programme. They encouraged all LGBTs and PwDs to come out and actively participate in the Electoral Process.

All Electoral Registration Officers, Asst. Electoral Registration Officers and all Electoral Officials of Imphal East District were also present in the programme.

Allegation of issuance of ST certificates to non Manipuri baseless and unfounded

IT News
Imphal, Sept 12:

The allegation about non-Manipuri job card holders and the issuance of ST certificates was made by people with certain vested interest and the claims are unfounded and baseless, states Saka Hopeson, Vice President of Japhou Bazar Authority, Chandel District in a press release sent out to the media.

The press release stated that from 2007 to 2017, some non-Manipuris who were already enrolled in the electoral roll were enrolled in the Job Card Holders of Japhou bazar, Chandel. The allegation of the issuance of Scheduled Tribe certificate to non-Manipuris is

quite irrelevant and unfounded. As a proof, laminated job cards of non-Manipuris, which were issued for 2007-2012, are at present in the custody of Japhou bazar Authority. The MNGREGS of Japhou Bazar have been halted since 2017 due to two parallel groups of leadership crisis viz Lordson Anal's group and St. Monishing Anal's group. Since there was a crisis between the two groups in 2018 and continued till now, the concerned SDO, BDO did not recognise them.

Innocent government beneficiaries of Japhou bazar suffered a lot during this period. Non Manipuris renewed job cards (booklets) which were

issued for 2012-2017 were forcefully taken by Lordson Anal in the year 2018 and are still with him till date. Consequently, it has very high chances of being written as ST in the job cards (booklets) to mislead the innocent public. During the lockdown due to COVID-19, certain vested interests warned the non-Manipuris that they would be arrested if they did not possess an Inner Line Permit while transporting grocery items from Imphal to Chandel. As a result, some of them possessed an ILP even though they already possessed election cards, added the press release.

The door of the office of Japhou Bazar Authority is

wide open to check all the available relevant documents with all the concerned officials to prove the said allegation as null and void. On April 30th, 2022, as a reformation, J. Angam Anal was appointed as the new Chairman, along with his executive members, to resolve the leadership crisis. The press release further stated that the new team is taking the initiative to start implementing the MNGREGS. According to the most recent data from the Japhou bazar job card lists, not a single Manipuri is employed. The allegations levelled indirectly at the Japhou bazar authorities were made without proper enquiry and, therefore, they are baseless and unfounded.

Former Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb files nomination for RS poll

Agartala, Sept 12:

Former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Monday filed his nomination as a BJP candidate for the September 22 bypoll to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from the northeastern state.

Chief Minister Manik Saha, Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Verma, Union Minister Pratima Bhoumik and BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee accompanied him when Deb submitted his papers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party's top leadership have made me BJP in charge for Haryana and nominated me for the bypoll to Rajya Sabha seat from Tripura. I will try my best to strengthen the party's organisation in both the states, he told reporters after submitting nomination papers.

He urged BJP leaders and workers to put up a united fight for the 2023 assembly elections in the northeastern

state. In the 2018 polls, the BJP won 36 seats of the 60-member assembly, and we must ensure that the party's strength in the House increases next year, he said.

The BJP leader also lauded the state government led by Manik Saha for its performance to fulfil the people's aspirations.

Deb is contesting for the RS seat vacated by Saha who replaced him as the chief minister.

India has powerful case to be permanent member of UN Security Council: EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi, Sept 12:

India has a powerful case to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council and the principal UN organ must adapt to the evolving global conditions, not only to fulfill its objectives of maintaining international security but also to remain relevant, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is in Saudi Arabia on his first visit to the Gulf Kingdom.

India has been at the forefront of the years-long efforts to reform the Security Council saying it rightly deserves a place as a permanent member of the Council, which in its current form does not represent the geo-political realities of the 21st Century.

Jaishankar said there is a broad global consensus over the need to reform the Council, particularly as it does not reflect the realities of the world, asserting that an expanded Council is not only in India's favour, but also in favour of other unrepresented areas.

"India as the largest democracy, fifth largest economy, nuclear power, technological hub, and tradition of global engagement has a powerful case to be a permanent member of the Security Council. The Council must adapt to the evolving global conditions, not only to fulfill its objectives of maintaining international security, but also to remain relevant," he told the Saudi Gazette newspaper in

an interview.

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

He called on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and handed over a written message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and apprised him of the progress in bilateral ties on Sunday.

Jaishankar covered a wide ambit of the bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and India in his interview with the Jeddah-based English daily.

Terming Saudi Arabia an "important player" in today's global economy not only due to its impressive growth num-

bers, but also due to its central position in the energy markets, he said the Gulf country is an important economic partner for India, with nearly \$42.86 billion worth of trade during FY22 (April 2021 - March 2022).

"Energy is indeed one of the keystone areas in our bilateral cooperation. Apart from our traditional trade in the field of energy, both nations are now collaborating in the domains of new and renewable energy. The Joint Working Group on Energy has identified 19 project opportunities for collaboration, which include investments in LNG infrastructure and multiple renewable energy projects, human capacity building and joint research," Jaishankar said.

He said there are several

areas where India and Saudi Arabia can collaborate to help achieve the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

"The Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) is central to furthering this cooperation as it provides an institutional mechanism to ensure regular and continuous progress of the bilateral relationship. Under Vision 2030, the Kingdom has set ambitious targets that require extensive economic cooperation. The Kingdom can certainly benefit from India's rising economy, not only through two-way investments, but also due to India's skilled manpower," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar said India has come out of COVID-19 stronger in terms of capacity building and financial, digital

and communication transformation.

