

## CM launches SPARROW for MCS and MPS

*Senior officers shouldn't make any discrimination among their subordinates during performance appraisal - Chief Minister*



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 13:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today launched the Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) for Manipur Civil Services (MCS) and Manipur Police Services (MPS) at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. SPARROW is an online system for assessment and record keeping of Annual Confidential Report (ACRs) of officers based on the comprehensive performance appraisal dossier that is maintained for each member by the Government. The system is being implemented in the State for MCS and MPS in the first phase. The Application is developed by National Informatics Centre in consultation with ACR Cell and Department of Information & Technology, Government of Manipur. The URL for the application is <https://sparrow.mn.gov.in>. Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Director Gen-

eral of Police P. Doungel, Additional Chief Secretary M.H. Khan and other senior civil and police officers also attended the programme. Interacting with the officials, N. Biren Singh expressed the need to adopt a holistic system of promotion of Government employees so that they perform their duties with interest and dedication. He continued that senior officers shouldn't make any discrimination among their subordinates during performance appraisal, forgetting their personal enmities with them if any. The Chief Minister further stressed the importance of senior officers to groom their juniors in order to make them fit to perform their jobs, while getting promoted to higher offices. It may be mentioned that the application aims to facilitate the electronic filling of ACR in a way that is not only user friendly but also allows filling from anywhere anytime as per convenience. The system will reduce delays in submission and completion of ACRs. With the electronic system in place, the recording and movement of ACRs forms become seamless, quick and convenient due to inbuilt alert mechanisms through different modes at appropriate stages. It also provides status checks so that the officers know where their ACRs are pending as well as what is pending with them. The system will be implemented for other Organized Services also in the coming years in a phase manner.

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## Ukhrul village urges govt to develop WW II battlefield to attract tourists



Courtesy: Eastern Mirror  
Khangkhui Khullen, Sept 13:

The villagers of a remote village in Manipur's Ukhrul district has urged the government to develop a mountain peak, where the first battle between Japanese and allied forces on Indian soil took place during World War II 78 years ago, as a tourist destination.

"We call it Harva Khangai and this historic mountain peak is located about 3 km east from the village playground," Chairman of the Tourism Development Organisation of Khangkhui village, Sami Ignatius told Eastern Mirror.

"The first battle occurred simultaneously when allied forces at Harva Khangai attacked Japanese who landed with 200 elephants at Khorung on March 11, 1944," Sami said. "The remains of military trenches, war equipment and artifacts are still here in the village."

Khangkhui Khullen is located about 100 km northeast of Imphal via Ukhrul and has around 200 households.

of Imphal via Ukhrul and has around 200 households.

"Infrastructure development is required at Harva Khangai and Khorung, which is also an attractive mountain peak where the beautiful seasonal flowers grow round the year, for the development of the state," Sami added.

Khorung, located 3.5km south-east of the village, is also a popular view point and is known for its rhododendrons in February/March and caulokaempferia in July every year.

Sharing a similar sentiment, Tuisham KH, another member, said these places are one of the main important areas for developing war tourism.

Khangkhui Khullen is an important tourist spot in the north-eastern state for its old stone age caves popularly known as Khangkhui caves. Many people visit the cave round the year.

Acknowledging the importance, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has announced plans to develop a

tourist lodge and a community hall during the first state-level Shirui Lily festival in 2017.

Now, the construction of a nine-room tourist lodge and a community hall is almost completed and waiting for inauguration.

Even though government initiatives in the village are appreciated, the village authority wants completion of the tourism infrastructures with quality.

The village secretary Silas Tuikhar said that the 25 km road (constructed under PMGSY) which leads to the village from Kamjong road needs improvement so that buses can ply as most people visit the village in groups.

Once the required facilities are completed, the visitors can enjoy not only the natural beauties of the village but also the Khorung peak view points and historical site at Harva Khangai where the first battle (between Japanese and Allied forces) occurred, the village chairman Shimreyi Shimray added.

## Imphal East police recover huge amount of narcotic drugs

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 13:

A team of Imphal East police consisting of SI Lolindro of CDO IE, SI Khalilur Rahman of CDO IE, SI N. Jhaljit Singh of Heingang -PS and SI Shabeer Ahmed of Heingang-PS seized a huge amount of illegal drugs at Khabeisoi Saban Leikai from the house of one Meinam Abul Kalam (35 years) son of Meinam Abdul Salam of Kwakta Pungal Lamkhai.

The police team, in the presence of executive magistrate and independent civil witnesses, the body, belongings, and house of the said person searched



and seized a huge number of narcotics items from the toilet of the house of the said at 3.30 pm. The seized items include 38,016 (thirty-eight thousand and sixteen) Span PRX tablets, 15,840 (fifteen thousand eight hundred forty) numbers of Semplax tablets, 3000 (three thousand) numbers of Netaks tablets, and 79 (seventy-nine) numbers of Cofeine cough syrup bottles.

The detainee Meinam Abdul Kalam was arrested at 3.50 pm following due formalities.

The arrested person and the seized narcotics items have been handed over to Heingang PS for undertaking further legal procedures.

## District Hill Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit likely to held at Jiribam

IT Correspondent  
Jiribam, Sept 13:

Under the initiatives of the State Government "District Hill Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit" for the month of September 2022 shall be held on September 16 at Jiribam District.

