

## Thirteen cadres of two banned outfits lay down arms to Chief Minister



IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

Twelve cadres of banned outfit KCP(PWG) and one cadre of KYKL laid down arms and ammunitions before Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at a homecoming ceremony held today at the Banquet hall of 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles, Imphal.

The homecoming ceremony which was organized by the Home Department, Government of Manipur was also attended by Power Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Water Resources Minister Awangbow Newmai, Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution Minister L. Susindro Meitei, Social Welfare Minister H. Dingo Singh, Education Minister Th.

Basanta Singh, Transport Minister Khashim Vashum, Director General of Police P. Doungel and other high ranking officials of Civil, Police and Paramilitary Forces among others.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh welcomed all the cadres on their homecoming to the mainstream adding that it was the right time for all to go ahead together for growth and development of the State. The Chief Minister continued that Manipur had been facing unrest due to insurgency problems since the 1960s. However under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the insurgency related incidents had considerably declined in the last 5 years. Having faith in the style of governance of the Prime Minister, he stated that people had started showing a sense of nationalism. Mass participation in this year's Independence Day Celebration and Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign had proved people's love for the Country.

Asking Central Government Agencies operating in the State to see the changing scenario in the State, the Chief Minister stressed the need of thinking positively and changing the way of dealing with insurgent groups to bring them in the mainstream. He also spoke on the importance of joint efforts among the State and Central armed forces to deal with the issue through exchange of plans and strategies. Maintaining that the State Government had already begun its initiative to convince various insurgent groups, through political dialogues and schemes for Surrender-cum Rehabilitation, and bring them back home, he expressed the government's aim to end insurgency in the next 5 years.

N. Biren Singh further cautioned that some vested interest groups were trying to create a bad image of the State by playing ethnic based politics. He appealed to the public to work together for the development of the country. He reiterated the assurance made by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah that not a single bullet would be fired on those militants who want to return to normal lives and join the National mainstream and no FIR would be lodged against them unless they are involved in a heinous crime. He further appealed to all the other insurgent groups to come back to the mainstream, taking advantage of such a right time.

The arms and ammunition laid down before the Chief Minister included two lathode guns, three 9mm pistols, three IEDs, two detonators, two radio sets, five letter heads and four extortion slips.

also to the country as a whole since India is still a constitutional democracy, not a military dictatorship.

The GNF further stated, "People familiar with the Indian government's treatment of the Nagas know that the military occupation of these villages will be defended as legally permissible under the 1958 Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)."

GNF said that though there is AFSPA on one hand, people are also aware that Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution guarantees Nagas the right to their lands and customary laws. It asked, "Why the Government of India acting in self-contradiction by sending armed forces to forcefully occupy peaceful Naga villages?"

GNF said that though there is AFSPA on one hand, people are also aware that Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution guarantees Nagas the right to their lands and customary laws. It asked, "Why the Government of India acting in self-contradiction by sending armed forces to forcefully occupy peaceful Naga villages?"

contd. on page 4

## Human resource development is vital to a nation's strength: La. Ganesan

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan has said human resource development is vital to a nation's strength, progress and prosperity and education is one of its key elements.

Speaking as Chief Guest at Governor's Award & R.K. Sanatombi Devi Award Distribution Ceremony held at Asha Jina Complex, North AOC in Imphal today, Governor said, the central purpose of education is to inculcate among the students the ability to think and apply the knowledge they acquire in class rooms in solving social problems. He said, the responsibility of imparting knowledge and education rests with the teachers who are considered to be moral guardians, friends, philosophers and guides in moulding the character of students. The students have to acquire knowledge, skill and education so as to enable them to shoulder the responsibilities to be reposed in them by society. It is therefore, imperative for all of us to do everything possible to inspire, encourage and support the students so that they are able to play a meaningful and determined role in the



nation's future.

Governor further said that our education should not only emphasize access to global knowledge, but should also uphold the richness of our culture and values. Education should stimulate all aspects of human intellectual potential. It is equally important to ensure that the students are equipped with core values needed to live as responsible citizens in complex democratic societies, he added.

Education Minister Th. Basantakumar Singh while speaking at the function said, education is not just being literate but to understand the world around us. He said, students should have the courage to stand and speak their

viewpoints and also should be good listeners. They should believe their teachers, mentors and guardians and also to their elders. This will help them to develop good discipline and good habits which will help in their future, he added.

La. Ganesan handed over Governor's Award for the year 2021 & 2011 to Khumbongmayum Panshi (Class X) and Evana Thangiam (Class X) respectively. He also distributed R.K. Sanatombi Devi Awards to different personalities in the field of teaching, traffic control, nursing, sports, differently abled person and best student in the ceremony. R.K. Nimai IAS (Retd.) also attended the ceremony.

## Tangkhu CSOs stage rally against establishing of camp by AR in 9 villages

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

Large number of people belonging to various Tangkhu CSOs today stage a protest rally at Ukhrul town denouncing the setting up of camp at 9 Tangkhu Village along the Indo-Myanmar border in Ukhrul and Kamjong district today.

Slogans demanding withdrawal of the Assam Rifle camps, repeal of AFSPA filled the air of Ukhrul town today. During the protest rally almost all shops and other business establishment remain shut.

