

## AMWJU observes 48th Foundation Day; Minister Govindas assured to push Govt. for increase of Journalist Pension to Rs. 15,000



IT News  
Imphal Sept 16:

The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) today observed the 48th Foundation Day at Manipur Press Club here in Imphal.

PWD Minister Govindas Konthoujam who attended the foundation day as chief guest said that he along with the IPR Minister Sapam Ranjan Singh who also attended as special guest will pursue the government to increase the pension of the journalists to Rs. 15,000/-, i.e.

in par with the pension of journalists' pension at Tripura.

Talking on the occasion Minister Govindas stressed the significant role being played by journalists in a democratic country like India. On hearing the owes of the journalists of the state the minister assured all possible help from the government side for improvement of the status of journalists in the state.

Govindas further said that he would install a lift as older journalists are facing a lot of trouble in climbing the

building. This was assured by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh some years back and the Minister said that he would definitely make into reality the promises made by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

The Works Minister also assured to construct two guest rooms inside the Press Club of the AMWJU. The Minister assured it after the president of the All Manipur Working Journalist Union (AMWJU) stated that the Manipur Press Club still is yet to have guest room that will facilitate journalist who

visited Imphal from far flung districts of Manipur.

Earlier, the President of the AMWJU Wangkhemcha Shamjai had stated that due to improper functioning of the Directorate of Information and Public relation, media houses are not getting government news on time. He, however said that it may be due to lack of manpower in the department. He called on the attention of the IPR Minister to fill the vacant post at the earliest possible time. He also urged the Government to release the advertisement bill of the government in time as almost all newspapers in the state are depending on government advertisements.

"Earlier government advertisement bill were released on time, but today due to delay in the release of the government bill some of the newspaper organization are unable to pay salary for their staffs", Shamjai said.

He urged the Government, drawing the attention of the IPR Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan, to release the government Advertisement Bill on time.

On the occasion, senior journalists of the state are honoured with shawls.

## District Administration Jiribam organises 3rd Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders' Day



IT News  
Jiribam, Sept 16:

To achieve the State Government's objective to make Government citizen centric, proactive and programme implementation effective, the District Administration of Jiribam organised 3rd Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders' Day today at Chingdong Leikai, DC Complex Jiribam.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam Shri Jameson Hangshing, MCS, SDO Jiribam, S. Indrajit Singh, MCS, Zonal Education Officer, Th. Amurashi Chanu, MES, W. Anandakumar Singh, EE PHED, K. Kirankumar Singh, DGM, MSPDCL and M. Devananda Singh, SDC Borobekra and other district level officers of various government departments of the district attended the event.

Certain public services which includes various beneficiary oriented schemes like CMHT, PMJAY, Old Age Pension, CM widow pension scheme and Disability related benefits etc, were de-

livered by the concerned departments on the spot besides rendering of services to many individuals of the district by the departments such as Agriculture, Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Health, Social Welfare, CAF & PD etc.

The Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation distributed around 200 nos of G9 banana saplings to one selected farmer, CAF & PD Department distributed 4 nos of LPG cylinders to the selected beneficiaries, 24 nos of Old Age Pension Scheme, CM Widow pension Scheme and CMST forms were issued by the Social Welfare Department.

On the other hand, 2 (two) nos. of MSEID kits, 1 (one) Wheel Chair and 2 (two) Hearing Aids under Inclusive Education for Desirable (IED) scheme under SAMAGRA Shiksha Manipur (SIS) were provided to selected Children with Special Needs (CWSN) through ZEO Jiribam. Agriculture Department also distributed Micro Nutrient and

Plant Protection and Insecticides to the farmers affected with pest infestation. ERI application forms for cultivation of ERI food plants and rearing house were also issued by District Sericulture Office.

Apart from providing other Scheme oriented services to the people on the spot, 3 people were administered Covid Vaccines by Jiribam CMO team led by Dr. N. Soroja Devi, MO.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jiribam heard the grievances of the people one by one and instructed the concerned department officials to redress their grievances. More than 135 applications of various issues were also received for further necessary action.

On the sidelines of the event, ADC Jameson Hangshing stressed the importance of organising such an event and urged the people to reap the benefits arranged by the Government. He also thanked the Government officials of the District and public for making the event a grand success.

## PREPAK warns imposters

IT News  
Imphal Sept 16:

Proscribed group PREPAK (Pro) has stated that the organization does not have any idea of one MD. Sanajaoba (25) and Oinam Amitkumar which the combined team of Thoubal Police commando and Assam Rifles claimed to have arrested as cadres of the outfit.

A statement said by Lanchenba, Media Coordinator of the proscribed group said that claimed by the security force is to malign the image of the Revolutionary outfit PREPAK. It said that the two persons is not only related to the outfit but also the PREPAK (Pro) have no knowledge of who those two persons are.

The PREPAK (Pro) said that the act of arresting any person and charged them as cadre of any outfit is a common phenomenon to get rank in their department.

The PREPAK (Pro) statement also stated that the outfit always respect those police personnel who have been working with dedication in the war against drug and social evil, however, the outfit said that they will always stand against those police personnel who are acting against the law for their own benefit.