As per notification of the District Administration, the event will be held at the premises of office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam at Chingdong Leikei between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

On the day, all the District level Officers shall attend compulsorily with aim to settle

grievances at spot itself.

As done before, certain public services that can be delivered on that day shall be arranged by concerned DLOs which may include various beneficiary-oriented schemes like CMHT, PMJAY, Old age Pension and Disability related benefits.

## Nursery student raped allegedly by bus driver, Woman Attendant was present

Agency  
Bhopal, Sept 13:

A three-and-a-half-year-old nursery student was raped allegedly by her school bus driver inside the vehicle in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, a police official said today.

The police have arrested the bus driver and a woman attendant who, according to the child's parents, was present inside the vehicle when the incident took place last Thursday, the official said.

Asked if the school management allegedly tried to

cover-up the matter, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said the role of the school administration will be investigated and action will be taken accordingly.

The school principal could not be contacted for response in the matter.

The child, studying in a leading private school in the city, was returning home in the bus when the offence took place.

After the girl returned home, her mother noticed that someone had changed the child's clothes with the spare

set kept in her bag, the official said.

The mother then enquired with her daughter's class teacher and also the school principal, but both of them denied having changed the child's clothes.

The child later complained of pain in her genitals. Her parents took her into confidence and counselled her, following which she informed them that the bus driver sexually abused her and also changed her clothes, the police official said.

The parents went to the school the next day to complain to the authorities and the child

identified the driver, the official said.

The girl's parents filed a police complaint on Monday following which a probe was launched into the incident, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Nidhi Saxena said.

At the time of the incident, a woman attendant was present inside the bus, as per the complaint filed by the child's parents, the police said. The bus driver and the woman attendant have been arrested, the senior police officer said.

A case has been registered

under Indian Penal Code Section 376-AB (rape of a girl under 12 years of age) and relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, she said.

The police are trying to find out the exact location where the incident took place, she said.

The girls' medical report is awaited, the official told news agency Press Trust of India.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra told reporters that both the accused have been arrested following the complaint.

## Two RPF cadres apprehended

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 13:

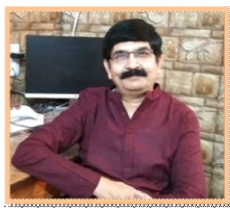
Two active members of RPF/PLA were arrested yesterday by a team of CDO Imphal East unit while conducting random frisking and checking of passer-by at Takhel of Imphal East District. The arrested individuals are Leishangthem Khomoi Singh (53 years), son of (Late) L. Bidhu Singh of Haraoorok Mayai Leikai, Imphal East, and Khangmebam Sanjoy Singh alias Athoi alias Pamei (28 years), son of Kh. Manglemba Singh of Kumbi Setapur Maning Leikai, Bishnupur District from Takhel

Mayai Leikai near waiting shed at 4:35 p.m. and seized one 9 mm Pistol, one car (Maruti Alto), two nos. of mobile phones from their possessions.

The arrestees joined the said outfit through one s/s - Captain Hembra of RPF/PLA and are presently working under his command. On the advice of the said Hembra of RPF/PLA today, both the detainees came to Takhel village to organize a place/residence for the shelter of their outfit.

The arrested persons, along with the seized items, are handed over to Lamlai Police Station for taking up further necessary legal action against them.

# Open defecation is an eyesore



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Open defecation is a national shame and India tops in number of people open defecating. Open defecation in India is a grave issue and needs to be addressed on top priority. According to UN report prompting the Government to admit it as a "huge shame", India still has the largest number of people defecating in open in the world. Report of WHO and the UNICEF say 597 million people practice open defecation in India. No doubt, most of the people who defecate in open, lack awareness about sanitation. But apart from this, the single major factor which forces people to defecate in open is poverty. One in three people, or 2.3 billion people worldwide, have to share a toilet with multiple families in a community. Open defecation poses a serious threat to the health of children in India. It exposes women to the danger of physical attacks and encounters such as snake bites. According to the UN, countries where open defecation is most widely practiced have the highest number of deaths of children under the age of five, as well as high levels of under-nutrition, high levels of poverty and large disparities between the rich and poor.

No country in the world has more open defecation than India, where one in two people defecate outside. Every year, 200,000 children in India die from diseases caused by fecal contamination. Although toilets were built, without adequate motivation to use them, village people often continued to adhere to centuries-old practices, and abandoned the new toilets or put them to alternative uses. In fact there is still a traditional thought that the presence of toilets in the compound makes the later impure. Educated or uneducated, people in rural areas, for want of indoor plumbing use open space for defecating. There are some people who think that open defecation is more hygienic and having an indoor toilet is dirty and filthy.

Improving sanitation in the villages has proved to be one of India's greatest development challenges. One of the main challenges faced in the drive to eliminate open defecation is the inadequate human resource base for sanitation. While leading a non-violent movement for India's independence from the British in 1947, Gandhi spoke about the need to improve hygiene and cleanliness in the country. "Sanitation is more important than political independence," he said.

It is a shame that 70 years after independence and India is still in such a state, where people have no knowledge, no resources to maintain a minimal level of hygiene. It's not that all those 60% people who don't use toilet are not financially able to construct toilets in their homes, actually many of them possess TV, cooler, motorcycles and many other accessories but don't feel the need to have a toilet inside their compound.