The Assam Rifles had allegedly occupied land for establishment of camps at Kangpat Khullen, Chatric, Ramphoi, Lamlang, New Tusom, Khamasom, Mapum,

Kasom Khullen and Poi in Kamjong and Ukhrul district. The CSO demanded withdrawal of the AR post as they fear distortion of peace and tranquility which has been maintained from time immemorial by the presence of the AR troopers as they have been empowered with the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.

The protest was organised by Tangkhu apex our bodies reminiscent of Tangkhu Naga Lengthy (TNL), Tangkhu Naga Wungnao Lengthy (TNWL), Tangkhu Shanao Lengthy (TSL), Tangkhu Katamnao Saklong (TKS), Tangkhu Mayar Ngala Lengthy (TMNL) and 4 different apex our bodies.

Meanwhile, the Global Naga Forum (GNF) has alleged

that Assam Rifles have occupied nine villages in without the consent of the Naga village authorities.

A press release by the media cell of the GNF said the occupied villages are peaceful and belong to the Tangkhu indigenous people who have rights to their lands and way of life guaranteed by the Indian constitution.

GNF said there are no anti-government activities, law and order issues, anti-social problems in the villages that AR has moved into. It said the Government of India owes an explanation for what it termed as "unnecessary military intrusion in the lives of peaceful citizens."

The press release by GNF stated, "It (GoI) owes it (explanation) to the people of these villages first and foremost, but

also to the country as a whole since India is still a constitutional democracy, not a military dictatorship.

The GNF further stated, "People familiar with the Indian government's treatment of the Nagas know that the military occupation of these villages will be defended as legally permissible under the 1958 Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)."

GNF said that though there is AFSPA on one hand, people are also aware that Article 371(A) of the Indian Constitution guarantees Nagas the right to their lands and customary laws. It asked, "Why the Government of India acting in self-contradiction by sending armed forces to forcefully occupy peaceful Naga villages?"

contd. on page 4

## Secretariat employees on strike detained by Police

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

At least 54 employees of the Manipur Secretariat Office who have been undergoing cease work strike on various demands since the last two

days have been detained by the state police today.

The Employees were picked up by a team of Imphal West district police at around 11 am today when the employees were staging protest inside the secretariat complex. The 54

employees were later taken to Saijiwa Jail in two buses.

Strict security measures have been taken up by a team of state police led by DIG and SP to avoid any unwanted incidents in and around the Secretariat office.

## CM releases two books

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today released two poetry book called "Pannavary" and "The Wailing Angels" authored by Nengthenkim.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister appreciated the author of the book and said that the book need to be translated in almost all languages as it carries the message of peace and harmony plus unity.



The Wailing Angel was reviewed by S. Bhulol, Advisor of the Intellectual Forum North

East and Assistant Professor of YK College Wangjing, Hoipi Haopik.

## MLA Joykishan along with members of Seva Bharati to donate blood

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

MLA Khumukcham Joykishan along with the members of the Seva Bharati had assured to donate blood in the Mega Blood Donation Drive organized by the Akhil Bharatiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad on September 17, 2022.

Akhil Bharatiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad is organizing the over 2000

Blood Donation camp targeting 1.5 lakh units of blood donation.

Founder member and presently an executive member of the of Seva Bharati Manipur, Laishram Jatra while speaking during a meeting said that the Seva Bharati will extend all support to the mega Blood Donation drive to be organized by Akhil Bharatiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad. He elaborated on the needs



of more blood donors with the increase in the requirement by patient in needs.

MLA Khumukcham Joykishan who attended as the chief guest of the function assured to join the blood donation camp. He appealed people to join the blood donation camp for saving lives of the people in needs.

Akhil Bharatiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad is the world's leading blood

donator organization, with positive and active collaboration of thousands of youths filled with dedication, energy, enthusiasm and patriotism is accumulating the strength of more than 350 branches spread across cities, metros, towns and far-flung rural areas of the country in launching the mega blood donation campaign named "Mega Blood Donation Drive" (MBDD).

The target is to organize

approximately 2000 Blood Donation Camps through Indian Citizens living in the country and abroad to donate more than estimated 1,50,000 units of blood. A particularly noteworthy aspect is that 36 blood donation camps are being organized in approximately 18 countries outside India imbuing the spirit of "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam", a venerable eternal heritage, is being embodied.

## Apps track your location to make money

### Talking Points

Narvijay Yadav



*Personal data stolen by the apps are being sold to brokers, aggregators, and legal firms. Advertising agencies are part of the game*

that target ads based on the location and preferences of mobile users.

Social media plays the role of an effective communication mechanism in the modern world. Most of the people in the country use smartphones. On the other hand, the use of mobile and net banking, debit cards, and credit cards has increased for transactions of money. With this, the pace of cyber crimes has also increased. These include cases like fraud, fake news, character assassination on social media, and blackmailing through objectionable viral videos. The personal data stolen by the apps are being sold to brokers, aggregators, and legal firms. Ad agencies are part of the game that target ads based on the location and preferences of mobile users.

Mobile apps are in demand these days, but one should keep only those apps in the smartphone that are trustworthy. Keep the minimum number of apps on mobile. Never grant permission that is not necessary for the functioning of the app. Do not allow access to your photos and videos. Your mobile apps are thieves and spies who steal your confidential information and data all the time. The apps will track your habits, places visited, lifestyle, and health condition means each and everything about your personal life. Your life is under constant watch.