He said the leadership of both the countries remained in constant coordination throughout the pandemic and dealt with ensuing challenges in a unified manner.

"India and Saudi Arabia followed through on their commercial commitments and maintained the supply chains. India supplied 4.5 million doses of COVID vaccines to Saudi Arabia to support its vaccination drive. Similarly, Saudi Arabia also sent oxygen cylinders and liquid medical oxygen (LMO) tanks during the critical time of the second wave of COVID in India," he said.

Jaishankar said as part of India's extended neighbor-

hood, the Gulf region in general, and the Kingdom in particular, are crucial to India's foreign policy priorities in the region.

"Such cooperation is visible by increased engagements with all six GCC countries over the past few years. With Saudi Arabia in particular, defence and security cooperation has increased significantly in recent times, with the first-ever bilateral naval exercise "AL MOHED AL HINDI" being held in August 2021. The two countries can certainly look to increase such cooperation to fulfill several of India's regional initiatives, such as the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)," he said.

contd. on page 4

★ Editorial

How serious is N. Biren Singh in fighting corruption?

The N. Biren Singh 2.0 government has sent a strong message to eradicate all forms of corruption after the formation of the new government.

Such an announcement gives hope to thousands of ordinary people who had previously lost faith in the government.

If the state's leader is dedicated to ridding the state of corruption, now is the best time to get started. A single initiative will undoubtedly persuade the people that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is the true leader of the state, always concerned with the well-being of the oppressed common people.

As corruption incidences often happen among public officials, a meaningful step against corruption can be taken inside of public administrations.

The concept of good governance can thus be applied to improve administrations' integrity, lowering the likelihood that officials will agree to engage in corrupt behaviour. Transparency is one aspect of good governance. Transparency initiatives can aid in the detection of corruption and the prosecution of corrupt officials and politicians.

Another aspect of good governance as a tool for combating corruption is the development of trust in state institutions.

A few days ago, the Imphal Times published a news item about the re-engagement of two retired mechanical engineers who are under CBI investigation for corruption as civil engineers at MOBEDS.

There has been no report of any action being taken in this regard. Besides the decision of the state cabinet not to re-engage or extend service for those who are retired, the re-engagement of a retired engineer in the Engineering Cell of Manipur Minorities & OBC Economic Development Society (MOBEDS), in which the Chief Minister himself is the Chairman, means the Chief Minister is not serious about corruption.

We cannot put petrol in a diesel vehicle, and rehiring a mechanical engineer for civil engineering work is the biggest farce in the anti-corruption campaign.

If the chief minister wants to stop corruption, then he must start it from his own department.

Voluntary Blood Donation: An act of solidarity to save lives

By: Maj Gen (Prof) Atul Kotwal, SM, VSM

The importance of even a tiny drop has been well acknowledged in our culture. 'Boond boond se ghat bhare', we learned and remember. And, if a drop of water could have such value, it needs no imagination what a drop of blood could mean to someone in need.

Voluntary blood donors are, hence, not only a cornerstone of a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood-related products, these non-remunerated donors from low-risk population subgroups have always been identified as safest blood donors. While we still see a huge proportion of blood collection from family and replacement donors, we also cannot deny the risk of these donors being associated with low or high prevalence of transfusion - transmissible infections. This also indicates a need for establishing strategies to enhance blood safety by focussing more on voluntary low-risk donors.

While the onus of blood supply lies with the blood bank rather than the patients, the country's health system is continuously addressing the concerns related to shortage of blood supply by undertaking need assessment to understand the gap between demand and supply; and also planning timely interventions to close these gaps.

Several reports have attested to a shortage of blood across health care facilities in India. Not only are we losing patients everyday due to shortage of blood, but we are also facing maternal deaths burden due to excess loss of blood and at the same time its shortage to replenish the patients' blood levels. Blood transfusion is not limited to cases like trauma, surgeries, post-partum haemorrhages or anaemia, but with country's changing health needs and evolved facilities, this has expanded to cover patients being treated for cancer, inherited blood disorders or specific surgeries and similar interventions. Voluntary Blood donation has been advocated both at national and international level not only to address the shortfall, but also to phase out replacement donors over a period of time. This will also reduce the financial burden of patients while arranging replacement donors, which has become the responsibility of the patient over a period of time.

A first of its kind, national-level cross-sectional study in 2022, revealed India's estimated demand, supply, and utilisation of whole blood and blood products. It was found that the supply against demand is at 92-6% for whole blood, 91-7% for red cells, 86% for plasma, 77-5% for platelets, and 92-1% for cryoprecipitate. The study attributes the supply-demand gap to factors such as low voluntary blood donation and injudicious demand (J J Mammen, et al., 2022). This inference points toward the need to further improve awareness, to motivate voluntary donors as well as to avoid irrational clinical use of blood and blood products.

Regular blood donation drives are already being held on notable occasions across different platforms, including facilities, corporate offices, civil societies, NGOs, academic institutions, and more. Realising the need to increase awareness and timely access to safe blood transfusion, the Government of India has proposed to organise a mega blood donation drive on September 17, with the involvement of all Ministries of the Union and state governments, non-government and community-based organisations, and the youth of the country.