No doubt, access to sanitation in rural India is improving, the increase is not equitable. Open defecation is still almost universal among the poorest 20 per cent of the population. We need a grass root campaign on how many diseases can be avoided by basic cleanliness and how spending on toilets is as important as developing other infrastructure. Whatever welfare measures taken so far by the government has not reached fully the mass. We don't need to build new temples, mosques, churches, gurdwaras etc. Public toilets with good water facility are the need of the hour. In a country like India it is very difficult and takes a long time to change the practice of open defecation in rural areas. Most of the toilets which are started for public use are being neglected by the people due to improper maintenance. It is the matter of hygiene that can attract more people to use toilet.

The implementation of toilet system can be carried out in a phased manner with prior creation of awareness through media. It is not that government is only responsible. People have to take responsibility for their own well being as well.

# Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) towards a TB-Mukt Bharat

By Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

As our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always said, whenever each and every one across our nation takes a step together, our country moves a 130 crore steps forward.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has an irrefutable belief in the role of Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) towards building a prosperous nation. So can we capitalise on this wave of collective strength and unity, towards a New India that is TB-free by 2025? Even a small, seemingly insignificant contribution by every individual ignites a Jan Andolan (people's movement). Success is usually almost always fully guaranteed when the government and citizens of the country come together for a common mission. The Swachh Bharat Mission, Covid-19 vaccination drive and the recently concluded 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign are stellar examples of the same.

As one nation, together, we hope to leverage this principle of collective action and people's participation towards achieving our goal of a TB-Mukt Bharat. When the world set for itself 2030 as the global target for TB elimination, our Hon'ble Prime Minister set an ambitious goal of making India TB-free by 2025, five years ahead of the global target. This has been com-

pletely driven and encouraged by his belief in our country's spirit of collective action and contribution. It is towards achieving this ambitious target that the Government of India initiated the Ni-Kshay Poshan scheme, under the aegis of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). Under this scheme, between 2018 and June 2022, 62.71 lakh persons affected with TB have received a total financial support of Rupees 1,651 crores. This includes transfer of Rupees 500, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), directly into the bank account of the person with TB. This has helped them to address their nutritional requirements.

In this context, it is appropriate that I make a special mention of Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, who initiated the TB Adoption Campaign that continues to receive widespread appreciation.

Inspired by her work and to provide an added impetus to this campaign, the Government of India has initiated the Ni-Kshay 2.0 portal - under the 'Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan'. This which was launched by the Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu on September 9, 2022. This portal provides a digital platform for providing community support to persons with TB. Any in-

We are in 21st century where development is our watchword, knowledge and technology our currency and power our interest. We live in a global village. All these do not take place straight away. Just to brief up we came through ancient, medieval and now in modern. We can distinguish the three periods not only with time period but by our thought process and revolution in technology as well. In our century, we used the most efficient way for learning, transporting and communicating. All these make our life smooth and accessible to a higher standard. As briefed above, it is important to bear in mind that what we enjoy today being in human society such as human rights etc. is the result of sacrifice, struggle, courageous etc. of someone who lay the road for us by instilling a sense of human dignity in us.

India is one of the most developed countries in the world. Indeed, India is the fifth largest economy by GDP in the world and third largest by Purchasing Power Parity. We are taking our new regime in this new world order. We are on a very challenging road to something very magnificent. In life, we pay the price for each hard earn. May we be allowed to reminisce ourselves with pride and patriotic while we remember our Independent Day

once again. We have celebrated our 76th Independent Day on 15 August 2022. Tears of joy washed or bathed the land of our nation which is the price paid by our soldiers, leaders, citizens etc. by cleansing the land with their self-sacrifice blood. They will forever be embedded in our heart.

This year, our PM Modi made a grant speech where he addresses five vows which includes for India to become a developed nation in next 25 years i.e. 2047 which will be our 100th year of independent day celebration. Other vows include to remove any trace of colonial mindset, pride in heritage, unity and sense of duty. It is a given that we should not expect to reach our destination without eradicating the hurdles and without executing our duties as a citizen as well.

Once again let us clarify the term development. There is two perspectives to look at it and only when these two go hand in hand, we can be called a developed nation. The one perspective to look at is an economic development which is a policy or activities that seek to improve the economic well being and quality of life for a community. For example, improve productivity, higher incomes, improve economic development in a country. The other aspect to look into development is social perspective. We are social ani-

By: Themneivah Sithou

mal which cannot be isolated. When economic development aims to boost productivity social development aim for quality changes in society. Social development tries improving the well being of every individual. The success of society is linked to the well being of each citizen.

India is a land of so many social stigma and religious orthodoxies such as practice of sati, dalit outcast etc. To our awry, they are part of our customs as well. With new development and renaissance, new values penetrate in our society and most of these practices are banned atleast on paper. Remember modern means our thinking process based on universal values such as equality, justice, liberalism etc. Adopting all these right mindset makes us a modern man. We have a social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy influenced by western modern thought and stressed rationalism and modern scientific approach. According to him, religious orthodoxies have become causes of injury, a source of trouble and detrimental to social life and bewilderment to the people. Because of his contributions he is known as father of modern India. Development means an all rounder development. We have Human Development Index that rank nations accordingly with their performance. They look on three perspec-

tives that is life expectancy, education and PCI. As of India, our life expectancy improved all so do our literacy rate. But social issues such as disparity drag us down.