Similarly, the use of WhatsApp has increased tremendously nowadays. Its chat can be used against a person who has indulged in illegal activities. This is a great tool for investigating agencies to track illegal activities in depth. In the case of Aryan Khan or the drug abuse case associated with the actor Sushant Singh Rajput, it was noticed that NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau) had been relying on WhatsApp chats of the Bollywood stars and drug suppliers.

Every word written on WhatsApp or any other app can be further evidence against the user. Always assume that someone other than the receiver is reading your messages. Remember, whatever goes on in the internet world, stays there forever. People think that if they delete what they write on social media, they will be saved. It is not so, deleted chats can be found in the backup server or another person's history.

Never forward or transmit communally sensitive or obscene material from your mobile phone or computer devices. There are specific provisions under the IPC and the IT Act to deal with such offenses. Avoid coming in contact with fake and suspicious people. Do not answer their queries. Do not download, forward, or save fake, false, defamatory, and character assassination kind videos on WhatsApp. Similarly, never post or tweet anything of defamatory nature, or else it may create a serious problem for you. Remember the FIRs lodged against actor Kangana Ranaut, poet Kumar Vishwas, and recently against the notorious filmmaker KKK, who got arrested on his arrival at the Mumbai Airport for tweeting bad words about Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan after their demise.

In case of financial loss due to online fraud, inform the police immediately or within 24 hours on toll-free number 112 or 55260. The police try to recover the missing amount as soon as possible. Jamtara area in eastern Jharkhand is considered a major hub of cyber crimes in India. There is poverty, and there is no electricity, but there is a lot of cyber fraud in hundreds of villages in that area. These illiterate thugs are adept at cheating on mobile phones. They operate from their huts in a discreet manner.

(The author is a senior journalist and columnist)

## Bridge the gap between school and college



By: Vijay GarG

A holistic development model is needed at the school level to smoothen the transition to college.

Schools focus on academic proficiency and the curriculum and pedagogy are designed to get the students to score good grades.

Students transitioning to college are often underprepared for the demands and find it difficult to cope. To make this transition smooth, they must be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. This requires policymakers and educators to address the gaps between school and college education, as the former's outcome do not meet the latter's expectations.

Schools focus on academic proficiency and the curriculum and pedagogy are designed to get students to score good grades. Counselling students about possible career pathways is sidelined. At the end of high school, students may have the grades but unaware of what to study in university. Thus, they enroll in courses unaligned with their interests and skills, which negatively impacts their futures. What is required is a more holistic approach, which can be achieved by the following ways:

Focus on the fundamentals: A strong base that provides students with knowledge and skills will help them identify their areas of interest and passion, build their profiles, and chalk out a path to excel in college and professional careers.

Develop life skills: Preparation for college and career success requires more than exposure to a dynamic curriculum. Life skills can be developed through socialisation and learning values and attitudes through interactions with others. Middle-school is a perfect place to incorporate and develop soft skills such as communication, leadership, creative thinking, and collaboration, among others.

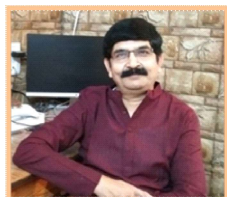
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## It is not good not to have health insurance; that leaves the family very vulnerable



By: Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Bank of India (BOI) has recently entered into a tie-up arrangement with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (BAGIC) for the welfare of BOI staff employees and their family members with introduction of BAGIC's Wellness Rider with OPD Benefit cover and Personal Accidental Death cover and Super Top up Policy under Flexi Health Protect Plan (Group) services to BOI staff employees. It is a matter of great privilege that Bajaj Allianz is associated with Bank of India (BOI) the

most trust branded banks in the country. BOI has always worked towards fulfillment of its philosophy of serving the citizens of the nation and by providing elaborate insurance product lines to Bank's customers by entering into the new Corporate Agency tie-ups.

We all are aware that Health Insurance is a way to ensure one and his family to get the best medical care without worrying about the cost. Insurance is a financial safety net, helping you and your loved ones recover after something bad happens. The world we live in is full of uncertainties and risks. The financial loss to the family due to the unfortunate death of the sole earner can be covered by insurance plans. There are many who think that insurance is an unnecessary expense. The only reason is that we feel confident about our future and our ability to tackle unseen circumstances. But there is a huge difference between our perceived ability and reality. Our

few years of savings can vanish in case of a medical emergency. No matter how much we have managed to save or whatever our monthly income is, an unexpected event can burn a huge hole in our pocket or can simply jeopardize your family's financial future.

Bank of India (BOI) was founded on 7th September, 1906 by a group of eminent businessmen from Mumbai. The bank was under private ownership and control till July 1969 when it was nationalized along with 13 other Banks. Beginning with one office in Mumbai, with a paid up capital of Rs.50 lakh and 50 employees, the Bank has made a rapid growth over the years and blossomed into a mighty institution with a strong national presence and sizeable international operations.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance is India's leading private general insurance company. The Company began its operations in 2001 and has been constantly expanding its operations to be close to their cus-

tomers. Today, it has a pan-India presence in close to 1500 towns and cities. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has developed insurance solutions that cater to every segment and age income profiles.

Last year Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bank of India have entered into a corporate agency agreement. A bouquet of personal lines of products such as motor, health, home and travel insurance as well as commercial line of products, including engineering and marine insurance, are to be offered to customers of the bank as part of the agreement. The aim is to provide Bank of India's customers various insurance solutions and enhanced customer experience by leveraging technology.