Even though concerns of 'wastage' because of this mega campaign are raised by some activists, this initiative is a sincere effort by the Government of India to raise awareness that blood is needed every day and to encourage more people to donate blood throughout the year. The initiative is also designed to encourage voluntary blood donors to register themselves with the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and donate blood in identified blood banks or donation camps. Moreover, one lakh units of blood in a day spread across the country can be easily and gainfully utilised as the country already reports a shortfall of approximately 40 lakh units per annum.

The initiative would not only focus on blood collection but also ensure its accessibility and availability at the point of demand. This would be achieved by strengthening the systems, and ensuring uniform high quality, logistics, cold chain management, common inventory and appropriate regulatory framework. With the MoHFW recently releasing revised Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS2022) for health care facilities, the blood banks and storage facilities are also being strengthened to complement the government efforts towards universal access to safe blood transfusion.

Additionally, more than 51% of blood banks in the country have component separation facilities attached to them. While whole blood has a shelf life of up to 35 days, fresh frozen plasma, separated from whole blood within 6 hours and rapidly frozen and maintained at a temperature of -30 degree Celsius, has a shelf life of up to one year. Moreover, the blood banks will draw the number of units only as per their

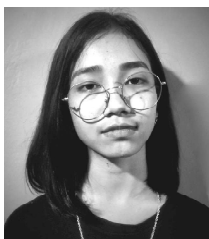
capacity and the rest of the volunteers will be enrolled in the database for future requirement.

The fundamental strategy to ensure timely access to safe and sufficient supply of blood and blood products is to develop a nationally-coordinated blood transfusion service based on voluntary non-remunerated blood donations. This service would be governed by quality management in all its aspects, with sufficient and continuous funding, and be fully integrated into the national health system. Leveraging information technology, Arogya Setu and e-Raktkosh, will help in creating a live database of motivated voluntary donors available on as-required basis. The states/UTs need to ensure that this mega drive is effectively utilised for information, education and behaviour change communication at a large scale during contact with the volunteers.

With the recent initiatives of the current Government in health sector - Ayushman Bharat (HWCs, PM-JAY, PM-ABHIM, ABDM), tied health grants under 15th Finance Commission (FC-XV), ECRP-2 funds and the ongoing NHM, India has embarked on a journey towards a resilient and strengthened health system with holistic approach. Thus, attention to each and every component, like ensuring the availability of quality blood and blood products and streamlining the systems they rely on will guarantee building on the recent progress. This in turn helps in strengthening the health system as a whole and achieve universal and timely access to safe blood transfusion. For, we already know, every drop counts!

(The author is a Executive Director, National Health Systems Resource Centre, MoHFW, GoI)

Why Am I Falling In Love With My Mother?



By: Christina Lourembam

At the tip of my surety, I guarantee that all have mothers. Before I roll in further, I would like to draw the attention of all the readers with a question, i.e. "Do you love your Mother?" I think the big answer is the huge collective YES. As for me, I really love my mother because she carried me for 9 months in her womb. Just for that? Most might ask my reason why. But yes - just because she carried me for 9 months. She sacrificed her happiness for me and also provided everything which I needed in my life. Yes! I do have a lot of family members in my house but when any of the others are not in the house, I don't feel the void as much as I do when my mother is not home.

I know this article is going to be a lot more about how I feel about my mother. She is none-other than LOUREMBAM (O) RASHI, my best friend and my guru. She is a spiritual lady. I know this is going to be a little off but I am spiritual as well, she takes me at times to different realms of spirituality. I am lucky that I got the best mom in the world but I don't think all must be enjoying this happiness just like I do. So let me talk about how the relationship between a mother and children are supposed to be. It is also the role of every mom to understand her children. When a child feels this, he or she learns to trust the parent(s) better. Listening is crucial to understanding. Therefore, it is very important that mothers learn to really listen to their children.

Shama is a Hebrew word that means "to hear intelligently". Mothers must exercise shama to understand, help and love the child. One of the most meaningful roles that a mother plays is the role of nurturer. This word is sometimes taken synonymously with the word "mother". When a mother nurtures her children well, love and goodness are awakened in the children's hearts. Because of our mothers' love, we learn to love, as well and we feel God's love more profoundly. Mothers are trusted by God so as my own mother or my bestie RASHI, because souls are entrusted in their care. To realize this is to realize the crucial role that mothers play in the lives of their children. She has great influence over them, which is why mothers need to exercise wisdom and righteousness throughout the days of her life—a task that can be quite daunting.

But motherhood comes with this great responsibility. These are some of our mothers' roles, but what about our roles? Our mothers deserve all the love for risking their life in childbirth, raising us through difficult times, and constantly guiding and loving us. For all these, we should give them our gratitude, our respect and our trust. We should listen to them and constantly help them in whatever way we can.

With the help of this column, I would like to call out my own mother. Thank you mom for everything you have done for me. And to all my readers, if you want to show your love to your mother, don't wait for Mother's Day - go hug her now, tell her that you love her and help her in anything that you can.

(The writer is a class 9 student of Emmanuel English Academy, Yaingangkopi, Imphal East.)

Should NEET UG repeat a year or not?



By: Vijay GarG

The results for NEET 2022 exams are out. Of the 18.72 lakh students who registered for the exam around 1.5 lakh will get a MBBS, BDS and AYUSH seats. That means roughly only 1 in 12 aspirants will be able to realise their dream of becoming a doctor via NEET. To majority of others, it has left the perplexing question of whether to drop a year and take another attempt at NEET, which is often referred to as repeat or to look for other available options. The article here presents facts, arguments and data that will help such students take more sound and informed decision and choose one of the binary options available to them. The article also discusses various other available career options for such students.