While targeting our big goal before us, we still have so many social issues in India. We are never free from woman issues and we still have so many people who do not have enough meal a day while there are others who live lavishly. Woman and children are the worst victim of all. We are aware of the controversy news from Rajasthan where a dalit student is beaten to death by teacher just because he use the tap which is forbidden for dalits. Is India really a democratic country? With our present stage and where we stand in terms of economy and technology, we call ourselves developed and soon to be developed. But remember only a modern man is expected in a develop nation. Speaking of which, India is still half modern despite of its development as we still have numerous social issues. There are people who still support and practice unhealthy customs looking the other way round. Not to forget, social issues such as corruption is one thing that detriment our growth and our society is prone from it. Therefore, only when all these leakages are fixed, we will be a real develop nation.



By: Vijay GarG

Not all NEET aspirants know that through the exam they can take admission into many other courses as well besides MBBS. You can pursue your dream of becoming a medical professional even without pursuing an MBBS course. There are many other medical

courses other than MBBS that are promising and rewarding at the same time, and these fields are growing at a fast pace. By going through the options, you can gauge that other than MBBS which course is best for you. That would also lead you to a high-salary career option in medical other than MBBS without NEET.

After MBBS, the most popular medical course option is BDS. After completing the BDS course, you will be called a registered and qualified doctor. Besides BDS, you may opt for any course under the hood of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) courses. AYUSH practitioners are also qualified doctors. These courses are now managed and regularised by the Government as well and offer full-time degree programmes.

Courses such as BHMS (Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery), BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery), BUMS (Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery) or BNYS (Bachelor of Naturopathy & Yogic Sciences) can also be opted. All these courses are for the same duration as MBBS, followed by a compulsory internship. The above-mentioned courses require NEET and one needs to be NEET qualified to take admission in these courses, but the NEET cutoff is not as high as that of the MBBS courses.

There are many other courses other than MBBS you can choose from and you don't need to qualify for NEET for the same. Branches like allied medical sciences, paramedical sciences and likes are some good options aspirants with Physics, Chemistry and Biology subjects in class 12 can opt for.

## Paramedical Sciences

Paramedical sciences courses deal with the training and education to manage and handle emergency medical treatment, diagnosis and treatment of various medical conditions and ailments with the help of diagnostic tools, ultrasound, X Rays and tests in clinical labs. As the population and the high number of patients in the Out Patient Department (OPD) and In-patient departments of the hospitals, shortage of paramedics in India is observed every now and then. Hence, making the branch one of the most demanding in the field of medical sciences.

## Veterinary Sciences

Bachelors in Veterinary Sciences (BVS) is a 5.5-year course in which aspirant learns and gets trained about the veterinary or animal sciences and can practice as a veterinary or animal doctor. Graduates from this course can work as pet care professionals, veterinary pharmacists, and animal behaviour management specialists in military forces.

Job opportunities in veterinary sciences have extended towards the private sector immensely from the government sector over time. Opportunities in animal health and nutrition, animal care product management, animal grooming and various animal farms have been created these days. Hence, it is one of those high-salary career options other than MBBS.

## Hospital and Healthcare Management

A programme like BSc Nursing, which is a four-year course, is the best example one can follow to pursue a career in the field of Medicine. Rest are the programmes one can pursue after completion of their graduation. Courses such as Masters in Hospital Management or MBA in Healthcare are some

of the most demanded courses nowadays. Graduates from these courses do not contribute to the treatment but are actively associated with supervising and managing the healthcare process in large medical organisations and hospitals. They usually ensure better coordination and efficiency in communications across various departments in hospitals.

## Other Medical Sciences Programmes

BPharm or Bachelors in Pharmacy is a four-year degree course that emphasises in research and development of drugs and medicines for the treatment and cure of various diseases. The pharmaceutical industry is one of the booming industries these days. One can carve out a lucrative career out of it. BPharm graduates can pursue MPharm (Masters in Pharmacy) to have a specialized postgraduate degree. Also, a six-year PharmD course is now offered and is recognised as a professional course.

## Biomedical Engineering

Besides these courses, one can also opt for a four-year degree in medical electronics or Biomedical Engineering. The course is based on the concepts of designing tools for biological and medical healthcare purposes for diagnosis and therapy with the implementation and application of engineering techniques.

Candidates interested in pursuing the traditional BA, MA, BSc and MSc programmes can opt for Psychology as the major subject in their graduation or in master's. By qualifying, a two-year MPhil in Clinical Psychology can become a qualified Clinical Psychologist as well. As the demand for health and wellness related is progressing each day, there are plenty of courses other than MBBS and career options after NEET other than MBBS you can choose from. Healthcare being a necessity in the corporate sector, schools and institutes these days, options like lifestyle management, sports management, geriatric care, and child and wellbeing management in schools are some excellent career options.