There is no doubt that the tie-up arrangement with Bajaj Allianz Insurance Company will provide extra entitlement over and above the normal entitlement of the BOI staff at one place with 360 degree coverage.

## Myanmar's war provocation along Bangladesh border hinders regional peace and stability

By: Mashrur Siddique Bhuiyan

provocation or trap."

In October 2017, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also said that she was careful to avoid inciting war on the part of Myanmar amid the Rohingya crisis. He said, "Our very neighbor, at one stage showed such an attitude; There will be a war with us, something like that. I warned our army, border guard, police to not get distracted by any provocation. Until I direct."

The question is, why is Myanmar firing mortar shells and bullets on the border of Bangladesh and violating the airspace?

It is reported that Myanmar security forces have been fighting with the Arakan Army (AA), a rebel group of Myanmar, for more than two weeks. Shelling is especially frequent in the Walidong Hills near the Reju Amtali border. That's why there is panic on the border of Bangladesh. Especially in border-adjacent areas, those doing jumchas cannot even go to jumkaz for fear of being shot at.

However, the only reason is the fight with the Arakan Army or there is also a calculation of regional geopolitics, it is also necessary to think and what will be the strategy or strategy of Bangladesh in such a provocation; Summoning the ambassador of Myanmar will be limited to protest?

The constitution of Bangladesh (Article 25) states in the foreign policy of the state, "Respect for national sovereignty and equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, peaceful resolution of international disputes and respect for the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter - these principles shall be the basis of the international relations of the state."

In response, Bangladesh may not fire mortar shells and bullets on the Myanmar border, but the language of protest must be different. We have to talk to those who are friends of Bangladesh. Bangladesh should raise the issue in the international arena and conduct diplomatic activities instead of merely expressing formal protest.

Bangladesh is very important in the dominance strategy of India and China in the region. Bangladesh has good relations with both China and India. Both these countries are development partners of Bangladesh and

Bangladesh is important to both of them in geopolitical and economic rivalry. Especially the sea of Bangladesh. That is why India gets angry when Bangladesh gets closer to China. Again, when Bangladesh gets closer to India, China gets upset.

Since China's big friend in the region is Myanmar and Bangladesh has a bilateral complication with Myanmar over the Rohingya issue; Due to China's indulgence, it is alleged that Myanmar has a mentality of not caring about anyone in the world on the Rohingya issue, and since the issue of Rohingya repatriation has recently been discussed anew, it is also necessary to think whether these equations are also playing a role behind the instigation of Myanmar's war on the Bangladesh border.

Bangladesh is being shelled by Myanmar warplanes. Dhaka has also summoned the ambassador of Myanmar. Is there actually anything to worry about? The Myanmar ambassador should be repeatedly summoned and strongly protested for such incidents.

The matter needs to be brought up in the regional forum. Prime Minister is going to Delhi. Delhi has good relations with Myanmar. It needs to be raised during the Prime Minister's visit. It needs to be discussed even in the UN General Assembly and Security Council. Myanmar wants to provoke Bangladesh. There is no reason not to understand it. They want Bangladesh involved in conflict. But Bangladesh has to keep a cool head. Myanmar wants to bring the Rohingya issue to the fore through conflict. But this crisis will not be resolved through conflict. The crisis will increase.

Maybe they want to complicate the matter so that the return of Rohingyas can be delayed further. They see benefits if they can disturb Bangladesh with conflict or military action. That is why, Bangladesh should bring the issue to the international forum as soon as possible. If this can be done, there will be a kind of pressure on Myanmar.

From the behavior of Myanmar in the last few years, we have to understand that they want Bangladesh to be involved in the conflict. But Bangladesh has to keep a cool head. Myanmar wants to bring the Rohingya issue to the

fore through conflict. But this crisis will not be resolved through conflict. The crisis will increase. It took ups and downs to make Bangladesh an enemy. That's why we have to keep a cool head. Communication with Bangladesh is good in the world. Lots of business going on. Bangladesh cannot be compared with a country that commits genocide. How does the world relate to a state like Myanmar, that is to think? It should be discussed in various international forums. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also needs to be specially mentioned in this visit of the Prime Minister.

That is why, it should be discussed in various international forums. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also needs to be specially mentioned in this visit of the Prime Minister. Bangladesh has been keeping cool since the beginning.

The body language of Bangladesh was not right in the beginning. We have approached the solution bilaterally. We could not bring the issue of genocide in a big way. We could have taken it up in the international forum. We entered into a bilateral agreement within two months, where there was no deadline for taking back the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh has thousand times more friends than Myanmar. Because of this, it was logical to change the body language and speak. We really can't stay silent in this situation. To tell us absolutely that what Myanmar is doing is wrong.

Myanmar wants war but Bangladesh does not. The world needs to understand this. War cannot be a solution. There can be no alternative to diplomatic negotiations. Russia-Ukraine is at war. Everyone suffers. But in the end the solution will be through discussion. But this discussion cannot be done before.

If Myanmar repeats such an incident, the ambassador will be summoned in the morning and afternoon. But it needs to be highlighted in the world forum. Because Myanmar can go from small incident to big incident. For this reason, caution must be exercised in advance and Myanmar must be warned.