Impact of NEET on medical admissions in Tamil Nadu suggests that repeater students have fared well over the last five NEET exams. But that should not be the sole reason for you as a student to take any decision. The decision should be more subjective and relevant to you on an individual basis. There are cases when not repeating could be the better choice. Let us

discuss a few of them:

When not repeating is the better choice

The decision of not repeating can be the more relevant one to students due to various reasons. There are a few situations discussed below where this would be the better choice to make.

You gave your best in the exam yet scored very low marks. It is important to understand that not everyone is meant to do everything. We all have peculiar minds and particular qualities and skill sets. It is very much possible that a student's aptitude might not be aligned to the specific demands of NEET. In such situations, it is advisable that you should move forward and evaluate other options available.

It may be the case that the decision of preparing and appearing in NEET was not yours but due to family or peer pressure. If that is the case then it is better you don't take a drop. It's better to move on and choose something which is your calling and not derived from any external influence.

The NEET examination is very demanding and requires total commitment and demands a lot of hard work to qualify. It could very well be the case that you gave your best and now you don't have the desire or will to sustain for another year. Then you should not repeat and better off choosing some other course or even consider changing your subject.

There are various options available for students that can be pursued and doesn't involve NEET result. A few of them are as follows.

Getting admission under management or NRI quota: There are few MBBS seats reserved in many colleges and can be availed by meeting some criteria and requirements specific to the college. You are advised to do some research and check if you fulfil them.

Doing MBBS from abroad: There are many countries that provide MBBS course. While some require you to take tests there are others where getting admission is comparatively easier. A few of these countries are US, UK, Germany, China, Poland, Australia amongst others.

Pursuing other science and medical related course: There are many good courses that a student can choose as a career. A few of them are BSc Psychology, BSc Nursing, BSc Biotechnology, B.Pharm etc. a comprehensive list of such courses can be obtained by doing some research. Student can opt out for any of these as per his/her likings.

Changing stream: It may very well be the case that you may come to the realisation that you have interest in other subjects like commerce, arts, humanities or languages. This option is still available to you and should be chosen without hesitation and can offer much satisfying and rewarding career.

When repeating for NEET is more relevant

We have previously discussed various options that do not require NEET result. However they are more often then not quite expensive or involve moving to a distant country. There are also options where you decide to move

out of medical profession altogether. But all said and done for some students giving up on their desire and ambition of becoming a doctor is not easy. A few situations when taking another attempt at the exam could be the more suitable choice. We discuss them here.

If you have missed qualification by very few marks then it is better you take another attempt. The fact that you have another year where you don't have to take board exam and can solely focus on the NEET exam should help you qualify in the next attempt. The odds of qualifying in multiple attempt as presented earlier are in your favour.

There was lack of guidance and so you were not able to acquire knowledge and skills required for NEET. In such situations it's better you take another attempt. But it is advisable that you consider joining a good NEET classes where you can get proper guidance.

It is possible that some other non-academic reason might have caused your poor result in the exam. It could be poor health, some family misfortune, examination errors or some other external factors. In such situation it is better that you take another attempt at the exam.

There is another situation often observed among NEET aspirants. Many students are not able to perform well in one of the three subjects either Physics chemistry or biology and that drags their result. It could be a good idea to take a drop and focus on this subject as it provides you enough time to improve and possibly qualify in the next attempt.

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PM inaugurates International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit 2022 in Greater Noida

India's dairy sector is characterized by 'production by masses' more than 'mass production' - PM

PIB
New Delhi, Sept 12:

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS) 2022 organised at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, today.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed happiness that all the dignitaries from the world of dairy have assembled in India today. The Prime Minister said that the World Dairy Summit is going to be a great medium for the exchange of ideas. "The potential of the dairy sector not only gives impetus to the rural economy, but is also a major source of livelihood for crores of people across the world", he said.

The Prime Minister underlined the centrality of 'Pashu Dhan' and milk-related business in the cultural landscape of India. This has given the dairy sector of India many unique characteristics. The Prime Minister pointed out that unlike other developed countries of the world, the driving force of the dairy sector in India is small farmers. India's dairy sector is characterized by "production by masses" more than "mass production". India is the largest milk-producing country on the basis of the efforts of these small farmers with one, two or three cattle. This sector provides employment to more than 8 crore families in the country, he informed.

Explaining the second unique characteristic of the Indian dairy system, the Prime Minister reiterated that there is such a huge network of Dairy Cooperative in India, and one cannot find such an example in the whole world elsewhere. Modi said that these

dairy cooperatives collect milk twice a day from about two crore farmers in more than two lakh villages in the country and deliver it to the customers. The Prime Minister drew everyone's attention to the fact that there is no middleman in the entire process, and more than 70 per cent of the money that is received from the customers goes directly into the pockets of the farmers. "No other country has this ratio in the whole world", the Prime Minister added. He also underlined the efficiency of the digital system of payment in the dairy sector and said that it has many lessons for other countries.

Another unique feature, according to the Prime Minister, is the indigenous breeds that can withstand many adverse circumstances. He gave the example of the sturdy buffalo breed of Banni Buffalo of the Kutch region of Gujarat. He also talked about other buffalo breeds such as Murrah, Mehsana, Jafabadi, Nili Ravi, and Pandharpuri; among the cow breeds, he mentioned Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Kankrej, Tharparker and Haryana.