The development of treatment and drugs, research, and new and proven medical techniques to achieve healthcare goals are the most interesting and rewarding challenges for allied healthcare professionals. Hence, aspirants who are not keen or do not qualify for pursuing MBBS have a number of options to choose from, which have been listed in detail. With proper guidance and dedication, a medical professional can excel in any field.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# “Mamata Banerjee’s North Korea-Like Dictatorship”: Bengal BJP protests

Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 13:

Several BJP leaders in West Bengal, including Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, were detained by police when they were marching to state secretariat ‘Nabanna’ in Kolkata, as part of a huge protest against the alleged corruption by the ruling Trinamool Congress government.

Suvendu Adhikari, BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and other party leaders, including Rahul Sinha, were stopped by the police as they approached the Second Hooghly Bridge near the secretariat, and taken away in a prison van.

Before the detention, Mr Adhikari said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has turned West Bengal into North Korea.

“Chief Minister Mamata does not have the support of her people and so she is enforcing dictatorship, similar to North Korea in Bengal. Police will have to pay for what it is doing. BJP is coming,” he said. Hundreds of BJP supporters from across West Bengal arrived in Kolkata and neighbouring Howrah this morning to take part in the ‘Nabanna Abhijan’ or march to secretariat.

Police have put up barricades along several key stretches in the city to stop



the big BJP protest. The cops also used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the protesters near the Howrah bridge. Several party workers had been taken into preventive custody in Raniganj as well.

Mr Adhikari was leading the march from the Santragachi area, while BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh was leading the protest from north Kolkata.

“The TMC government is scared of public uprising. Even if they try stop our protest march, we will resist peacefully. The state administration will be responsible for any untoward development,” Mr Ghosh had said earlier today.

Rahul Sinha accused the

Mamata Banerjee government of trying to forcibly stop the “democratic protest” by his party.

He alleged that BJP supporters were prevented from boarding a special train from Alipurduar to Sealdah last evening to take part in the protest march. “They were also lathicharged by the state police,” he alleged.

The BJP had arranged seven trains - three from north Bengal and four from south - for the supporters to take part in the ‘Nabanna Abhijan’.

Buses carrying BJP workers to Kolkata were also stopped by the police in North 24 Parganas, party sources said. Several party workers were taken into preventive cus-

tody in Raniganj as well.

Bengal police tightened the security on Monday night at the West Bengal Jharkhand border Dubordi check post under the Kulti police station of Asansol Durgapur Police Commissionerate.

Police of Chowranghi Outpost of Kulti Police Station and Kulti Traffic Guard conducted a thorough search operation on Monday night in West Bengal and Jharkhand border Dubordi Checkpost area.

The Bengal police resorted to water cannons and tear gas to control the protesters.

A tweet by BJP Bengal said, “Ignoring police brutality, water cannons, BJP is on the streets of Kolkata to protest against corruption.”

# India logs 4,369 new COVID-19 cases in last 24 hours as active tally drops to 46,347

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 13:

India recorded 4,369 new COVID cases in the last 24 hours, informed the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs on Tuesday.

India’s active caseload currently stands at 46,347 which accounts for 0.1 per cent of the total cases.

The recovery rate currently is at 98.71 per cent. As many as 5,178 recoveries were made in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 4,39,30,417.

The country has been

seeing a daily positivity rate of 1.25 per cent with a weekly positivity rate of 1.73 per cent.

Meanwhile, as part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the Government of India has been supporting the States and UTs by providing them with COVID vaccines free of cost. In the new phase of the universalization of the COVID-19 vaccination drive, the Union Government will procure and supply (free of cost) 75 per cent of the vaccines being produced by the vaccine manufacturers in the country to States and UTs.

So far, under the Nation-

wide Vaccination Drive, 215.47 crore total vaccine doses (94.55 crore Second Dose and 18.53 crore Precaution Dose) have been administered, of which 21,67,644 doses were jabbed in the last 24 hours alone.

Earlier on Monday, the parliamentary standing committee on Health and Family Welfare has in a report recommended that the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare examine the Covid deaths due to a shortage of oxygen and ensure compensation to the families of the victims.

# Centre directs State Governments to organise awareness workshops about the benefits of Fortified Rice

PIB  
New Delhi, Sept 13:

In order to promote the benefits of Fortified Rice while elucidating the concerns about the impact of its consumption among some sections of the population those are vulnerable to Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has requested various States like Gujarat,

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana Rajasthan, Kerala to organize workshop/seminar by the respective State Governments in the sensitive areas of tribal belts and districts that have populations that are vulnerable to Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia.

This initiative has been carried out by organizing workshops by the Govt. of Gujarat

at Meril Academy, in Vapi on 09.09.2022 where Finance Minister, Government of Gujarat, Minister, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of Gujarat, State Minister Food and Public Distribution, Government of Gujarat and other higher officers of Govt. of Gujarat and officer from Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, technical experts and members from media attended the programme.

Neha Arora, State Programme Officer, Nutritional International, Gujarat made a presentation on fortified staples provided through social safety net programmes. Dr. Yazdi Italia former Honorary Director, Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Programme, a Go-NGO Partnership Program of Govt. of Gujarat made a presentation on understanding Hemoglobinopathies-Sickle Cell Anaemia, Thalassemia. Similarly,

Prof. (Dr.) Sirimavo Nair, Nodal Officer, Gujarat (NFA Concurrent Evaluation D/o Food & PD Govt. of India) made a presentation on fortified staples and its positive impact on public health. Dr. Bhavesh Baryia, Asst. Professor, Department of Community Medicine, NAMO-MERI-Silvassa also made a presentation on fortified staples and its effect on Hemoglobinopathies.