(The author is a Development worker and independent researcher, Dhaka, Bangladesh)



# India should play vital role in bringing peace in Myanmar: Zoramthanga to PM

Agency  
Aizawl, Sept 15:

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India should play a vital role in bringing back peace in trouble-torn Myanmar, an official said on Thursday.

The chief minister on Wednesday called on the prime minister in New Delhi and they discussed a wide range of issues, including the Myanmar political crisis, he said.

During the interaction, Zoramthanga told Modi that India must play a crucial role in restoring peace in Myanmar.

The prime minister, on his part, said the Centre would make efforts to bring back peace in the neighbouring country, the official said.

Over 30,000 Myanmar people have taken refuge in Mizoram since the Myanmar Army seized power by ousting the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February last year.

The chief minister also urged Modi to take measures for shifting the Assam Rifles base from the heart of Aizawl



to a designated camp at Zokhawasang, around 15 km from the state capital.

He also requested Modi to appoint a Mizo IAS officer as the state's chief secretary, besides providing housing assistance to former insurgents of the Mizo National Front and waiving off loans amounting to Rs 18 crore extended to several beneficiaries under the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

Meanwhile, an official statement said that Mizoram

State Planning Board Vice Chairman H Rammawi, during a meeting with Smita Pant, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Tuesday, said that the Mizoram government won't send back the Myanmar people refugees to their country till the Myanmar government gives an assurance of making arrangements for their security and rehabilitation.

A majority of the refugees are lodged at relief camps, while some have rented houses and some live with their

relatives in Mizoram.

The refugees are being provided with food, clothing and other relief materials by the state government, NGOs, churches and village authorities.

Mizoram shares a 510-km-long border with Myanmar. The northeastern state is already home to thousands of Myanmar people, mostly from Chin state. They have migrated to Mizoram since the late 1980s fleeing the military junta in the neighbouring country.

# India reports 6,422 fresh COVID-19 cases, 34 fatalities in a day

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 15:

India added 6,422 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,45,16,479, while the active cases increased to 46,389, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The death toll climbed to 28,250 with 34 fatalities which includes 20 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 2.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate increased to 98.71 per cent, the

ministry said.

An increase of 640 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.04 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.71 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recovered from the disease surged to 4,39,41,840, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 215.98 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on 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 last 24 new deaths recorded in 14 new hours include two from Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttarakhand.

# Engineer's Day greetings to everyone with inherent engineering mind

IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, Sept 15:

Realizing that each individual has an inherent engineering mind irrespective of their adopted professions, All Assam Engineer's Association (AAEA) greets everyone on the auspicious occasion of Engineer's Day, which is celebrated on 15 September in India. The forum of graduate engineers wishes a productive life for every professional engineer across the country, even after their retirements from professional work.

The auspicious day marks the birth anniversary of India's finest civil engineer Mokshagundam Vishweshwaraya, who was honoured with Bharat Ratna in 1955. Born on 15 September 1861 at Muddenahalli village in Karnataka, Vishweshwaraya completed his graduation in civil engineering from Pune Science Col-

lege. As an honour to his great achievement and contributions to the field of engineering and education, the government decided to observe Vishweshwaraya's birthday as Engineer's Day.

Engineers are considered as the backbone of every nation. India continues to produce more than 1.5 million engineers every year from its over 4000 institutes and it is one of the largest producers of professional engineers across the world. Indian engineers are always welcomed in various countries for their meticulous thought process and skills to solve various problems. Millions of aspiring students appear in entrance examinations every year for getting admissions to favoured engineering colleges & universities in India, where the students are offered several streams of engineering like

civil, mechanical, electrical, aeronautical, chemical, environmental, electronics, computer science, etc.

"Once engineers were projected only as corrupt professionals in various Indian literary works and movies, the people now start recognising the contributions of engineers. The annual celebration helps the engineers to reorganize their commitment for innovative contributions to the nation," said AAEA president Er Kailash Sarma, working president Er Nava J. Thakuria and secretary Er Inamul Hye. The forum also wishes every Indian for the forthcoming Vishwakarma Jayanti (scheduled on 17 September for worshipping the god of engineering), the divine architect of the universe, adored by numerous engineers, mechanics, smiths, artisans, craftsmen, factory workers, etc.

# Members of diaspora have always been admirable Indian ambassadors: PM Modi

Agency  
Washington, Sept 15:

Congratulating the Indian American community for celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava at the US Capitol, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that members of the diaspora are admirable Indian ambassadors of the country.

In a message to the Indian American community as they gathered here to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, Modi on Wednesday said that the community have spread the fragrance of Indian values by living them.

Members of our diaspora have always been admirable ambassadors for our nation. They have spread the fragrance of Indian values by living them - respecting all cultures, mingling seamlessly and enriching societies with their unique contributions, Modi said.

As many as 75 Indian American organisations have come together to observe the historic milestone of India's journey after 1947. Prominent among these organisations include US India

Relationship Council, Sewa International, Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, GOPIO Silicon Valley, US India Friendship Council, and Sardar Patel Fund for Sanatan Sanskriti.

Among the many values that bind our two great nations, love for freedom and commitment to democratic values are the most important. A celebration of freedom by the world's largest and oldest democracies is a beautiful gesture, Prime Minister Modi said.

It is heartening to note that 75 Indian diaspora organisations have come together to showcase India's diverse culture and also to strengthen cultural ties between India and the United States of America, Modi said.