As another unique characteristic, the Prime Minister highlighted the power of women in the dairy sector, the Prime Minister pointed out that women have a 70% representation in the workforce in India's dairy sector. "Women are the real leaders of India's dairy sector", he added, "Not only this, more than a third of the members of dairy cooperatives in India are women." He said that more than eight and a half lakh crore rupees, the dairy sector is more than the combined value of wheat and rice. This is all driven by the women power of India.

The Prime Minister under-



lined that the government has worked relentlessly to enhance the potential of India's dairy sector since 2014. This has led to an increase in milk production thereby leading to an increase in the income of farmers. "India produced 146 million tonnes of milk in 2014. It has now increased to 210 million tonnes. That is, an increase of about 44 per cent", the Prime Minister pointed out. He also mentioned that as compared to the 2 per cent production growth at the global level, India is clocking the milk production growth rate at more than 6 per cent.

The Prime Minister said that the government is working on developing a balanced dairy ecosystem where challenges of the sectors are being addressed along with a focus on increasing production. Extra income for the farmers, empowerment of the poor, swachhta, chemical-free farming, clean energy and care of the cattle is interlinked in this ecosystem. He stressed that animal husbandry and dairy are being promoted as a powerful medium of green and sus-

tainable growth in the villages. Schemes like Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Gobardhan Yojna, Digitization of dairy sector and universal vaccination of cattle along with steps like banning single-use plastic, are steps in that direction.

Stressing the use of modern technology, the Prime Minister said that India is building the largest database of dairy animals and every animal associated with the dairy sector is being tagged. "We are doing biometric identification of animals. We have named it Pashu Adhar", he said.

Modi also stressed the growing entrepreneurial structures like FPAs and women self-help groups, and startups. He said that the sector has seen more than 1000 startups in recent times. He also talked about the strides in Gobardhan Yojna and said that aim is to reach a situation where dairy plants produce their own electricity from Gobar. The resulting manure will help the farmers also.

Drawing an analogy to farming, the Prime Minister said that animal husbandry

and farming require diversity, and monoculture might not be the only solution. The Prime Minister stressed that today, India is paying equal attention to both indigenous breeds and hybrid breeds. He further elaborated that it will also reduce the risk of damage caused by climate change.

The Prime Minister addressed another major problem that is affecting the income of farmers which is the diseases of animals. "When the animal is sick it affects the life of the farmer, affecting his income. It also affects the efficiency of the animal, the quality of its milk and other related products", he added. The Prime

Minister emphasised that in this direction, India is working toward universal vaccination of animals. "We have resolved that by 2025, we will vaccinate 100% of the animals against Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis. We are aiming to be completely free from these diseases by the end of this decade", the Prime Minister remarked.

The Prime Minister observed that there has been a loss of livestock in many states of India due to the disease named Lumpy in the recent past and assured everyone that the central government, along with various state governments, is trying their level best to keep a check on it. "Our scientists have also prepared indigenous vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease", the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister also pointed out that efforts are being made to track the movement of animals to keep the outbreak under control. Be it vaccination of animals or any other modern technology, the Prime Minister said that India is always eager to contribute to the field of dairy while striving to learn from its partner nations. "India has acted swiftly on its food safety standards", Modi added.

In concluding the address, the Prime Minister reiterated that India is working on a digi-

tal system which will capture the end-to-end activities of the livestock sector. This will provide accurate information needed to improve this sector. This summit will put forward the work that is being done around the world regarding many such technologies. The Prime Minister also urged everyone present to suggest ways to share the expertise related to this field. "I invite the global leaders of the dairy industry to join the drive to empower the dairy sector in India. I also appreciate the International Dairy Federation for their excellent work and contribution", the Prime Minister concluded.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Dr L. Murugan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing, Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Members of Parliament, Surendra Singh Nagar and Dr Mahesh Sharma, President of International Dairy Federation, P. Brazzale, and Director General of International Dairy Federation, Caroline Emond were among those present on the occasion. 75 lakh farmers got connected with the event through technology.

Active Covid-19 cases in country decline to 47,176

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 12:

India logged 5,221 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,45,00,580, while the active cases dipped to 47,176, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,165 with 15 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 has increased to 98.71 per cent, the

ministry said.

A decline of 769 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.82 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 4,39,25,239, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

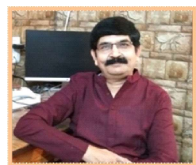
According to the ministry, 215.26 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

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 11 new fatalities include three from Maharashtra and two each from Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

Drug addiction: A big challenge for youth and children



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Drugs are initially taken out of choice, but it becomes hard to resist them sooner than you realize. It is difficult to recover from this problem and even those who are at high risk of developing it again. It is a fact that drug racket operates internationally, but some countries are transshipment points for drug circulation. India possibly because of its strategic location is more prone to drug activities including drug trafficking and local consumption. The influence of westernization, changing family structure and peer pressure are some of the reasons behind drug abuse.

Our society should change its attitude. He should be provided with all the support and care. He should be properly rehabilitated. Moral education should be made a part of our curriculum. Society should be made aware from the early

stage. In order to tame and trample the monster of drug abuse, we must go back to the root of the problem and make the user of drugs more human, tolerant, understanding, appreciative, sympathetic and helpful. Social workers, teachers, and above all parents, especially mothers can play a vital role in this direction. Many counselling and de-addiction centres have contributed greatly to create a national awakening. More such efforts are required from all walks of society.