The presentations were followed by a Panel discussion by technical experts and officials from FCI and D/o Food & PD. The programme was covered by several leading local newspapers in Gujarat.

At the end of the workshop, there was general consensus regarding the positive impact of rice fortification in Govt. schemes and its significant contribution to the country’s nutritional security strategy.

# India to become 3rd largest economy in a few years, cooperative sector to play crucial role, says Amit Shah

Agency  
Greater Noida, Sept 13:

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Monday said India will become the world’s third-largest economy a few years from now and the cooperative sector will also play a crucial role in the country’s economic growth.

Shah, who is also the Home Minister, announced that the government will help set up 2 lakh new dairy cooperatives at the village level before the 2024 general elections.

He asked the dairy industry to adopt professionalism, latest technology, computerization, and digital payment in a big way else it could face difficulties going forward.

The minister asked the dairy industry to boost milk production for meeting rising domestic demand and also for supplying to poor nations.

He also exhorted the industry to become self-sufficient in the manufacturing of machinery used for milk processing.

Shah was speaking at the International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS) 2022, being organised

at India Expo Centre & Mart here during September 12-15.

The minister said India was the 11th largest economy in the world in 2014 and now it has become the fifth largest.

“I am fully confident that in a few years from now, we will reach the third position,” the minister said.

Shah expressed confidence that the contribution of the cooperative sector would also be discussed when the country would become the third largest economy in the world.

Stating that the summit is being organised after a gap of 48 years, Shah said the country has now become self-sufficient in milk production and also an exporter.

The minister sought to distinguish between dairy cooperatives and corporates involved in this sector.

Shah said the dairy cooperatives have played a big role in women empowerment and also in fighting malnutrition.

“Cooperative sector and dairy cooperatives have worked a lot in rural development,” he added.

Shah asked the dairy industry to make natural farming its life-line as this would improve the health of people and also strengthen the economic system.

The Minister announced that three multi-cooperative societies are being set up to promote organic farming and exports.

# Indian Army is fully prepared to deal with any eventuality at China border, says Lt Gen Kalita

Agency  
Guwahati, Sept 13:

Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita has said the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the eastern theatre is “reasonably calm” and “firmly under control”.

Lt Gen Kalita said the Indian Army is fully prepared to deal with any eventuality.

He said the Indian Army’s focus has been on boosting its military capability and enhancing the surveillance of activities by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) along the LAC.

The commander said the region has been stable and no major “changes or palpable shift of stance has been noted”, in comments that came amid a continuing face-off between Indian and Chinese troops at the friction points of Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh.

He said the Army is in a better position now to monitor the area of its interest in the eastern theatre with the enhancement of infrastructure close to the LAC and induction of various platforms such as drones, helicopters and electronic surveillance equipment.

The eastern theatre largely comprises the border areas along the LAC in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and the frontier areas have a number of sensitive forward locations, including in the Tawang and North Sikkim sectors.

“Let me assure you that the Indian Army is fully prepared to deal with any eventuality in



the eastern theatre. The border issue with China is being dealt with at all levels to ensure that there is no friction,” Lt Gen. Kalita said.

He made the comments during an informal interaction with a group of visiting journalists in Kibithu on Saturday after the Army garrison in the strategic location was named after India’s first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, who died in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year.

Lt Gen. Kalita said the Indian Army is continuously monitoring the activities of the PLA along the LAC and is well-poised to mitigate any challenge.

“We are also continuously monitoring the activities along the borders. We are vigilant and observant of each and every development along our borders,” he said.

India has been ramping up

the development of infrastructure along the nearly-3,500-km LAC following the eastern Ladakh standoff that began on May 5, 2020.

“We have thoroughly prepared ourselves over the period of time and are well poised to mitigate any challenges and eventualities in the eastern theatre,” Lt Gen. Kalita said.

The Eastern Army commander was in Kibithu to attend a ceremony where the military station was named after Gen. Rawat.

People familiar with the development said the two sides disengaged in accordance with the plan, which also entailed a joint verification of the entire process.

On September 8, the two sides announced that they have begun to disengage from Patrolling Point 15 that marked a significant forward movement in the stalled process to pull out troops from the remain-

ing friction points in the region.

There has been no progress yet to resolve the standoff in the Demchok and Depsang regions.

On the counter-insurgency operations being carried out by the Army in the northeastern region, Lt Gen. Kalita said the deployment is dictated by the security situation and the violence parameters.

“The deployment of Army for counter-insurgency duties is dictated by the security situation and the violence parameters. As the situation improves, the Army is de-inducted and the Central Armed Police Forces or police take on the responsibility of ensuring peace and stability,” he said.

“In the Northeast, with an improvement in the situation, the Army has got de-inducted and is geared for its primary role,” he added.

## Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Original Registration Certificate of Higher Secondary Examination, bearing Registration No. 17959 of 2021, issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur on the way between my residence and Babupara on September 10, 2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

**Kakchingtabam Abunao Sharma**  
S/o (L) K. Khelendro Sharma  
Simgajei Top Leikai  
Imphal West, Manipur

# Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launches National Lists of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022

384 Drugs included in NLEM 2022; 34 new drugs added

PIB  
New Delhi, Sept 13:

"Union Health Ministry is taking various steps under vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji towards *Sabko Dawai, Sasti Dawai*. In this direction, National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) plays an important role in ensuring accessibility of affordable quality medicines at all levels of healthcare. This will give boost to cost-effective, quality medicines and contribute towards reduction in Out of Pocket Expenditure on healthcare for the citizens." This was stated by Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare as he launched National Lists of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022, here today.