As India aims high and pursues important goals in its Amrit Kaal over the coming 25 years, the United States of America will be a key partner in this journey. I am positive that this celebration will become an important milestone in the wonderful friendship between our two nations, he said in his message.

The word India represents

many things simultaneously - a modern democratic republic, a diverse nation, an ancient civilisation and a cultural consciousness not limited by geography or time. The global India is an excellent example of how one can connect with India through many of these dimensions at the same time, he said.

India is celebrating 75 years of freedom. This freedom was won in a unique way, championing the best of human values. India has, therefore, been a source of inspiration for anyone who loves the ideals of peace and freedom, Modi wrote in his message.

Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya, India's Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers, in his live web address congratulated Indian Americans for celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava' at the US Capitol. Indian Americans, he said, have played a great role in the India-US relationship.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and President Joe Biden, the bilateral relationship has touched new

heights, Mandaviya said.

The US has been a key partner in India's growth story, he said.

India's Ambassador to the US Tarunjit Singh Sandhu said that the India-US relationship is as old as India's Independence. I want to tell you that this is a time we are celebrating 75 years of establishment of our diplomatic relations between independent India and the United States of America, he said.

It's also indeed a special occasion for me to be celebrating this at the US Capitol. Congress has played a special role in cementing this fantastic relationship, which we are celebrating today. I have seen this for the last 25 years, he said.

Senior BJP leader Aman Sinha congratulated Indian Americans for celebrating the event at the US Capitol.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav embodies the spirit of new India, he said.

Let me tell you the spirit of new India is not only restricted to the welfare of Indians or betterment of India, but Indians all across the globe, Sinha said.

# More leaders may quit our party, claims Assam Congress chief

Agency  
Guwahati, Sept 15:

The Assam Congress, in the coming days, might lose few more of its leaders.

This was claimed by none other than Assam Congress chief Bhupen Borah.

While speaking exclusively to *Northeast Now*, Assam Congress chief Bhupen Borah said that 'op-

portunists' leaders, who are in the Congress may quit the party in coming times.

"In the coming days, we might see more leaders from the Congress quit the party. These leaders, who might quit the Congress, are those who are opportunists," said Assam Congress president Bhupen Borah.

"I am sure that we will lose

few more leaders. These are chances," the Assam Congress president added.

However, Borah added that the Congress in Assam is already looking into possible 'alternative' for those who might quit the party.

"We are looking into alternatives for those leaders, who might quit the party," said Bhupen Borah.

# India-China disengagement at patrolling point 15 'One Problem Less' on border: Jaishankar

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 15:

The disengagement between the armies of India and China at the Patrolling Point 15 in eastern Ladakh is "one problem less" on the border, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

At a media briefing after his talks with French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, Jaishankar also took an indirect pot shot at China while replying to a question about "one country" blocking proposals at the UN Security Council to designate proscribed terrorists.

"I do not think I will say any-

thing new today except I would recognise that we have had disengagement at PP-15 (Patrolling Point 15). The disengagement as I understand was completed. That is one problem less on the border," Jaishankar said, in response to a question. Indian and Chinese armies carried out a joint verification of the disengagement process at PP-15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in eastern Ladakh after withdrawing their troops and dismantling temporary infrastructure from the friction point on Monday.

The disengagement that came days ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi

Jinping to the Uzbek city of Samarkand for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, triggered speculations about a bilateral meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines the summit this week. However, there is no official word on it either by the Indian side or by the Chinese government.

Modi is scheduled to reach Samarkand on Thursday evening and is set to return home late Friday. On the sidelines of the SCO summit, Modi is set to have separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

To a question on "one country" blocking proposals at the UN Security Council to designate Pakistan-based terrorists, Jaishankar said the listing is done as terrorists are a threat to the entire international community. "Regarding the listing where India and France have cooperated for many years, I think the listing of terrorists is done because the terrorists are a threat to the entire international community," he said.

"So it is not something which countries necessarily do in pursuit of a narrow national agenda. If somebody blocks list-

ing particularly in cases where the merits of going ahead are very apparent, I think they do so frankly at peril to their own interests and their own reputation," he said. Last month, China blocked a move at the UN Security Council to designate Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) deputy chief Abdul Rauf Azhar as a global terrorist.

China put a technical hold on the joint proposal by India and the US to designate the JeM leader, who is the younger brother of the outfit's chief Masood Azhar. All other 14 member states of the top UN body supported the proposal.

Contd. from Page 2

# Bridge the gap between...

Introduce research in high school: Apart from marks and grades, qualitative opportunities like research projects have become popular for students applying to colleges abroad.

Research is a great way to explore areas of interest more deeply and develop academic passions in all fields. Students who have been a part of research programmes can use their projects to showcase their passion and the depth of their abilities.

Internship programmes: This allows students to explore their interests and various career fields before taking the leap and committing to a specific programme. The focus should also be on transferable

skills. Internships are an excellent way for students to gain work experience, learn about professional opportunities, and network with like-minded peers.

Vocational training: Skill-based training can prepare students better for their future career options; whether it is their enrollment in colleges/universities or decision to join the corporate world.

To help students make a smooth transition from school to college, there is a need to develop a model that takes a multifaceted approach and considers all the essential aspects of education, including its social, economic, and cultural tenets.

# Trade, regional cooperation likely to figure during discussions at SCO summit

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 15:

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for Uzbekistan to attend the SCO summit, India on Thursday said it expects discussions at the forum to cover topical issues, trade, connectivity and regional cooperation.