## North East has become insurgency-free: JP Nadda



Agency  
Kohima, Sept 16:

The northeast has now become insurgency-free with the signing of various accords with militant groups of the region in the last few years, BJP national president J.P. Nadda said on Thursday. Addressing a party rally at Old Riphym Village, Nadda also said the Centre's goal is to resolve all disputes of the northeast.

The northeast region has turned insurgency-free. The Karbi Anglong Agreement was signed in 2021. It is in synergy with the vision of an insurgency-free and prosperous northeast. The Tripura Agreement was signed in August 2019. For permanent settlement of Bru families, the

Bru Accord has been signed, he said.

On the Naga political issue, he said the Naga Accord (Framework Agreement with NSCN-IM) was signed in 2015, but there are certain issues which Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and state BJP president Temjen Imna Along are looking into, he said.

Nagaland is home to 16 tribes, and all of them have been fighting to conserve and restore the culture of the state, the BJP chief said.

If anyone has truly recognised the problems and issues of our tribals, and addressed their issues, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.

A plan has been prepared to revive the development of the region on the basis of the

road and rail network, and waterway and airway, said Nadda.

He said the central government is committed to making the northeast an economic hub, connecting Southeast Asia under the Act East Policy.

Nadda's maiden visit to the state after assuming office as the BJP president was delayed due to inclement weather.

The senior BJP leader, who held closed-door meetings with its legislators, said the assembly elections are just a few months away, and party workers must work hard to ensure that the lotus blooms in the state.

"In Nagaland, BJP has the highest registered membership among various political parties, he added.

## AR celebrates World Ozone Day

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 16:

Khuga Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) celebrated World Ozone Day at border villages of Singhat & H. Khunou in

Churachandpur district today.

With an aim to address Climate Change & rapid depletion of protective Ozone layer, lectures on 'Prevention of Ozone Depletion' were organised in which im-

portance of Ozone layer, causes of its depletion and measures to protect the same was disseminated in detail.

The event was attended by 46 service personnels and 38 local youth.

## DC Bishnupur notifies for One Day Enrolment Camp for Social Security Schemes

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 16:

Deputy Commissioner of Bishnupur, Lourembam Bikram has notified that "One Day Special Camp" for Social Security Schemes will be organized on September 22 from 11 am onwards at the office complex of all the 7 Municipal

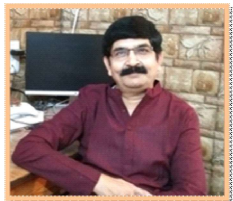
Councils of the district.

The special camp will be organized by the District Administration of Bishnupur in collaboration with the Municipal Councils and Banks for enrolment of Contractual Workers and other eligible persons in Social Security Schemes such as Atal Pension Yojana, PMJJBY and PM SBY

and also to bring about more inclusion in social security schemes.

The notification issued by the DC further appealed to the general public to avail the benefit by participating in the camps along with the requisite documents like Age Proof, Aadhaar and Bank Account details.

# PM Narendra Modi's dedication and vision towards the country inspires all



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Since being elected the prime minister in 2014, Narendra Modi has celebrated every birthday in a unique way. This year, BJP is planning an extensive programme for PM Modi's birthday and for this he has given instructions to all the party workers and leaders to celebrate it as "Seva Pakhwara". "Seva Pakhwara" will be celebrated from September 17 till the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, on October 2. Eight cheetahs will also be sent to India from Namibia where they will be personally welcomed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday. PM will release these cheetahs into the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on his birthday.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Shauryanjali, a military exhibition to mark the golden jubilee of Indo-Pak War of 1965. In 2016, on his 66th birthday, he flew down to Gandhinagar to meet his mother Heeraben to seek her blessings. In 2017, he dedicated the mega Sardar Sarovar Dam project to the nation amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by students. In 2018, he spent his 68th birthday at his parliamentary constituency Varanasi with school children. In 2019, he kick-start his 69th birthday by celebrating the water level in the Sardar Sarovar Dam at Kevadiya in Narmada district reaching its highest capacity at 138.68 metres for the first time since its height was raised in 2017. In 2020, due to COVID pandemic, PM Modi's birthday remained low-key. The BJP organised a number of events, aimed at public service, across the country to celebrate the Indian Prime Minister's birthday as 'Seva Divas'. In 2021, his 71st birthday was celebrated with 'Sevaaur Samarpan Abhiyan' from September 17 to October 7, the day PM Modi was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the first time in 2001. 71,000 diyas (earthen lamps) were also lit up at Varanasi's Bharat Mata Temple in Kashi. Last year, BJP had aimed to make the birthday historic by setting a record of the maximum number of COVID-19 vaccine inoculations on the day. With over 2.50 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses administered, India created a world record of the highest number of COVID jabs in a day on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday last year.