384 drugs have been included in this list with addition of 34 drugs, while 26 from the previous list have been dropped. The medicines have been categorized into 27 therapeutic categories.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Health Minister stated that the "essential medicines" are those that satisfy the priority health care needs, based on efficacy, safety, quality and total cost of the treatment. The primary purpose of NLEM is to promote rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects i.e., cost, safety and efficacy. It also helps in optimum utilization of healthcare resources and budget; drug procurement policies, health insurance; improving prescribing habits; medical education and training for UG/PG; and drafting pharmaceutical policies. In NLEM, the medi-



cines are categorized based on level of healthcare system as P- Primary; S- Secondary and T- Tertiary.

He elaborated that the concept is based on the premise that a limited list of carefully selected medicines will improve quality of health care, provide cost-effective health care and better management of medicines. He added that the NLEM is a dynamic document and is revised on a regular basis considering the changing public health priorities as well as advancement in pharmaceutical knowledge. The National List of Essential Medicines was first formulated in 1996 and it was revised thrice earlier in 2003, 2011, and 2015.

"The independent Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM) was constituted by Union Health Ministry in 2018. The Committee after detailed consultation with experts and stakeholders has revised the NLEM, 2015 and submitted its report on NLEM, 2022 to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and adopted the list", he

stated. He also noted that the process of creation of NLEM depends on the feedback backed by scientific sources from stakeholders and inclusion/exclusion principle followed.

While congratulating the stakeholders for the revised NLEM which takes the country forward in the direction of provisioning of affordable healthcare to its citizens, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State stressed on enhancing awareness regarding Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) which "is emerging as a big challenge for our scientists and community and we need to create awareness in the society about AMR".

Revision of NLEM 2022 has been done after constant consultation with stakeholders spanning from academia, industrialists and public policy experts etc., and crucial documents like WHO EML 2021.

The following criteria are followed for inclusion in NLEM:

1. be useful in diseases which is a public health problem in India
2. be licensed/ approved Drugs Controller General (In-

dia) (DCGI)

3. have proven efficacy and safety profile based on scientific evidence

4. be comparatively cost effective

5. be aligned with the current treatment guidelines

6. recommended under National Health Programs of India. (e.g. Ivermectin part of Accelerated Plan for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis 2018).

7. when more than one medicine are available from the same therapeutic class, one prototype/ medically best suited medicine of that class to be included.

8. price of total treatment is considered and not the unit price of a medicine

9. fixed dose combinations are usually not included

10. vaccines as and when are included in Universal Immunization Program (e.g. Rotavirus vaccine).

Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary, Dr. V. G. Somani, DCGI, Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Dr. Y. K. Gupta, Vice Chairman, SNCM and other senior officials of the Ministry were present at the launch.

# Meghalaya ILP implementation row: State govt awaiting response from Centre, says CM

Agency  
Shillong, Sept 13:

The Meghalaya government is awaiting a response from the central government on the implementation of the inner line permit (ILP) system in the state.

This was informed by Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma at the state assembly on Monday.

"The state of Meghalaya is awaiting the response of the Government of India on the matter," CM Conrad Sangma said.

The Meghalaya CM also informed that the state government had submitted a memorandum, with ILP implementation as a core demand, to union home minister Amit Shah in February.

"The entire matter is with the ministry of home affairs (MHA) and hence, we have to



wait for any kind of direction or approval from their end," Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma said.

He said that the resolution adopted by the Meghalaya assembly on December 19, 2019 in regards to the ILP implementation shows the seriousness of the MDA government in the state on the matter.

Notably, following the passing of the citizenship amendment act (CAA) in the Parliament in 2020, the demand

for implementation of the ILP system in the state has grown louder.

As recently as on August 17 this year, the Northeast Students' organisation (NESO), comprising eight students' bodies from seven Northeast states, staged a sit-in demonstration in all the capital cities of the Northeast states, barring Sikkim, opposing implementation of the CAA and demanding implementation of ILP.

# Congress seeks anti-BJP alliance in Nagaland

Agency  
Kohima, Sept 13:

The Congress in poll-bound Nagaland has called for a "secular alliance" against the Bharatiya Janata Party in keeping with the trend elsewhere in the country.

The pitch for a secular front has apparently been inspired by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's "Mission 2024" to unite all Opposition parties against the BJP for the

next Lok Sabha elections. The elections to the 60-member Nagaland Assembly are expected by February 2023.

The Congress, which ruled the State for almost 15 years during its worst phase of extremism, was wiped out in the 2018 polls. But the bid of the Opposition parties and some former allies of the BJP to "save the country from divisive, right-wing politics" seems to have given the party a fresh lease of life in Nagaland.

"All likeminded parties in the nation are coming together to remove the BJP from power. There is no reason why Nagaland should be immune to this development," the State's Congress president, Kewekhaph Therie said on September 12.