Modi is scheduled to depart for the Uzbek city of Samarkand this evening for a 24-hour visit.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Modi will have bilateral meetings with the Uzbek president and some other leaders on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

To a volley of questions on whether there will be a bilateral meeting between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Kwatra did not give a direct reply.

We will keep you apprised when schedule of Modi's bilateral meetings unfolds, he said.

Asked about Pakistan continuing to back various terror groups, Kwatra said there is a deeply held understanding in SCO about ways to deal with terrorism in region. The member states of the SCO are Russia, China, India, Pakistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

According to the sources, the main reason why the SCO, being a multilateral body, could not come to a conclusion in inviting the Taliban was the issue of its legitimacy and international recognition, which has become a "sticky" matter among the member countries.

Besides, some members also raised the issue of whom to invite since the summit is of the heads of states and within



the Taliban, it would have meant inviting the acting Prime Minister of the Taliban government, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, who is proscribed by the UN.

"Nobody from Afghanistan will be present in this year's summit because of the events that happened last year... SCO, as a multilateral body, doesn't support direct links with Afghanistan. However, that does not mean countries individually can't engage (with the Taliban)," Rakhmatulla Nurimbetov, Uzbekistan's national coordinator of the SCO said at a press conference Wednesday.

He added: "Afghanistan not (being) present in the meet-

ing does not mean their issues will not get priority. Countries will elaborate their position on Afghanistan and all issues that were discussed this past year will be discussed."

Interestingly, just days before the SCO Summit, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev wrote in an OpEd that Afghanistan is an "integral part of the larger SCO space".

"The Afghan people need good neighbours and their support now more than ever. It is our moral obligation to extend a helping hand, to offer them effective ways of overcoming the years-long crisis by promoting socio-economic growth of the country, its integration into regional and glo-

bal development processes," he wrote.

He added: "Afghanistan that has played for centuries the role of a buffer in the historical confrontations of global and regional powers, should try on a new peaceful mission of connecting Central and South Asia."

Within Central Asia, apart from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan have maintained contact with the Taliban, while Kazakhstan and Tajikistan have not openly endorsed the Taliban. Nur-Sultan has sought trade ties with Kabul, but with Tajikistan, the ties have gone sour owing to the issue of drug trafficking from Afghanistan.

## AR conducts awareness lecture on Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 15:

Chassad Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South), conducted awareness lecture on Drug abuse and domestic violence

at Kamtong, Kamjong district, Manipur today.

The event was conducted focusing on women to generate awareness on various new & existing government policies related to education, women empowerment, drug abuse and

taking career as sports was explained to the women.

The women folk applauded the efforts of Assam Rifles in educating them on various policies that immensely effect the well being of future generations.

# LeT terrorists threaten 'BJP agent' Ghulam Nabi Azad

Agency  
Srinagar, Sept 15:

Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who had left the 'Grand Old Party' recently, has received a threat from The Resistance Front (TRF) which is affiliated to Pakistan-backed terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The Resistance Front (TRF) took to social media platform to issue the threat. In an online poster, the TRF has claimed that the recent entry of Ghulam Nabi Azad in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir following his revolt against the Congress is part of a well thought out strategy by the BJP-run central government.

The Pakistan-backed terrorist organization also said that before leaving the party, Azad

had a closed-door meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. The poster also stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJ) is using displaced Kashmiri Pandits for its political agenda.

Referring to Rahul Bhatt, a Kashmiri Hindu killed as part of a target killing campaign by terrorists in Kashmir Valley, the TRF said that he too was in direct contact with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

"Our intelligence wing detected the synergy of these two and we eliminated Rahul Bhatt. There are many people like Rahul Bhatt, who are working for the center by staying here. Soon they too will be found," the TRF claimed in its statement.

After this threat by the TRF, the security of Ghulam Azad has been increased further. Ghulam Nabi Azad is on a tour

of Kashmir. Before announcing a new party after leaving the Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad is trying to meet delegations from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir to know the ground reality from them so that they can put the main issues before the people along with the announcement of the party.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, taking his leave from the Congress party after years of work, had said that his new party would focus only on Jammu and Kashmir. Azad, who went to Jammu and Kashmir from Delhi for the first time after leaving the Congress, held a historic public meeting.

Contd. from Page 1

## Tangkhul CSOs stage rally against...

GNF pointed out that while on hand India is violating its own law protecting Naga rights (Art. 371 (A)), it is enforcing another law (AFSPA) that takes away the same right, in clear violation of Naga people's basic human rights, on the other hand.

GNF termed the action in Ukhrul as "a government in opposition to itself when it comes to Nagas" and the Nagas are put in a no-win situation vis-a-vis India.

Also pointing out the attitude of India towards Nagas that "goes back as far as 1947", GNF said, "For India, Nagas are born losers, barbaric rebels, lawless 'undergrounds', 'gangrene' on India's body politic, who must be exterminated - to quote some Indian prime ministers."

Also highlighting the Indo-Naga peace negotiations that

is at an impasse, the Nagaland state elections due in a few months, and the Oting murder of fourteen innocent civilians by Indian armed forces without the guilty being prosecuted, GNF slammed the latest action of the Assam Rifles' forceful occupation of nine peaceful villages in Ukhrul.