A leader, who had emerged through struggles and hardships, has special respect among the masses. This is exactly the case with PM Modi. As a child, his life was hard and poverty-ridden. Having faced poverty in childhood, he is well aware of the difficulties faced by the poor of India and is able to effectively address their grievance as the Prime Minister. Modi, a right-wing Hindu nationalist, is counted as independent India's most powerful and popular leader, whose strongman image has won him hordes of friends and detractors in the culturally and religiously diverse country of 1.4 billion people. BJP aim to reach out to the maximum people so that the people become aware of their policies and they also know that there is a PM whose birthday is celebrated among common people. He is one of the popular world leaders, and people from other countries like the US also admire him and respect him. His ideology and the way of expressing his thoughts in public has a remarkable impact on the people. Modi, who is known for his free-speaking abilities in public, has always inspired the younger generation with his powerful and optimistic speeches. His speech easily connects with the common masses that motivates them to achieve their goals. So, on his birthday, take a look at a few of his motivational and inspiring quotes. He is a 'People's Leader' dedicated to solve the problems of people and improve their well-being. Nothing is more satisfying to him than being amongst the people, sharing their joys and alleviating their sorrows. His powerful 'personal connect' with the people on ground is complemented by a strong online presence. Even those from the opposition praise Modi for his conduct and oratorical qualities. He has an exceptional quality to connect to the masses, especially with the poor and marginalized sections. His oratorical skills have made him so popular that his rallies are attended by thousands, sometimes even millions of his supporters. He is a different Prime Minister altogether as he is not bound by unnecessary traditional protocol. His intent is to deliver governance to the people at their doorsteps.

Modi is inspired by the motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' and aims to build a development-oriented and corruption-free governance. Initiatives like Aadhaar, UPI and Digi locker, which ensure faceless, cashless and paperless Governance, are a few steps towards the digital India. Modi's popularity and his appeal among the masses are evident from the fact that almost every household in the country has a toilet today. He is himself a role model to many citizens around the globe. He is a ray of hope for many Indians who consider him as their role model. He has managed to sustain this faith and trust, and it points towards the assertion that Modi has delivered according to their expectations. Before Modi, no leader made an effort to introduce fitness into daily lifestyle. He is the first Prime Minister who encourages people to lead a fit and healthy life.

Working hard is one of the significant qualities displayed by world leaders. That is what makes people confide in them and respect them. His approach is of improving the living standards of people by bringing them prosperity. Narendra Modi is no exception - he works late hours at night and sleeps only for a couple of hours. He never hesitates in making a decision and that is a major factor behind his popularity. It is vital for a leader to understand the pulse of the nation and instil confidence in its people. His 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programmes will in the long run make India self-reliant and an economic powerhouse. There are very few leaders in the world who are as charismatic and as popular as Narendra Modi. It is true that a leader is made after years of struggle and hardship and a life spent in the public domain. On his 72nd Birthday, we pray God to bless Hon'ble PM Modi with a long life, strength & activeness, so that India could achieve its old glory & leadership to establish peace in world under his leadership.

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# World Ozone Day for protecting life on Earth



By: N. Munal Meitei

The 16th September is the World Ozone Day since 1987 and the theme for this year is, "Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth". This theme recognises the wider impact that ozone layer has made on climate change and forge partnerships to address global warming and protect the life on earth. Montreal Protocol for ozone layer is considered to be one of the most successful environmental agreements so far. The Protocol takes measures to control global production and consumption of substances that deplete ozone, with the ultimate objective of scientific knowledge and technological information.

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the earth from the harmful ultra violet rays of the Sun, thus helping to preserve life on the planet. The phase out of controlled uses of ozone depleting substances, ODS and the related reductions have not only helped to protect the ozone layer for us and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change to protect human health and ecosystems.

The COVID-19 vaccination has taught us the important of refrigeration for vaccine preservation. Thus as to mitigate climate change, we will require A.C.s and refrigeration in future also. Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HFCs) are gases used worldwide in refrigeration, air-conditioning, foam applications, cleaning of electronic components and as solvents. These are both ODS and powerful greenhouse gases: the most commonly used HFC is nearly 2,000 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> in terms of its global warming potential. But, Hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs), were introduced as non-ozone depleting alternatives

to support the timely phase out of CFCs and HCFCs. HFCs are now widespread in use but while these chemicals do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, they have high global warming potentials ranging from 12 to 14,000. Overall HFC emissions are growing at a rate of 8% per year and annual emissions are projected to rise to 7-19% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. Uncontrolled growth in HFC emissions therefore challenges efforts to keep the Paris Agreement for 2°C in this century.

Under the Convention's Montreal Protocol, governments, scientists and industries have so far replaced 99% of these gases. Thus the ozone layer is now healing and safeguarding the ecosystem services. One of the good news or as an after effect from COVID-19 is the Antarctic ozone hole - one of the deepest, largest gaps in the ozone layer in the last 40 years - was much reduced, according World Meteorological Organization reported on January 6, 2021.

But, the work is not yet over. Through the Protocol's Kigali Amendment, the international community is finding the alternatives for coolants that will replace HFCs to prevent 0.4°C of global warming. It is imperative to tackle climate change, protecting the natural ecosystems and forging a brighter and more equitable planet for the humanity.