Drugs are primarily chemicals that affect the communication system of the human brain. They disturb the ways in which nerve cells send, process and receive information. There are a couple of ways in which drugs achieve this — they copy the natural chemical messengers of the human brain and they overstimulate the brain's reward circuit. Drugs such as heroin and marijuana are structured in the same way as chemical messengers known as neurotransmitters. The Drug addiction can develop at any age but those who begin taking drugs at an early age have the highest risk of getting addicted. This is because the ar-

reas of the brain that are responsible for self-control, judgment and decision making are still in development stage. This is the reason why teenagers are more prone to drug abuse. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs.

According to National Survey, hardly a third of drug dependents reported having taken treatment. In the findings of other agency it was found as low as two per cent. It is largely because people do not see drug abuse as a medical problem. Besides, lack of rehabilitation and access to treatment facilities are various other causes for not seeking treatment. The disintegration of the old joint family system, absence of parental love and care in modern families where both parents are working, decline of old religious and moral values etc lead to a rise in the number of drug addicts who take drugs to escape hard realities of life. Drug trafficking is one of the major crime. Killing someone or help-

ing someone to kill himself is equal to a crime. This is what common sense and human sense says. The ones who are trafficking and helping such drugs reach each and every corner of the country are committing a big crime. Drugs and drug dealing is a scourge that can bring down a mature and intelligent society to intolerable levels of depravity. It is better to nip this crime in bud so that our country doesn't follow the horrible western malady. Creating awareness of dangers of the substance abuse in society and effecting behavioural change are integral parts of the National Drug Master Plan. There should be no leniency when talking about peddlers and pushers who destroy the victim and his kith and kin and put the victim into unalterable habit which will make the individual take to all crimes including murder and rape. If we need to stop this menace from spreading we need harsh steps and stringent punishments. Only love and affection can help the youth from falling into clutches of drugs. Societal control is a necessary along with legal skeleton. Let us develop our Lives, our Communities, and our Identities... Without Drugs.

NIA crackdown on gangsters: Raids being conducted at 60 locations across India

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 12:

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday conducted raids at 60 locations across India to crack down on gangs and crime syndicates. The 60 locations include places in Delhi, National Capital Region, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

The NIA is conducting an investigation after the Delhi Police Special Cell registered two FIRs under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against 10 gangsters who belong to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, the Bambha gang and the Neeraj Bawana gang.

This comes a day after Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said that there is a strong nexus be-

tween terror groups and the gangsters arrested in the Sidhu Moose Wala murder case. He had said that Pakistani terror agencies were exploiting this nexus.

According to the NIA report, Neeraj Sehrawat alias Neeraj Bawana and his gang are involved in targeted killings of famous personalities and spreading terror on social media.

Neeraj Bawana and his gang are also currently involved in a gang war with Lawrence Bishnoi, according to sources. Hours after the murder of Punjab singer-politician Sidhu Moose Wala, Neeraj Bawana had announced that they will avenge the singer's death and take action against the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

The NIA raids are being conducted to crack down on gangs

that are operating from inside jails in India and abroad. These include gangsters like **Goldy Brar**, who coordinated the **Sidhu Moose Wala murder** from Canada.

According to the FIR, the Special Cell received information that Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar, Vikram Brar, Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, Sandeep, Sachin Thapan and Anmol Bishnoi are operating gangs from different jails in the country and from abroad in Canada, Pakistan and Dubai.

The FIR also said Lawrence Bishnoi is close to Khalistani terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda who is believed to reside in Pakistan. Another FIR filed under the UAPA named members of the Bambha gang, a rival of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra has good potential to connect to masses

Rahul Gandhi can emerge much taller if the programme ends in a big success

By Kalyani Shankar
New Delhi, Sept 12:

Image building is a politically important tool for present-day politicians worldwide, and India is no exception. They employ specialized image-building companies, who tell their clients what to wear, how to speak and what issues should be focused on at considerable costs to capture power.

In the past decade, many leaders have engaged these companies to build their public persona. They include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Akhilesh Yadav (U.P.), (M.K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), and K. Chandrashekhara Rao (Telangana).

Political Yantras are not new since the days of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi yatra in 1930. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's present 'Bharat Jodo' Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir is one such considerable mass contact programme on the lines of Dandi March.. Others like N.T. Rama Rao and L.K. Advani had undertaken similar yatras on 'raths' or buses. Some others, like Vinobha Bhave, Janata Party president Chandrashekhara (1983), and Andhra Pradesh Congress leader YS Rajasekhara Reddy (2004), followed this route.

Since 2004 when Rahul Gandhi entered politics as the first time Member of Parliament and Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2014, he has been trying out different images for himself. Rahul is now attempting to portray a new persona. He wants to challenge and 'rescue' the country from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, donning the

role of a man of the masses and a grassroots leader - a leader for women and youth.

First, Rahul claimed to be in the learning process throughout the Congress-led UPA rule (2004-2014). He tinkered with the Youth Congress but failed. Then he projected himself as an angry young man, restless to change the system and later on a reformer with new ideas of democracy. After the party's miserable defeat in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and losing 45 state assembly elections, Rahul resigned as the party chief in August 2019. And since then, he has been working through remote control.