GNF quoted reports from Tangkhul civil society organizations on the development which stated that public spaces such as the playgrounds, schools, children homes and community halls are being used as camps thereby hindering their usual functioning, private spaces have also not been spared as constructions are being undertaken on private properties with utter disregard for its ownership.

The reports by Tangkhul CSOs lamented security check posts set up and villagers sub-

jected to scrutiny as they go about their daily lives.

"This is not only an obvious discourtesy to the existing administration of the land but also a lack of consideration for the fears of the people", the reports added.

The Tangkhul CSO reports in Ukhrul also highlighted how women and children especially are subjected to the fears caused by the unwarranted situation and the elders, who have not recovered from traumas caused by the violence of the armies in the past are being subjected to it all over.

The GNF said it questions the intent and purpose of the intensifying military build-up in Ukhrul district and has appealed to the prime minister and home minister to immediately intervene "if they are truly sincere in finding a non-military resolution of the Indo-Naga problem."

## Sports

# India beat Nepal 4-0 in the final to retain the SAFF U-17 Championship title

Agency  
Colombo, Sept 15:

India put up a clinical performance to clinch the SAFF U-17 Championship title, defeating a 10-man Nepal 4-0 in the Final on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at the Racecourse International Stadium, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

With this win, India retains the title. Bobby Singh, Korou Singh, captain Vanlalpeka Guite, and Aman scored a goal each, to shape a resounding victory in India's favour.

In the group league, Nepal defeated India 3-1. However, in the final, India looked a side eager to take complete charge of the proceedings right from the word go. They got off the blocks early in the match, looking to find the gaps in the Nepal defence, and managed to get the lead in the 18th minute through Bobby, who headed it into the goal at the far post, after a good piece of play between Ricky Meeitei and Vanlalpeka Guite, as the latter sealed a cross towards the eventual goalscorer.

Guite was in the thick of things again 12 minutes later, getting another assist to his name, as he played a through ball to Korou Singh, who just



had to round the keeper and slot it home.

The second goal meant that Nepal began attacking the Indian half with a lot more urgency, but the Indian midfield was managing to frustrate their efforts. The frustration came to the surface on the 39th minute, when Nepal captain Prashant Laksam elbowed Danny Laishram on the back after the two tangled up in a challenge - an action that was straightaway awarded with a red card by the referee.

With the man advantage, India saw out the rest of the first half, before resuming the proceedings after the change

of ends. Soon enough, Guite, who had earlier provided two assists, netted a goal of his own in the 63rd minute, when his cross from the left swerved into the top corner, handing India a three-goal lead.

Nepal's second-half substitute Dhan Singh did create a couple of chances for his side in the closing minutes, but the one man advantage meant that India was able to thwart the efforts.

At the other end, India's second-half substitute Aman added salt to the wounds in injury time, netting the fourth goal, after he was set through behind the Nepal defence.

The result was beyond doubt by the end, as India successfully defended their title. India captain Vanlalpeka Guite was named the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, while goalkeeper Sahil won the Best Goalkeeper awards.

Head Coach Bibiano Fernandes hailed the effort of his boys. "I am extremely proud of my boys. There has been a lot of hard work put in, and every support staff, and player deserves equal credit. The efforts put in by AIFF at the youth level by providing us continuous exposure tours with help from SAI has helped the boys mature."

## Durand Cup 2022: Bipin Singh's late winner sends Mumbai City FC to final over Mohammedan Sporting

Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 15:

A last-gasp goal by Bipin Singh helped Mumbai City FC pip Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 and advance to the Durand Cup 2022 final in their maiden appearance on Wednesday. It was a tale of missed chances by both the teams and just when the first semifinal was headed for extra-time, Mumbai scored the all-important goal in the 90th minute.

The Black Panthers were last year's runners-up and also have won the trophy twice in 1940 and 2013, while former ISL champions Mumbai City made their Durand Cup debut this year. It was a superb coordination display upfront by the Indian duo of Lallianzuala Chhangte and Bipin Singh after Scottish forward Greg Stewart initiated the move from the midfield.

Chhangte was clear on the goal but he chose to provide a measured left-footed cross from the right to a surging Bipin who just had to tap-in to bring the winner for the Des Buckingham side. Both teams were at their wasteful best and squandered



at least half a dozen chances.

From the Islanders point of view, Mandar Rao Desai and Gurkirat Singh lacked coordination upfront and missed some easy chances. Playing in front of a strong home crowd of about 15,000, Mohammedan too had their share of opportunities but the likes of Marcus Joseph and Nuriddin Davronov never posed any threat.

The Black and White brigade rattled the Islanders in the first 15 minutes of the game, winning as many as three corners and players like Priyam Singh and Shaikh Faiaz switching flanks for dangerous moves. In that period, all the Islanders managed was a free-kick which was wasted by Stewart. The game evened up at the half-

hour mark with Mumbai slowly asserting control. They forced three corners in about five minutes and from the first one, Mourtada Fall got the first real chance to score but Ndiaye was up to the task at the heart of the Mohammedan defence.

The best chance of the first-half came to Gurkirat when Bipin drove in from the left and sent a cross, but the burly Islanders' forward missed to tap in from close.

Mohammedan began the second half with the same vigour and just five minutes after resumption, the ball fell kindly for Abhash Thapa after a lovely team move involving Marcus and Faiaz, but he failed to test keeper Lachenpa with a horribly mistimed connection.