At an average, in 10 millions of air molecules, there is about two millions oxygen and only three molecules are of ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). Though very small in quantity, it plays a vital role in our atmosphere. Ozone also occurred at the ground level which is injurious to health but not as harmful as the stratospheric ozone. Earth's atmosphere is divided into several layers. The lower region, known as troposphere extends up to 10 km from surface. Virtually, all the human activities occur in this region. The next layer is stratosphere extending from 10 Km to 50 km. About 90% of the earth's ozone is found in this region with maximum concentration occurring at the height of about 23.5 Km. Ozone at this region is formed when oxygen molecules absorbed ultraviolet photon from Sunlight and undergoes photolysis. These ozone mol-

ecules absorb ultraviolet rays (UV-B) of wavelength 314-280 nm, the most harmful radiation thereby preventing it from reaching the Earth's surface.

The cause of 80% stratospheric ozone depletion is due to the increase in the level of free radicals from HCFCs, CFCs. When CFCs break down, free chlorine, fluorine atoms are released. These atoms are highly reactive that a single chlorine atom can destroy as many as 1 million ozone molecules. With this process, the ozone layer in the stratosphere is depleting day by day.

Due to ozone layer depletion and exposure to higher amounts of UV radiation could have serious impacts on all biotic forms on the planet. The challenges to human health include skin cancers, sunburns, premature aging of the skin, cataracts and other eye diseases and weak immune system. Experts say, if not checked the problem of ozone layer depletion, 20% of the world population may suffer from skin cancer in the next 50 years. Cataract causes 50% of the 17 million blindness in the world. A sustained 10% thinning of the ozone layer is expected to cause two million new cataract cases every year. Ozone layer depletion and weakness in immunosuppression in all the biotic forms is a hot topic of the present day.

Ozone layer depletion has also adverse impacts on agriculture, forestry and natural ecosystems. It can affect the important food crops by adversely affecting cyanobacteria which helps them to absorb and utilize nitrogen. World's major crop species, wheat, rice, barley, oats, corn, soybeans, peas, tomatoes and almost all staple and cash crops are particularly vulnerable to increase in UV radiation, resulting in reduced growth, size, photosynthesis and flowering time. Small changes in leaf size may increase the ability of weeds to grow and increase in the relative population of various unwanted species. Small changes in pollination time, resistance to insects or diseases, or in the length of the growing season, could cause great changes in yield challenging to our food security.

Phytoplankton, the tiny photosynthesizing sea plants account for roughly half of the worldwide uptake

of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and provide 70% of all the oxygen available on the earth are genetically damaged by UV-rays. Coral Reefs that mankind termed them as the tropical forest of the ocean are also most affected by ozone layer depletion.

A decrease in the productivity of forests due to increased UV-rays would dramatically reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by plants also that will not only reduce oxygen production but will contribute to global warming with attendant changes in cloud cover, precipitation patterns, temperatures, and so on, which would not spare the complexity of interdependence and consequences of ozone depletion on the biosphere.

UV-rays overexposure may cause eye and skin cancers to animals also. But animals with fur are somewhat saved from UV-radiation. Species of marine animals in their developmental stage e.g. young fish, shrimp and crab larvae are also widely threatened by the increased UV radiation under the ozone holes.

Materials such as wood, plastic, rubber, fabrics, paints and many other construction materials are degraded by UV radiation impacting the social economy. It is an undisputed fact that if we stop use and the production of HFCs and CFCs right now, then also, its problem will persist on earth for the next one hundred years.

September 11 to 25 is Langban Heisoi Katpa or Tarpan of our cultural legacy where virtuous are offered to the departed souls. It is our belief that if they are satisfied, then they protect us from the evils and bless us with boons. But during this 15 days long Tarpan, if we could plant at least one sapling each for the departed souls, then that will be the greatest offering and our state will be the most luxurious and the departed souls will be happier as their descendants are living in a healthier environment with better economy.

Therefore, with coming of the World Ozone Day during this month of Tarpan, let's take oath not to use the ozone depleting substances to save the mother earth and the future generation.

(The author is an Environmentalist, email: [nmunall@yahoo.in](mailto:nmunall@yahoo.in))

# Bhagwan Vishwakarma : The Divine Engineer



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

Bhagwan Vishwakarma is considered to be the godfather of construction and creation among all the Gods in the Universe. He has been said to be first host of creation. "Devo Sau Sutrardharah, Jagadkhi Hitah. Iyavate Sarvasatva". In every era, numerous towns, buildings & infrastructural frameworks have been constructed on the model developed by Him. The religious scriptures deals about Swarglok in Satyug, Swarnim Lanka & Janakpuri in Tretayug, Dwarka, Hastinapur & Indraprastha in Dvaparyug, Jagannath Mandir in Puri (Odisha) and idols of Krishna, Balram & Subhadra etc. in Kaliyug. These constructions were based on important architectural design as well as Vastushastra rules. Indrapuri, Yamपुरi, Kuberपुरi, Sudamapuri etc. were also his creations. He is the creator of Sudarshan Chakra of Vishnu, Trishul of Shiva, Kaldand of Yamraj, Vajra (Thunderbolt) of Indra, Kawach-Kundal of Maharathi Karma and various other Divyashtras.