Rahul is attempting a last-ditch effort with this Bharat Jodo Yatra to connect with the sections that have moved to other parties. Congress has been out of power since 2014.. The next Lok Sabha polls are scheduled in March/April 2024. The Congress workers and the supporting masses will be demoralized. If the Congress loses for the third time.

The current campaign will provide him with a platform to improve his image. The mass contact programme is a significant show in the post-Independent India, with a sizable contingent of Congress members, including party MPs, participating, covering 3,500 kilometres through twelve states and two Union Territories in the next 150 days beginning September 7. Over 200 civil society organizations also support the move. The slogan for the Yatra is "mile kadam, jute vatan" (walk together, unite the country).

During the 150 days of the Yatra, Rahul Gandhi will

remain a great listener. "This is a public, open, transparent exercise," says party spokesman Jairam Ramesh. Rahul has little to show what he has done so far. On the other hand, the BJP wants to depict Rahul as intellectually inadequate, emotionally unstable, organisationally inept, and an alleged money launderer.

This Yatra is the most protracted campaign in Rahul's nearly two-decade political career. He has cycled to Parliament to protest against high fuel prices. Rahul's strategists have released pictures of his body-building exercises, his culinary skills and swimming with the fisherman.

The question is whether Rahul can convert the crowds into voters and also just physical contact with the masses would be of how much help in the digital age. Rahul claims he will be an alternative to the "politics of fear, bigotry and prejudice" and the "economics of livelihood destruction, increasing unemployment and growing inequalities". He aspires that the Yatra was like a Tapasya for him and that he was ready for the "long battle" to unite the

country.

However, there are many ifs and buts in this gamble. Will Rahul be able to go through this ordeal without taking a holiday break? Secondly, sustaining the public interest for five long months is hard. Rahul has to find something new to keep himself and Congress in the news. He will not even be able to quit halfway without losing face. Thirdly, the momentum should be sustained until the 2024 polls. It is a challenging work for Rahul ahead. Fourthly, he can enjoy the success of the Yatra only if he leads from the front.

Eying the party's revival ahead of the 2024 elections, the party chief Sonia Gandhi described the march as a "landmark occasion". She hoped that the march would help rejuvenate the grand old party.

The Yatra could be a "transformational moment" for Indian politics and a "decisive moment" for the party's rejuvenation. Rahul and the party should not miss this opportunity. He needs to impress the public that he is a 'doer'. Mass contact programmes generally help politicians. (IPA Service)

Tree Plantation Drive

IT News
Imphal, Sept 12:

Keithalmanbi Bn under aegis of HQ IGAR(South) organised Tree Plantation Drive in coordination with Para Vidya Yog Sanstha wherein a total of 350 saplings were planted at Maibam Lokpa Ching in Bishnupur district on September 11.

The event commenced with awareness lecture on importance of trees in maintaining good climate and balance of nature. Main objective of the event was to preserve local flora and fauna. In the plantation drive under the motto Serving Nature, Serving Humanity, all the participants pledged to plant at least one tree and nurture it regularly every month.

MIC celebrates 16th Foundation Day

IT News
Imphal, Sept 12:

The Manipur Information Commission celebrated its 16th anniversary today.

On September 12, 2006, the Commission was established.

Retd. State Chief Information Commission, speaking as the event's Chief Guest, expressed the Commission's hardened face, including the lack of its own building and staff.

During the function, State Chief Information Commis-



sioner Oniam Sunil urged the public to use RTI to obtain

documents or information from the government.

AR organised Awareness Lecture to School Students

IT News
Imphal, Sept 12:

Phundrei battalion under the aegis IGAR (South) organised an Awareness lecture on admission in

Sainikschool at Govt Higher Secondary school, Chakpakirong village, Chandel district today.

During the awareness lecture students were briefed about admission

process, preparation for entrance exam and facilities available in Sainik school for overall development of students. A Total of 42 students attended the said lecture.

Contd. from Page 1

India has powerful case to be permanent...

Responding to a question on climate action and climate justice, Jaishankar said India has been at the forefront of the battle against climate change.

"India is currently the only G20 country that is moving fast towards achieving its climate goals. Similarly, Saudi Arabia too has indicated its willingness to play a leading role towards a greener world, which is indicated through the Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative. The two countries can certainly synergise their efforts by increasing cooperation in the fields of renewable energy and clean energy technologies," he said.

Jaishankar said increased India-Saudi Arabia cooperation will benefit not only the region, but also the global community.

"Bilateral cooperation across all sectors, including political, security, defence, economic, and cultural domains has repercussions for the region.

India and Saudi Arabia are collaborating to ensure security through respect for international law, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Such cooperation should certainly increase regional stability," he said.

"India-Saudi Arabia economic cooperation is also another factor that should increase regional stability as the two major economies accelerate regional growth," he added.

The changing global order will have an impact on any country's foreign policy. With the region, as well as the world, experiencing volatility due to COVID, conflicts, climate events and economic uncertainty, the Indo-Saudi partnership offers a significant factor of stability, he said.

"In this context, our relations with Saudi Arabia have strengthened considerably over the past decade, which eventually culminated in the formation of the Strategic Partnership Council in October 2019," Mr.

Jaishankar said.

He said the bilateral relations have strengthened due to increasing synergies and shared interests, and this carries additional salience in today's dynamic international environment.

The two countries are currently collaborating across nearly all sectors, which has expanded the depth of the relationship and made it comprehensive, he said.