Congress leaders in the State pointed out that parties such as Janata Dal (United) and Shiv Sena have drifted away from the BJP in order to make the secular alliance stronger.

## Sports

# SAFF U-17 Championship: India thump Bangladesh 2-1 to seal finals berth



Agency  
Colombo, Sept 13:

India defeated Bangladesh 2-1 in the SAFF U-17 Championship semifinal to book their spot in the summit clash at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo on Monday.

Striker Thanglalsoun Gangte netted a second-half brace, to win the match for India, as Bangladesh later pulled one back via a Mirajul Islam penalty.

Both teams looked to size each other up throughout the first half while creating several chances, which went to waste

in the end. The only real chance of the half fell India's way, but the team failed to make it count. In the 16th minute, Korou Singh sent in a cross from the right for Gangte who managed to shoulder his marker in the box.

As the clock wound down, both the sides headed to the dressing room with the scorers yet to be troubled. However, India came out after the change of ends with all the impetus and soon took the lead.

The Indian team surged into the lead five minutes after the resumption, as striker Thanglalsoun Gangte, who was

lurking around the opposition box, received it just outside the area, and even as the jungle of legs tried to close him down, the striker delectably finished it to the right of the goalkeeper in a flash — a dream finish for any striker.

The lead was doubled some seven minutes later off a brilliant counter-attack. The Indian defenders thwarted a rival attack inside the box, and the counter-attack down the right caught Bangladesh unaware. Eventually, Vanlalpeka Guite sent it into the box and Gangte made no mistake to tap it in.

However, Bangladesh

pulled one back in just a few minutes, after they were awarded a penalty for a soft foul. Striker Mirajul Islam stepped up to the spot and sent Indian keeper Sahil the wrong way, to score his side's first goal of the match.

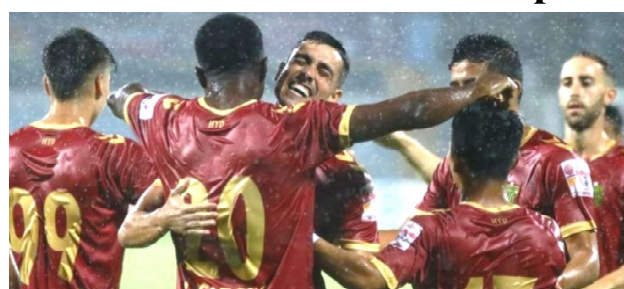
That goal provided a lot of impetus to the Bangladesh attack, as they kept searching for the equaliser. Meanwhile, India played it smart, exploiting the gaps left behind in the Bangladesh back line, to formulate their counter-attacks.

Substitute Lalpekhlu had a couple of chances with around 15 minutes of regulation time left on the clock, but could not extend the lead. At the other end, Indian defender Mukul Panwar made many crucial blocks, to keep the opposition at bay.

The Indian team will now proceed to the final, where it will face the winner of the second semifinal between Nepal and hosts Sri Lanka, which kicks off later on Monday. The final will be played on September 14, with the match kicking off at the same venue at 8 PM IST.

**India U-17:** Sahil (GK), Vanlalpeka Guite, Ricky Meetei, Mukul Panwar, Manoj Singh Dhami, Gurnaj Singh Grewal, Korou Singh, Thanglalsoun Gangte (Aman 762 ), Bobby Singh (Lalpekhlu 662 ), Malemngamba Singh Thokchom, Danny Meetei.

# Durand Cup 2022: Hyderabad FC beat Rajasthan United to book semifinal spot



Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 13:

Indian Super League (ISL) winner Hyderabad FC put in a strong performance against I-League side Rajasthan United to claim a 3-1 win in the Durand Cup 2022 quarterfinals at the Kishore Bharati Stadium in Kolkata on Monday.

Bartholomew Ogbeche (62), Akash Mishra (452 ) and Javi Siverio (682 ) found the back of the net for Manolo Marquez's team while Martin Chaves (292 pen) scored at the other end from a spot-kick in an entertaining 3-1 win for HFC.

This win knocks Rajasthan United out of the competition while Hyderabad are set to face Bengaluru FC in the second Semifinal in a few days.

Under the lights, even as it was pouring down, Bart Ogbeche took just six minutes to get himself on the scoresheet as he thumped in a header from the edge of the box to convert a Borja Herrera cross and take Hyderabad into an early lead.

It was Hyderabad who then piled the pressure on for most of the game but against the run of play, Rajasthan were offered a way back when Akash Mishra handed an awkward high ball and the referee pointed to the spot.

Laxmikant Kattimani was beaten but HFC did not take long to restore their lead. Akash Mishra popped up with a stunning goal, as he drove a long-range effort from the left into the far corner to bring it

back to 2-1 before the break.

Javi Siverio effectively decided the tie after he converted from a Halicharan Narzary cross just after the hour mark. It was Narzary's first touch after coming on as a sub while Siverio bagged what was his first goal of the current Durand Cup campaign.

The likes of Joel Chianese, Joao Victor, Sweden Fernandes, Nikhil Pooryar and Lalchungnunga Chhangte all came close on a few occasions while Martin Chaves also hit the bar at the other end in an eventful second half.

This win takes Hyderabad FC to their first ever Semifinal in the Durand Cup as they take on fellow ISL side Bengaluru FC at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on September 15.