Vishwakarma Puja is celebrated

each year to pay respect to the Divine engineer and architect. The festival falls on Kanya Sankranti or Kanya Sankraman, i.e. a day when the Sun migrates to the Kanya Rashi (Virgo). Hence, Vishwakarma Puja date also falls more or less same day i.e. 17th September every year in the Gregorian Calendar. This day is not only revered by engineering and architectural communities, but also by artisans, craftsman, carpenter, factory workers, mechanics, industrial workers etc. The devotees pray to Vishwakarma for smooth working of machines, safe working conditions and better success in their fields. The working community and craftsman worship their tools and usually refrain from using them on this auspicious occasion.

In ancient religious creatures, the Tridev - Brahma, Vishnu & Mahesh have been worshipped, but simultaneously Bhagwan Vishwakarma has also been remembered. "Vishwam Kritisnam Karma Iyaparo Va Yasya Sah", i.e., the one whose right creation and actions are business, he is Vishwakarma. Although he is recognized as a Vedic deity, his mythological form is different. There has been a sense of respect for him from the very beginning. He is known as the creator and promoter of essential commodities for Grihasthi stage. Vishwakarma is the prime dignity among the 18 updeshta of Vastu and his doctrine has recognition. Indian mathematician and astronomer Varahmihir has also quoted his doctrine at several places in his work.

In the Sanatan Dharma texts, Vishwakarma is described as the seventh son of Lord Brahma. The five sons of Vishwakarma, Manu, Maya, Tvasta, Shilpi, and Devajna were proficient in five different disciplines of Vastu Shastra. Manu is said to be expert in blacksmith work, Maya in carpentry, Tvasta in metal work, Shilpi in stone work and Devajna in the work of goldsmith. In the first part of Vishnu Puran, Vishwakarma has been described as the Vardakii the god-carpenter of the gods, and has been glorified as "Shilpavata". In Skanda Puran, he is described as the creator of Devayats. This belief has been cited in many Purans. As per scripture of crafts, he was so proficient in craftsmanship that he could make Khaddau (pedestals) that could walk on water. Pushpak Viman of Ravan is also his creation. It is mentioned in Rajvallabh Vastu Shastra and other texts that Vishwakarma had done the task of controlling the harmful rays of the sun that destroys human life.

In Indian culture, importance has been given to Vishwakarma in technical and commercial institutions, industries, and factories. However, there is no dearth of those who describe the knowledge, science, philosophy embedded in Vedas, Purans, Upanishads and other texts as imaginary, unbelievable & just subject of belief. But with the advent of innumerable unbelievable structures such as the journey to the Moon and Mars, supersonic aircraft faster than sound, the Sri Ram bridge between India and Sri Lanka, tall high lofts, the recent

construction of a glass bridge between two hills in Hunan, China, etc., it is proven fact that the works of Vishwakarma and other craftsmen mentioned in Indian texts and literature were in reality. Although, it witnessed the ups and downs with human civilization and science. The technical method used in the temples and other ancient structures of India is still a subject of research. The original technical texts of the world are considered to be Vishwakarmiya texts, in which there is a discussion not only on architecture, but also on vehicles and gems.

Vishwakarma Prakash is a living book of his propounded views, in which human and god Vastu Vidya is shown with many mathematical formulas. In the modern era, the role of engineers, architects, scientists and craftsmen is indispensable for the structural development in the nation building. Only on the basis of their knowledge, research, experimentation and implementation, a nation can claim to climb the stairs of all-round development. Today, the flag bearers of the nation are adorned with the title of "Vishwakarma of the modern era". Worshiped and venerated as a skilled builder in Vedic, mythological and folk tales, Bhagwan Vishwakarma will always the adoration and source of inspiration for the national heroes.

(The author is a technocrat & academican. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj)



# India reports 6,298 fresh Covid infections, active cases above 46K-mark

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 16:

India added 6,298 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,45,22,777, while the active cases climbed 46,748, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,273 with 23 fatalities which includes four 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 359 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.89 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 1.70 per cent, according to the ministry.

The number of people who

have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,39,47,756, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 216.17 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on

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

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

The 19 new deaths recorded in the last 24 hours include seven from Maharashtra and three from Delhi.

# Border issues between northeastern states, disputes related to armed groups to be resolved before 2024: Amit Shah



Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 16:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the Centre has decided to resolve all border disputes between the northeastern states and all disputes related to armed groups before 2024.

Amit Shah, who presided over the signing of a historic agreement between the Centre, Assam government and representatives of eight Adivasi Groups in New Delhi, said the accord will prove to be another important milestone towards making the northeast extremism-free by 2025. He said this was in step with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a peaceful and prosperous northeast.

The agreement was signed to end the decades-old crisis of Adivasis and tea garden workers in Assam. After the agreement, 1,182 cadres of tribal groups of Assam joined the mainstream by laying down their arms. Around 8,000 militants have joined the mainstream of society by laying down their arms since 2014.

Amit Shah said the Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to promote and develop the culture of the northeast, establish lasting peace

by settling all disputes and accelerate development in the region to make it as developed as other parts of the country.

He said the government has a record that it has fulfilled 93 per cent of all the agreements signed so far, resulting in the restoration of peace in the entire northeast including Assam.

"The Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has decided that before 2024, all border disputes between the North Eastern states and all disputes related to armed groups will be resolved," he said.

The Home Minister said that his ministry has taken steps to accelerate development in the northeast to make it "peaceful and prosperous".