"A major reason for this expansion has been the evolving regional situation, for instance, our defense cooperation, particularly in the naval domain has gradually strengthened in the past few years, leading to the first-ever bilateral naval exercise in August 2021. In the economic domain as well, our bilateral trade last year stood at USD 42.86 billion, reflecting the growing interconnections between our two economies," he said.

Sports

Durand Cup 2022:

Greg Stewart hat-trick helps Mumbai City FC beat Chennaiyin FC and book semis spot

Agency
Kolkata, Sept 12:

Mumbai City FC (MCF) got the better of Chennaiyin FC (CFC) 5-3 in a thrilling quarter-final of the 131st Indian Oil Durand Cup here at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata on Sunday, thanks to a Greg Stewart hat-trick and pair of goals from Lallianzuala Chhangte. Croatian striker Petar Sliskovic, Jockson Dhas and Rahim Ali scored for Chennaiyin. The match was decided in extra time. The Islanders therefore move on to play the first semi-final at the same venue against Mohammedan Sporting on September 14, 2022.

The first-half was cagey at best with both teams trying to get a measure of the other. There were a few shots mostly from distance and some from inside the box but no golden opportunities to score as such. Among the incidents Chennaiyin's Ghanaian striker Kwame Kanikari got injured and had to be replaced by Rahim Ali in the 19th minute of the game.

The first goal of the match was the only difference between the two sides and it came off a penalty awarded to Mumbai when Ahmed Jahouh played Amay Ranawade through inside the box and keeper Debjit brought him down. Stewart took the kick and although Debjit guessed right and got his hands to it, could not prevent the ball from going into the back of the net.

Chennaiyin gaffer Tomas Bradaric got in Ninthoi in place of Edwin Vanspaal at the break and that turned out to be an inspired substitution.

In the 55th minute, Thapa took a trademark corner which fell for Duker near the far post and he tapped it back in for Ninthoi who had an open goal in front of him but hit wide.

The goal did come four minutes later. Ninthoi got the assist with a wonderful lofted ball played inside the box anticipating Sliskovic's run. The Croat got ahead of Rostyn Griffiths and directed a powerful header past a diving Lachenpa in the near post.



Greg Stewart celebrates after scoring his hat-trick and Mumbai City FC's fifth goal.

Des Buckingham, the Mumbai coach then made his moves bringing in Mourtada Fall for the first time in the season and Gurkirat in place of Mehtab and Rippol. Bradaric also replaced Aakash Sangwan with Sajid Dhot.

Mumbai probably thought they had the winner thanks to a Greg Stewart masterclass in the middle of the Chennaiyin half in the 78th minute. He strolled around before making a run towards the box drawing in defenders towards him and then released Bipin Singh on the left.

Bipin's cross was fended away by Debjit but only till a lurking Chhangte coming in on the far post. The highest scorer of the tournament so far made no mistake, tapping in his sixth of the tournament with ease. Stewart then almost got his second for himself four minutes later, when Chhangte this time found him with a cross. Stewart was unmarked inside the box but his left-footed strike just missed the target.

Bradaric then made another

substitution which again paid dividends bringing in Jockson Dhas for Sajal Bag.

With a minute to go for regulation time Ninthoi, who was keeping himself busy on the right flank, delivered another inviting floater inside the box. Fall was first to meet it but his clearing header went only as far as Jockson lurking at the far post. The substitute chested it down and unleashed a powerful right-footed volley which bulged the back of the net.

Both Stewart and Ninthoi also got chances for themselves in stoppage time but regulation time ended 2-2.

Chhangte was at it again however in the fourth minute of the first-half of extra-time. Greg Stewart took the free-kick after Gurkirat was fouled and the latter's header found its way to Mourtada Fall at the far post. He volleyed back in towards the centre of the six-yard box and Chhangte was at the right place unmarked to head it past Debjit. It was his seventh of the Indian Oil Durand Cup.

Subroto Cup:

Nagaland, Manipur, Chandigarh and Jharkhand in semifinals

Agency
New Delhi, Sept 12:

Schools from Nagaland, Manipur, Chandigarh and Jharkhand made the semifinals of Subroto Cup Boys U-14 competition here on Sunday.

It began at Subroto Park Football Ground (SPFG) early in the morning with Greenwood School, Dimapur, Nagaland, overwhelming Mingmang Nalbari High School, Assam, 7-0 in the quarterfinals.

Yisielie scored a hat-trick for the winners getting on board in the seventh, 22nd and 35th minutes of the game. The other goals were scored by Limathung (12), Yisielie (19), Kevespa (37) and Vibito (50).

Heirok Higher Secondary School, Imphal, Manipur, then swept NNMHSS, Chelembra, Kerala, 6-0 to win the second quarterfinals on the same

ground. L Bikramjit (6th, 26th) and J Likson (28th, 33rd) scored a brace while A Seitam (10th) and A Johnson (50th) got the other two goals.

The action then moved to the Ambedkar Stadium where Government Model High School, Chandigarh, beat Government Chawngfianga Middle School 1-0.

In the fourth and final quarterfinal, Barway High School, Chaiphar, Jharkhand, will take on Heirok, Manipur while Government Model, Chandigarh will clash against Barway, Jharkhand in the second match at Ambedkar stadium.

The semifinals will be played on Tuesday.

In the first semifinals at SPFG, Greenwood, Nagaland will take on Heirok, Manipur while Government Model, Chandigarh will clash against Barway, Jharkhand in the second match at Ambedkar stadium.