"Due to lack of communication and conflict of interests, different groups took up arms due to which thousands of lives were lost in the encounter between these groups and the state governments and central security forces," he said.

"In the last three years, the Government of India, the Government of Assam and other governments of the North East have entered into several agreements among

themselves and with various extremist groups. NLFT agreement in 2019, BRU-REANG and Bodo accord in 2020, Karbi Anglong agreement in 2021 and Assam-Meghalaya Inter-State Boundary Agreement in 2022, which resolved around 65 per cent of border disputes between the two states," he added.

He said as per today's agreement, it is the responsibility of the Government of India and Assam to fulfil the political, economic and educational aspirations of the Adivasi groups.

"In the agreement, provisions have been made to protect the social, cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity of Adivasi groups as well as to further strengthen them," he said.

Shah said that the agreement also provides for rehabilitation and resettlement of armed cadres and measures for the welfare of tea garden workers.

"A special development package of Rs 1,000 crore (Rs 500 crore each by the Government of India and the Government of Assam) will be provided over a period of five years for infrastructure development in villages/areas with tribal populations," he said.

# Congress workers attack Kerala man for paying only Rs 500 for Bharat Jodo Yatra, suspended

Agency  
Kollam (Kerala), Sept 16:

A vegetable shop owner was threatened and his shop was vandalised by some Congress workers in Kerala's Kollam. Reason — he could not contribute Rs 2,000 demanded by the party workers for the Congress's ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra.

After a video of the incident went viral, the Congress issued a statement, saying that it suspended three workers involved in the said incident.

In a video, S Fawaz, the shop owner, said, "In the name of Bharat Jodo Yatra fund collection, some Congress workers attacked me and my workers. They asked Rs 2,000 but I could give only Rs 500. They threw away vegetables in my shop and also insulted my customers."

"The Congress workers also threatened to kill me and attacked workers in the shop," Fawaz said.

Fawaz claimed that Youth Congress state general sec-

retary H Aneesh Khan was among the five people who vandalised his shop.

After the video went viral, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K Sudhakaran said three party workers involved in the incident have been suspended with immediate effect. "They do not represent our ideology and such behaviour is inexcusable. The party is crowdfunding small donations voluntarily, unlike others who get corporate donations," K Sudhakaran said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the act was done by "fringe elements" and the party has taken strict action.

"Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee has been doing crowd-funding for years. Their politics runs on small donations at the grassroots. But this should not have happened. These three were clearly fringe elements and exemplary action has been taken immediately by the PCC President," Jairam Ramesh said.

# Assam-Mizoram border row: Chief ministerial-level talks in Delhi on September 19



Agency  
Guwahati, Sept 16:

Discussion over resolving border issues between Assam and Mizoram have gained momentum.

A second round of chief ministerial-level talks between the two states is re-

portedly slated to be held on September 19 in New Delhi.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga will head the delegations from their respective states during the talks on September 19.

Notably, chief ministers of Assam and Mizoram had ear-

lier agreed to hold talks in September.

Assam and Mizoram share a 164.6-km-long interstate border.

Border dispute between Assam and Mizoram have been going on since 1987—the year when Mizoram attained full statehood.

The decades-old boundary dispute between Mizoram and Assam mainly stemmed from two colonial demarcations in 1875 and 1933.

While Mizoram accepted the demarcation under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BERF) notified in 1875, which covers vast stretches of area now falling under Assam, as its actual boundary, the Assam government said that the demarcations made under the 1933 notification was its constitution boundary.

# ED raids 40 locations across multiple cities in Delhi liquor policy case

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 16:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is conducting searches at 40 locations across multiple cities in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam. Searches are being carried out in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Chennai.

Earlier on September 6, the ED had carried out searches at over 35 locations in Delhi and other cit-

ies in connection with the liquor policy case. Searches were carried out at the premises of those involved in the liquor trade, including manufacturers allegedly involved in the drafting of the new liquor policy enforced by the AAP government in Delhi.

The ED is probing alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the Delhi Excise Policy brought out in November 2021 by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

The policy has now been rolled back.

The ED initiated its probe based on the FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the liquor policy case. The CBI FIR has named Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish and some bureaucrats in the liquor policy case.

Manish Sisodia and the AAP have refuted all allegations of irregularities and corruption in the implementation of the now defunct liquor policy.

## Career Guidance

# Opportunities in filmmaking



By: Vijay GarG

A solid Film Studies course seeks a strategic balance between theory and practice.

Film Studies provides students with a combination of theoretical and technical skills that are transferable to a whole host of careers in creative industries.

A Film Studies course allows students to learn the various contexts and processes related to films and filmmaking. Courses that follow contemporary debates and educational practices in the field take a glo-

bal approach to cinema through modules on experimental, independent, and mainstream cinema, low-budget, feature, and short films, Anglo-American, European, and world cinema.

Students may choose to expand their knowledge and understanding of the filmmaking process through practice-based modules on film production that contain sessions from cinematography, editing, directing actors and blocking a scene, to drafting a screenplay and casting.

A solid Film Studies course seeks a strategic balance between theory and practice, offering students an understanding of the history and theory of global film together with practice in filmmaking, screenwriting, creative writing and the film industry. So, how are students assessed in film studies?

Assessments allow students to express their creativ-

ity and skills through written essays, oral presentations, portfolios of work, the production of individual and group films, and written reflection on film practice. There are courses that offer an even greater variety of assessment methods. For example, as a student progresses, he/she will have opportunities to choose a module in which he/she will be asked to organise, curate and deliver their own film festival, which, along with its programme.

**Skills developed**

Film Studies provides students with a combination of theoretical and technical skills that are transferable to a whole host of careers in creative industries. These range from skills on analytical and critical thinking; researching in a variety of modes; communication skills and the ability to articulate opinion; the ability to work independently with self-discipline and self-direction; writing skills; the flexibility to

thrive in uncertain external environments; developing ideas through to outcomes; being resourceful, creative and entrepreneurial to technical skills such as writing screenplay writing, directing, camera operation, sound recording, and editing. Subject-specific skills, along with these transferable skills allow students to strengthen their personality.

It is important for students to read about the course structure and content in advance so that they know what to expect on campus. They should also clarify any doubts they may have with the respective department so that they are comfortable when they join the course. While there is no need to study or watch specific films in advance, prospective students can bring their work to share with their fellow students and tutors during the first weeks. This also helps everyone get to know each other better.



# We want to transform India into manufacturing hub: PM Modi at SCO Summit

Agency  
Samarkand (Uzbekistan),  
Sept 16:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reiterated to make India a manufacturing hub in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war which has caused global supply-chain disruptions.

"The world is overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Several disruptions occurred in the global supply chain because of the COVID and Ukraine crisis. We want to transform India into a manufacturing hub," PM Modi said while addressing extended format of the 22nd Summit of the Council of Heads of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States (SCO-CoHS) in Uzbekistan's Samarkand.

Highlighting the country's economic stability, he said India has more than 70,000 startups and over 100 unicorns.

"We are focussing on a people-centric development model. We are supporting innovation in every sector. Today, there are more than 70,000 startups and over 100 unicorns in our country," said PM Modi.

"India's economy is expected to grow at a rate of 7.5 per cent this year. I'm glad that ours is one of the fastest growing economies among the largest economies of the world," he added.

The Prime Minister also raised the issue of "transit rights" of food supplies between the neighbouring nations highlighting that it took many months for India to send supplies to Afghanistan via Pakistan.

The SCO Summit usually has 2 sessions - a restricted session, only for the SCO member states, and then an extended session which includes participation by observers and special



invitees. Earlier, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev welcomed PM Modi to the Congress Centre in Samarkand for the 22nd SCO Summit. India has been working closely with Uzbekistan towards the success of their Chairship.

The SCO Member States, Observers, Special Guests of the Chair and representatives from regional organisations come together for a meeting in the expanded format.

This is the first in-person SCO Summit after the Covid pandemic hit the world. The last in-person SCO Heads of State Summit was held in Bishkek in June 2019.

The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), four Observer States interested in acceding to full membership (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia) and six "Dialogue Partners" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).

The Shanghai Five, formed in 1996, became the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

in 2001 with the inclusion of Uzbekistan. With India and Pakistan entering the grouping in 2017 and the decision to admit Tehran as a full member in 2021, SCO became one of the largest multilateral organisations, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of the global GDP and 40 per cent

of the world's population.

SCO has potential in various new sectors, wherein all the member-states could find converging interests. India has already pushed hard for cooperation in Startups and Innovation, Science and Technology and Traditional Medicine.

# CBI, ED 'unnecessarily troubling everyone', don't understand what liquor scam is: Arvind Kejriwal

Agency  
New Delhi, Sept 16:

After the Enforcement Directorate (ED) launched fresh raids at about 40 locations across the country as part of a money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the now scrapped Delhi Excise Policy, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday (September 16, 2022) hit back at Centre and said that CBI and ED are "unnecessarily troubling everyone". While addressing a press conference, the Delhi chief minister also said the country can't progress like this.

Kejriwal said the Lieutenant Governor, the CBI and the BJP have quoted varying amounts of money involved

in the alleged liquor scam but he doesn't understand what it is really about.

"One of their (BJP) leaders says that it is a scam of Rs 8,000 crore, the LG says it is a scam of Rs 144 crore and the CBI FIR says there is a scam of Rs 1 crore. I don't understand what the liquor scam is," Kejriwal said.

"The country cannot progress like this. They are unnecessarily troubling everyone," he said.

Today's searches are being conducted at premises linked to liquor businessmen, distributors and supply chain networks in Nellore and some other cities in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi-NCR, they said.

This is the second round of raids being conducted by the federal agency in this case after it first conducted searches on September 6 at about 45 locations across the country.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case of money laundering in the excise policy stems from a CBI FIR in which Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and some bureaucrats have been named as accused. The excise policy has been rolled back now.

The agency also is expected to question AAP leader and minister Satyendar Jain in the Tihar jail in connection with this case on Friday after it obtained permission from a local court to do so.

# Assam Rifles promotes Swatch Bharat Abhiyan

IT News  
Imphal, Sept 16:

Mantripukhri Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised social service programme on "SWATCH BHARAT ABHIYAN" with Students and Teachers of Manipur College on 15 September 2022. Students also joined hands on cleanliness of surrounding areas.

They were also educated about the importance of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to the nation. A Total of 80 Teachers & students of Manipur College participated in the event.

The event concluded with Tea and refreshment.



Meanwhile, Tengnoupal Battalion under the aegis IGAR (South) organised a cleanliness drive at Kwatha village to promote "Swatch Bharat Abhiyan" in Tengnoupal District on 16 September 2022.

The aim of the cleanliness drive was to spread awareness amongst the villagers to keep the surroundings clean thus preventing communicable diseases.

The villagers were also cautioned against dengue and to avoid water from stagnating near the village.

The villagers appreciated the efforts of the Assam Rifles to keep the clean and green.

## Sports

# Durand Cup 2022: Own goal helps Bengaluru FC beat Hyderabad FC 1-0 and book spot in final

Agency  
Kolkata, Sept 16:

Bengaluru FC defeated Hyderabad FC 1-0 in the semi-final of the Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Thursday.

Ode Onaibia's own goal turned out to be the lone deciding one as Bengaluru booked their place in the final, where they will take on Mumbai City FC.

It was a cagey affair from the first whistle as Bengaluru FC and Hyderabad FC started the game aggressively with the latter bearing the brunt of the tackles.

In the 9th minute, Barthomelow Ogbeche was slipped in behind the defense but his shot was powerful but straight at Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in goal, who calmly palmed it away.

The game got progressively violent as the challenges flowed, the boots were raised high and the referee was willing to 'let play go on'. In the 27th minute, a harmless ball over the top for Akash Mishra turned nasty for the Hyderabad left-back after being pushed into the advertising



ing hoardings by the covering Prabir Das.

The action moved to the other end in the 30th minute as Jayesh Rane's pass over to the right for Prabir, who sent in a delicious cross in between Anuj Kumar in goal and the defense created confusion in the Hyderabad ranks. Ode Onaibia's touch took the ball past the keeper as Roy Krishna was flung into the post head first.

A few minutes later, Ogbeche wanted to give an immediate answer but Gurpreet again stood strong in goal to preserve their lead.

With the clock ticking down to the end of the first half, Sunil Chhetri found the ball on the right side of the penalty box but his shot sailed over the crossbar.

After the restart, Hyderabad again went on the offensive as Nikhil Poojary's cross found Ogbeche at the far post unmarked in the 49th minute. But his header was smartly saved by Gurpreet, who dived down to his left.

Ogbeche and Krishna got chances but were either swarmed out or their efforts lacked venom to threaten the keeper.

The attacks from either team flowed but were punctuated but tackles and stoppages. In the 75th minute, Borja Herrera skied his effort after a brilliant cross from Javier Siveiro. Two minutes late, it was Ogbeche who smashed his shot over the crossbar, from inside the six-yard box.

In the 83rd minute, Borja got the ball on the right and cut inside to find Joao Victor at the edge of the box but his side-footed shot was easily saved by Gurpreet.

Hyderabad FC piled on the pressure in the closing minutes but Bengaluru FC sat back to absorb most of it by playing at times with seven players in defense. Ogbeche did manage to put the ball in the back of the net but only after flattening Gurpreet as both went up for a high ball near goalmouth. In added time again, Gurpreet's fumble almost cost Bengaluru a goal but did not yield anything more than a corner.

With the final whistle, Durand Cup assured a new home for the first time in its long history - Mumbai or Bengaluru.

# Roger Federer announces retirement from Tennis, Laver Cup will be his final ATP event

Agency  
Basel (Switzerland), Sept 16:

Legendary Tennis player Roger Federer has announced his retirement from the sport as the upcoming Laver Cup will be his final ATP event. Federer shared a long note on his Twitter account where he expressed his feelings and said that the injuries and surgeries have been part and parcel of his life in the past three years.

The 41-year-old stated that he analysed his capacity and limits at this age and decided to take the big decision.

"To my tennis family and beyond. Of all the gifts that tennis has given me over the years, the greatest, without a doubt, has been the people I've met along the way: my friends, my competitors, and most of all the fans who give the sport its life. Today, I want to share some news with all of you.

"As many of you know, the past three years have presented me with challenges in the form of injuries and surgeries. I've worked hard to return to full competitive form. But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message



to me lately has been clear. I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamed, and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career," he added.

The legendary Tennis star admitted that he will continue playing the sport but not at a competitive level.

"The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event. I will play more tennis in the future, of course, but just not in Grand Slams or on the tour," he said in the statement.

The 41-year-old winner of 20 Grand Slam titles has been

out of action since a quarter-final loss at Wimbledon in 2021 before undergoing another bout of knee surgery.

Federer is ranked amongst the greatest to play the sport as his longevity also proved it with years of excellence inside the tennis court.

The legendary player had a series of knee operations in the last couple of years which ruled him out of the Tennis court since Wimbledon 2021.

He won his first grand slam in 2003 with the prestigious Wimbledon title and didn't look back after that and went on to win 6 Australian Opens, 1 French Open, 8 Wimbledon and 5 US Open titles.